

AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (AWRA)

(An officially registered ratepayers' group within the City of Markham)

awra.thornhill@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2021

(Published 3x per year)

1/ HELLO NEIGHBOURS !



Covid19 has made our lives challenging to say the least... but with vaccination programs underway, we can start to fantasize about seeing the light at the end of the long tunnel and a return to a more physically interactive life.

In any case, **AWRA** concerns **YOU** and **WHERE YOU LIVE** and was set up to represent the best interests of our neighbourhood.

This includes keeping members informed of issues and betterment programs that will impact them, and the meetings and lobbying with the various levels of Government to make changes and improvements. We are your **volunteer** Neighbourhood Voice to Markham City Council... Covid19 or not!

2/ YOUR 2021 ELECTED AWRA EXECUTIVE AND APPOINTED DIRECTORS:



Alena Gotz
President



Joan Feng
Vice President



Roman Komarov
Secretary



Brian Korson
Treasurer



Eric Casper



Laurie Koch



Sarah Rajani

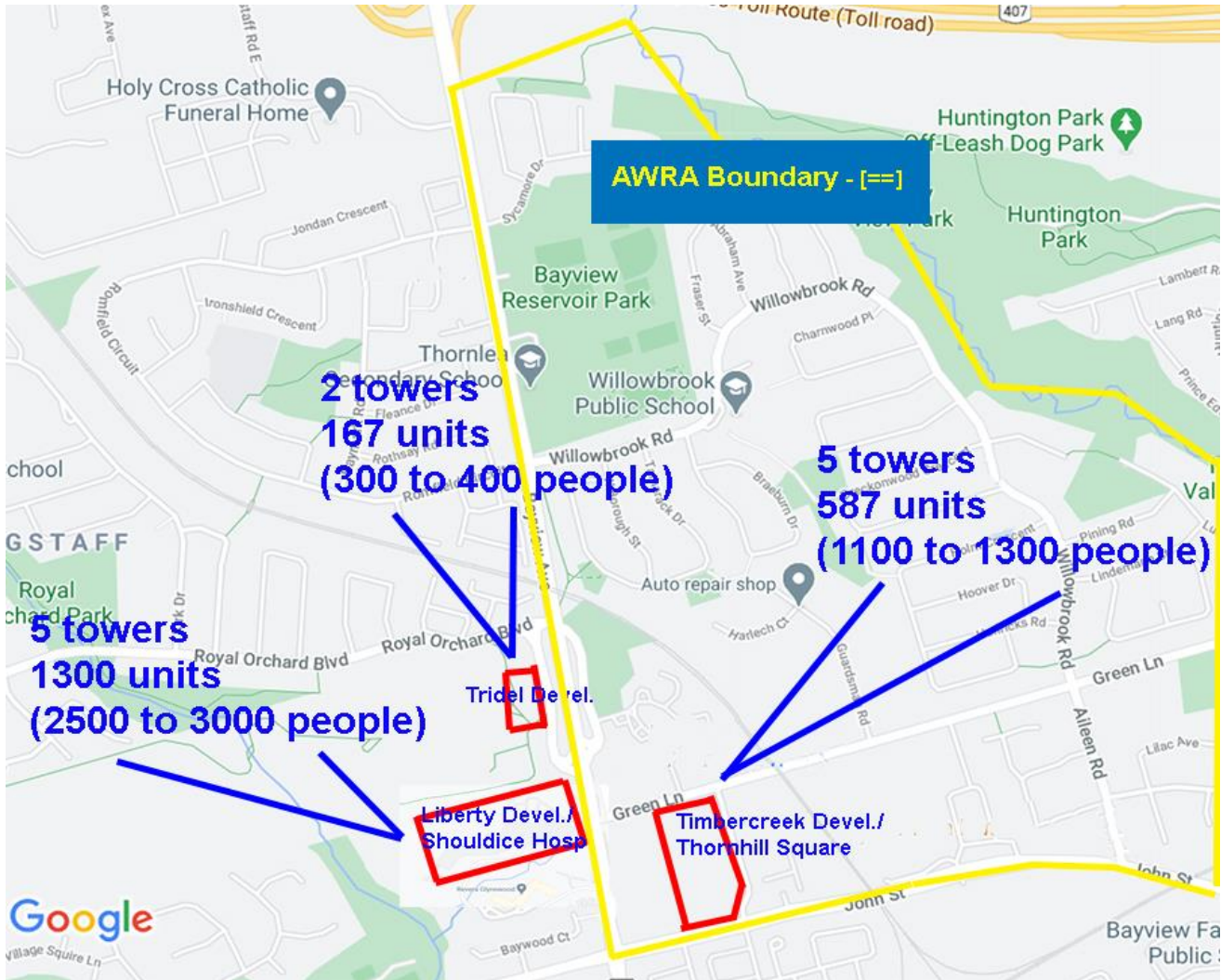
NOTE: As the Annual General Meeting of last November also signifies a new operating year, **annual dues of \$20 are now due.** Payment can be by cheque, made out to AWRA, dropped off or mailed to AWRA at 94 Breckonwood Cres., Thornhill, ON L3T 5E8 – OR – eTransferred to awra.thornhill@gmail.com

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3/ MASSIVE CHANGE IS COMING TO OUR AREA WITHIN 3-8 YEARS!



a/ More details of these development applications can be found on our Ward 1 Councillor Keith Irish's site... <https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home/about/city-hall/regional-ward-councillors/ward-1/councillor-1>

b/ There are MANY concerns we've raised when AWRA found out a few months ago, and we are actively continuing talks with the City. We've also added Sue Shillow and Lisa Diner as additional AWRA development committee members, in addition to Eric Casper and Roman Komarov to reflect more time and effort demanded of these multiple applications.

