

AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (AWRA)

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

awra.thornhill@gmail.com

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – May 2018

1/ **SUCCESS:** Our membership is up 20% over last year!.

Your neighbours agree...
this is a group you should belong to!



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.

We are a not-for-profit group. Your **\$20.00 annual fee** helps immensely in offsetting the administration costs.

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

as well as cheques and cash sent to **AWRA, 18 Innisbrook Cres., Thornhill, On L3T 5B1**

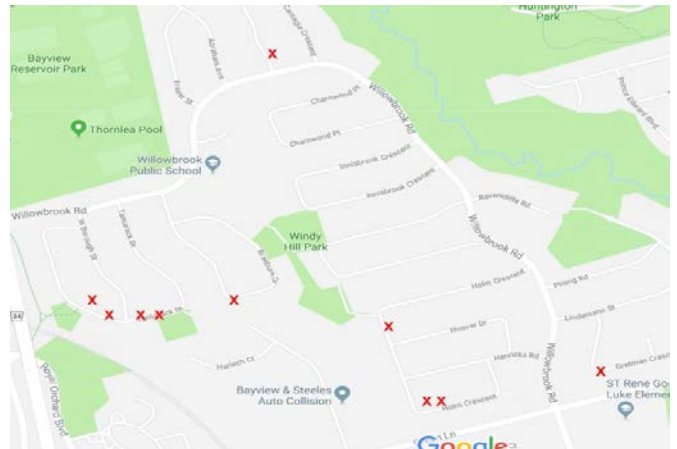
2/ **SUCCESS:** Toxic-air monitoring

AWRA gets things done!



Active resident monitoring at Green Lane/Guardsman/Harlech industrial area has enabled AWRA to continue to keep up pressure on the polluting firms to keep their air-scrubbers on and keep air pollution to acceptable standards. The past 3 months have been clear of reported issues.

3/ **Work in Progress** Flooding hits the Aileen-Willowbrook area



Areas with **X** had flooding within the last 3 months... and these are reports from members only! AWRA is working with the City of Markham to determine causes and the extent of the issue... with implications of City storm-drain issues and possible remediation, as elsewhere in the south-west end of Thornhill Ward 1. **Is there anyone else you know that got flooded within the last 6 months in this area?**

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4/ **Work in Progress:** Speed Bump Repairs

Willowbrook & Aileen Roads have 9 speed bumps, many of which have gone into disrepair with missing brickwork and asphalt.

The City of Markham has budgeted the scheduled repairs for mid-summer 2018.

5/ **Work in Progress** Clean-up of Thornhill Square environment



AWRA has been working with Thornhill Square management and the City of Markham Bylaw dept. to get rid of unsightly messes... ie. trash in various locations around bushes, in the parking lot, adjacent to the buildings, unsightly garbage area next to Java Joes, etc. **This is not a one-time fix and requires ongoing monitoring to adhere to Markham's prescribed property standards.**



6/ **Work In Progress:** Missing-Link dangerous-goods rail corridor thru our neighbourhood.

Negotiations and lobbying is ongoing between Toronto residents, MetroLinx, CN and CP Rail to expand commuter rail traffic to the downtown core, and reroute their **dangerous-goods rail traffic into the York Region area north of Steeles Ave.** This is most visible at the Bayview Ave. bridge at the Longo's plaza and going under John St. just east of Aileen Rd. A toxic-goods accident in our area would be a massive disaster as residences and schools border

both sides of that line.

