

AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (AWRA)

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

awra.thornhill@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2022

(Published 3x per year)

WE'RE YOUR NEIGHBOURS and "WATCHING YOUR BACK"!

AWRA is still here! **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.



OUR AREA HAS SOME SERIOUS ISSUES & WE NEED YOUR HELP ! NOW !

1/ The Progressive Conservative (PC) government under Doug Ford just recently imposed eMZO's (Emergency Minister Zoning Order) on the Langstaff development just west of Bayview Ave. and south of Hwy. 407, as well as for properties in Richmond Hill off High Tech Rd. The MZO **takes away the decision making and rights** for qualified and effective planning from the City of Markham and the City of Richmond Hill.

Vote for a party that will REVERSE THE eMZO's imposed by the PC's!

The PC's are calling these 2 locations TOC's (Transit Oriented Communities) where the subway and GO trains will have 2 stations. The Cities had creative designs for affordable housing which thanks to the totalitarian methods of the PC's, will be replaced by...

double the housing density, and **CUT** future job opportunities, and **CUT** affordable housing, and **CUT** parkland, and **CUT** schools, and **NO** community centres. The two communities will house 80,000 people (the population of Newmarket), in **67 condo towers**, 11 of which will be **80 floor skyscrapers**, (taller than First Canadian Place's 72 floors), in a **3 block radius** (half the area of Exhibition Place). At **175,000 inhabitants/sq.km.**, this will make it the densest housing centre in the Western Hemisphere and the second densest in the world, second only to the Dharavi slums of Mumbai. And of the expected 40,000 vehicles coming out of these towers, the traffic spilling onto Bayview Ave. and Yonge St. will fully gridlock the already terrible traffic jams on those 2 roads.

Vote for a party that will REVERSE THE eMZO's imposed by the PC's!

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Suffocating congestion with a mountain of enormous massive towers with walls of steel and glass in Thornhill and Richmond Hill... who'd have thought that possible!

Bridge Station Transit-Oriented Community

Markham Langstaff Gateway Master Plan (West Side)

vs.

Provincial TOC Proposal



	Langstaff Gateway (West)	Bridge TOC	TOC additions / deficits
GFA (m ²)	1,196,000	1,886,400	+ 690,400
Population	22,300	43,700	+ 21,400
Jobs	10,600 – 19,200	9,400 – 12,300	- 9,800 to +1,700
Persons + Jobs/Ha	1,294 – 1,631	2,089 – 2,203	+ 458 to 909

Need for additional employment, park space, civic uses, emergency services, infrastructure capacities, etc.

And as the PC's force this massive residential density on Thornhill and Richmond Hill, farmland in our area which we've been relying on to feed us will be at a premium.... But the Ford PC's are intent on **building Highway 413** just north of us which will **pave over a couple thousand hectares of that precious farmland**. The highway will also encourage more sprawling sub-division growth nearby. Covid has shown that the unthinkable can happen.

When the **Ontario PC's usurp the powers of the local Markham and Richmond Hill cities**, (and other cities as well) **without their agreement**, that is a totalitarian (dictatorship) approach to governing which should not exist in the Canadian democratic way of 'governing by the people'.

Vote for a party that will REVERSE THE eMZO's imposed by the PC's!

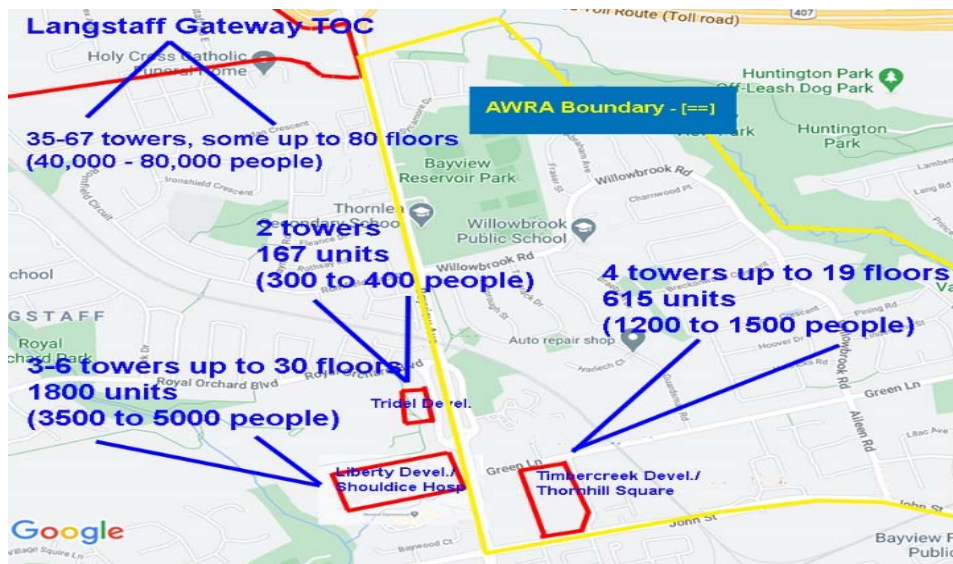
The Liberals have formally stated they will rescind the eMZO's... the NDP support our grief but no formal policy statement has yet been stated.