Some change is welcome, but there appears to be no respect for our community, and **the character of our neighbourhood is under attack!** Some of our concerns are noted below....

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- many of the proposed towers are way too tall as spec'd by the developers, and will visually take away from the character of the existing area and the skyline.

- the additional demands on the Thornhill Community Centre, already way over the designed capacity and the heaviest used CC in all of Markham, have not been addressed by the developers or the City.

- the approx. 2,100 units will add more vehicles to the already congested traffic near John St. and Bayview Ave and Green Lane... and this is not including the future traffic congestion which will come from the 30,000 population from the Langstaff development when it's complete in 10-15 years.

- the developments are taking away from our green space, with no adequate replacement.

City planners are in the process of considering the proposals, and will come up with their recommendations. **Only when Staff make their recommendations will residents be able to provide feedback.** But area ratepayers associations believe that these proposals should not even be considered as they do not respect the character of the area. AWRA will keep you abreast of the projects as they evolve and will solicit your support in lobbying as required.

4/ COYOTES & FOXES ARE ON THE MOVE – BEWARE, ESPECIALLY FOR YOUR PETS!



Foxes and coyotes are an important part of our shared, local ecosystems. Typically, foxes and coyotes are unlikely to initiate contact with people. But we understand, occasionally, they get too close for comfort.

Limiting human food sources is the best way to prevent encounters with these animals - but, most importantly, to help keep them wild:

- Do not put out food for animals.
- Keep waste in secure bins or store bins in a secure building or container.
- Do not put waste bins out until the morning of pick-up.
- Make sure outdoor compost containers are wildlife-proof.
- Remove fallen fruit from trees and scattered bird seed from feeders.
- Keep pet food inside, and do not leave small pets outdoors unattended.



If you do encounter a coyote or fox who does not run away immediately, you can do the following:

- Make noise, yell, clap your hands, stomp and wave your arms.
- Do not approach the animal.
- Carry a whistle or noisemaker if you are walking in known habitat areas.

If you find that the animal is sick or injured, please report it to our wildlife service provider, by calling 905.310.7722. It is also important to keep your furry family members safe. **Keep your cats or small dogs indoors or supervised outside. Walk your dogs on a leash and do not leave them out unattended,** otherwise they may become a meal for the wild animals.

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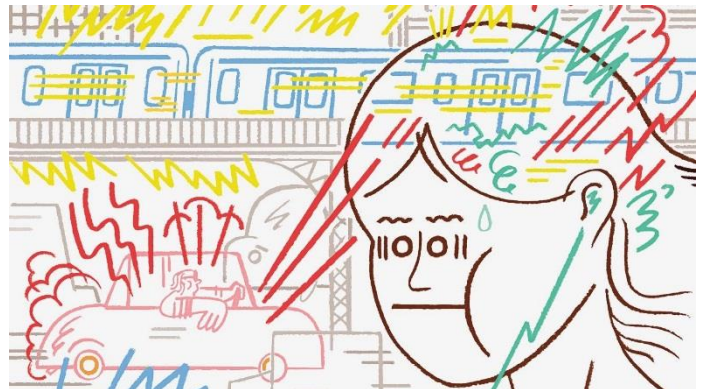
5/ CONTINUED SUCCESS: Toxic-air monitoring

With Covid19 here and more of us not venturing too far from our homes, more neighbours are walking the streets, and sniffing! This active monitoring of the air by the public at Green Lane/Guardsman/Harlech is an effective tool to encourage Raywal and smaller businesses to keep their air-scrubbers running and in good order.



6/ STOP Revving Car Motors PLEASE!:

With the warmer weather approaching, more insensitive drivers have purchased pre-modified vehicles or made modifications to their own vehicles at auto garages on Guardsmen and Harlech Ct., and are revving their noisy motors and mufflers. The O.P.P. and City bylaw people are actively involved, and we need to keep up the pressure on them to intercede with the owners of the shops and vehicles.



AWRA now has a Director with speeding and vehicle noise as their main portfolio... and we are organizing a Neighbourhood Watch on those streets. Please be observant and take pictures of the offending cars with their license plates... and send AWRA that information, or call York Region Police to file a report.

Some examples of the type of vehicles seen.



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7/ SPEED HUMP RE-CONDITIONING on Willowbrook and Aileen:



Following the \$6.2 million reconditioning of the Willowbrook roadway and sidewalks, we are waiting for the City to start work on the fixing of the speed humps. Councillor Keith Irish has advised that it will be sometime in the April-May 2021 timeframe.

8/ UPDATE on the MAPLE VALLEY PARK TRAIL ACCESS:

Our Councillor Keith Irish is in the midst of negotiations with regards to repairing the embankment and constructing a new bridge for the Huntington Park pathway over German Mills Creek. The safety aspect of this project has taken a priority over the contemplated Maple Valley Park Trail Access project.



PLEASE JOIN US

We are your **volunteer** Neighbourhood Voice to Markham City Council. The City doesn't provide us funding, nor are we salaried.

Your **\$20.00 annual fee helps** immensely in offsetting the administration costs.
(This fee covers the period from Sept. 1 of one year to Aug. 31 of the next year.)

We accept Interac e-Transfers through online banking.... sent to
awra.thornhill@gmail.com

or send a cheque to AWRA at 94 Breckonwood Cres., Thornhill, On L3T 5E8
(Include your name, address, phone # and email address)

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THESE AD SPACES AVAILABLE TO RENT

AT \$50.00 PER NEWSLETTER AS WELL AS ATTACHED TO ALL REGULAR eMAILS TO OUR MEMBERS PER 4 MONTH PERIOD, SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL BUSINESSES. CIRCULATION TO APPROX. 2,000 HOMES -- eMAIL - awra.thornhill@gmail.com

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