AWRA is working with the other Thornhill Ratepayers Associations and the City of Markham in mounting a credible political opposition to this project. This is a long term project and there is no short-term solution. **The resistance must continue until such time as the intent is killed or a viable credible alternative can be found.**

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7/ **Work in Progress: Bayview Ave. traffic congestion**

AWRA is working with the other Thornhill Ratepayers Associations bordering Bayview Ave. in lobbying for increased intervention with City of Markham planners to see **what can be done to provide traffic relief on Bayview.**

There are 3 local projects in the planning stages that will impact traffic on Bayview and Willowbrook /Aileen...

a/ the Langstaff 30,000 residential/commercial mega-project, of which 5,000 residences have been approved for immediate development at Yonge & Langstaff.



b/ there are 2 towers of approx. 650 residences going in on the east end of the previous ladies golf course on Royal Orchard and Bayview

c/ there is a development planned on the Shouldice Hospital site under Atlas Healthcare, but details are few at this time.



8/ **Work in Progress: Thornhill Community Centre refurbishment and beautification**

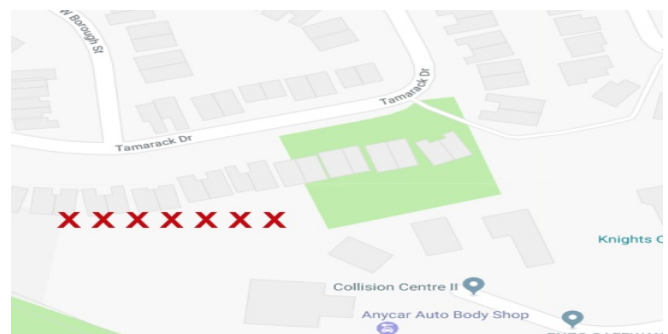
AWRA has been working with the other Thornhill Ratepayers Associations and the City of Markham to push for rehabilitation of the Thornhill Community Centre and its environment. In response, the City fixed broken pavement and weeded unsightly planters. Yet Ratepayers believe more needs to be done. It is the busiest centre in Markham at over 1,000,000 visitors per year and residents report issues of safety for pedestrians, and especially for seniors and children.

The additional demand to be placed on the outdated Centre by the increased population from future planned local developments, will be a challenge for AWRA to pressure the City of Markham for relief.

9/ **Work in Progress: Industrial Property Unsightly Storage & Garbage on Harlech Court Blowing onto Bordering Residences**

Residents at the south end of Tamarack are under pressure from blowing dust and garbage from the industrial sites bordering on their property, since the Ash trees were removed.

AWRA is working with the City of Markham Bylaw & Development Depts. to see what can be done.



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10/ **Work in Progress: Improvement of our parks**

Under the City of Markham's Parks Renaissance project is one of our goals, to improve parks accessibility and utility. The City has budgeted \$1,200,000, and parks within the Aileen-Willowbrook

territory deserve their fair share... including **Windy Hill and Maple Valley**, to name a few.

Consultants' studies are underway now for Maple Valley with an outline of the project to be completed by June 2018. The recommendation will then be presented to City Council, and then a budget has to be approved.



11/ **Aileen-Willowbrook Neighbourhood Picnic:**

We had a very successful picnic in 2017, and it was unanimous by the neighbours to have another one this year. AWRA is supporting aileen.willowbrook.picnic@gmail.com who are organizing one for **Sunday July 22, 2018 2:00 – 4:30pm at Windy Hill Park** (behind Willowbrook Public School, or off Innisbrook, or off Breckonwood)... **and it's FREE!** We had a neighbourhood pot-luck with many families bringing extra food to share. Activities for the children too! Come out and meet your neighbours!

12/ **Additional Volunteers needed!**



AWRA (Aileen-Willowbrook Ratepayers Assn.) is keeping a watchful eye on our neighbourhood and the safety

of our residents, looking for opportunities for improvement in our area and in property values, and raising the red flag and lobbying when there are issues to be resolved.

We are looking for more neighbours to participate in running the Association... please

consider joining our Executive Committee so we can better keep our neighbourhood in tip-top shape.

High school, college and university students are welcome as well. For those seeking volunteer hours, they can be earned easily through participating in the AWRA committees.

If you are interested, please email awra.thornhill@gmail.com with your name and contact information, & we will get right back to you.



PLEASE JOIN US

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