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2/ ACTION PENDING: DEVELOPMENTS, DEVELOPMENTS, DEVELOPMENTS



AWRA and also other Ward 1 Residents' groups have joined forces under a common banner to speak with one LARGE voice. Since the beginning of 2020, our volunteers have had to focus almost 100% of our efforts on issues surrounding the following inappropriate massive developments proposed for our area...

- Liberty Developments - the Shouldice Hospital property
- Hazelview Developments – Thornhill Square property
- Langstaff Gateway TOC Developments – on Langstaff between Yonge & Bayview

Because these projects will have overlapping **severe** impacts on the unarguable traffic congestion, overuse of the Thornhill Community Centre, the loss of green space, reduce commercial and retail services, etc., etc., we've been studying the evolving development applications, making repeated deputations, attending lots of meetings, and communicating with the Mayor, City staff and Councilors to get the following...

- **Markham needs to create a Thornhill Centre Sub-Committee** with all major stakeholders represented, including the impacted ratepayers' groups, developers, planners, etc., who will...
- **Help create a new Thornhill Secondary Plan**, replacing the one created in 1987 (partly revised in 1995)... to better reflect the realities of Ward 1, and will work to get...
- **Markham to pass an interim control bylaw** to halt further planning work on these developments for up to 12 months, while...

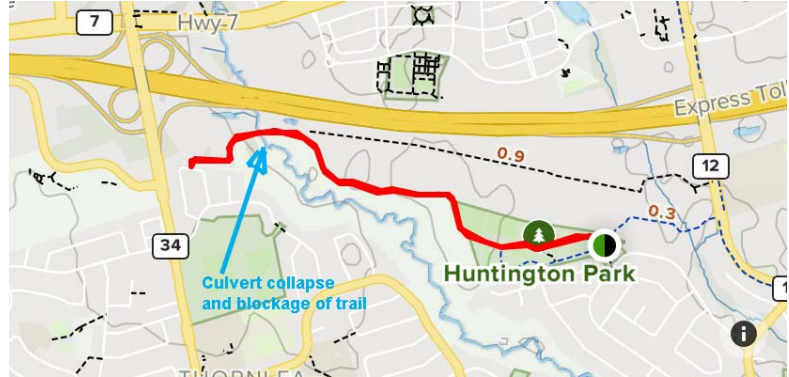
Currently, the Council is in discussion with the developers, trying to come to some resolution which we hope will be sooner than later.

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3/ **CALL-TO-ACTION NEEDED:** HUNTINGTON TRAIL BRIDGE REPAIR



The formal Maple Valley trail system access point on Ravenscliffe Rd. has been delayed **pending the rebuild of the Huntington Trail ramp** over the culvert system for the German Mills Creek north of Evergreen Cres. This ramp falls within the governance of Infrastructure Ontario (IO), an agency of the provincial government.

The community has been trying to get action on this for the last 2 years!

Despite a willingness on the part of the City of Markham to proceed with replacing the Huntington Park Pathway Bridge this year, the landowner Infrastructure Ontario has refused the offer. They now intend to do the work themselves, but progress is slow.

The City of Markham leases Huntington Park from them. As the landowner, IO has this right.

AWRA has consulted closely with Councilor Irish and together **we agree the time has come to mobilize the community in an email campaign to IO.**

Here is information on the person to write to. Please copy Councilor Irish's Executive Assistant, Lauren Patton (lpatton@markham.ca), and AWRA (awra.thornhill@gmail.com) on your email so that we can track community support.

David Lowe
Portfolio Real Estate Manager
Infrastructure Ontario
David.Lowe@infrastructureontario.ca

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5/ **CRIME IN OUR AREA:** YORKREGION.COM

<https://www.yorkregion.com/yorkregion-news/crime/>
issues daily reports of crimes happening in our area... it's free, and sign-up at ...

<https://www.yorkregion.com/yorkregion-news/crime/>

Vehicle thefts continue to rise. The safest place to park your vehicle overnight is in your garage. If you have to park on your driveway, think about purchasing an anti-theft device that is very visible through the windshield. To a thief, an anti-theft device means too much time to break in to your vehicle to defeat the device, so most likely, they will pass by your vehicle.



6/ **COMMUNICATIONS within the COMMUNITY:** CA.NEXTDOOR.COM

Aside from email communications AWRA sends to you which is more specific to our area, there is a website

https://ca.nextdoor.com/news_feed which gives you reporting of a broader spectrum of community activity in more than just AWRA's area. AWRA uses this on occasion to broadcast more urgent information to a broader reach within Markham.

To prevent being swamped with notifications, under Settings Newsfeed Preferences, choose the **'top reports'** category.

To stay tuned to what's happening with our local developments, join the Aileen Willowbrook and Thornhill Center Amazing Developments GROUP within Nextdoor...

https://ca.nextdoor.com/g/ng0765o8g/?is=groups_section_rhr



7/ **HELP** Can someone help AWRA develop a website?

AWRA (Aileen-Willowbrook Residents Assn) needs a website to allow us to extend our reach to more residents.

Please reach out to us at
AWRA.THORNHILL@GMAIL.COM



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8/ **YOUNG VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME!**

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

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

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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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