

LYMANTRIA DISPAR DISPAR (LDD) SPONGY MOTHS (GYPSY MOTHS) – UPDATE

City staff have been working through the winter to remove egg masses from infected trees. A total of 28,000 trees have had egg masses removed to date and staff will continue until eggs begin to hatch. Staff will continue to work with the Region of York to track the presence of the NPV virus and other natural controls which will collapse the LDD population. The City will not be aerial spraying. TRCA contracted aerial spraying of their conservation areas in 2021 with poor results. For more information please visit the City website www.Markham.ca/trees.



Spring 2022 Ward 4 NEWS

www.karenrea.ca

Update from your Markham Council Representative Karen Rea

Dear Residents,

It has been over two years since we first heard about the pandemic and we are all eager to return back to some kind of normalcy and we are now dealing with the emotional turmoil of what has erupted between Russia and Ukraine. My thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Ukraine and the Ukrainian community here at home and hope that a peaceful solution will be found soon.

recently that have sparked some considerable debate and frustration, some of which are mentioned in this newsletter.

We have a provincial election in June and the municipal election in October. For those of you that subscribe to my monthly e-newsletters, they will be on hold starting May 2022 until after the election.

Council continues to meet via Zoom and I encourage you to listen to or join the conversations on items that you are interested in. We have had a few "hot topics"

Stay safe and enjoy the summer,

Karen Rea

Karen Rea | Ward 4 Councillor

"Have your say"... participate in on-line polls that work for you – www.karenrea.ca

Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report [\(link here\)](#)

Markham has taken a proactive approach and provided the province with comments on the recently released report. The report included 55 recommendations to increase the housing supply but fails to address the affordability issue which should be a priority. Recommendations include; allowing "as of right" residential housing up to four units and up to four storeys on a single residential lot, multi-tenant housing, unlimited height and density in major transit stations, zoning of 6 to 11 storeys on any streets utilized by public transit. Repeal or override municipal policies, zoning and plans that preserve the physical characteristics of neighbourhoods. Staff conducted a detailed review and only 13 of the recommendations seem positive and could be supported. Further clarification was needed on 17 of the recommendations and 25 are not supported as they propose to create a one size fits all approach to planning.

Transit Oriented Communities (TOC)

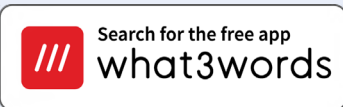
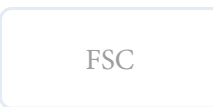
Secondary plans establish local development policies to guide growth and development in a defined area. The City has done years of planning for a livable community in Langstaff (Yonge St. & Hwy 7). Our secondary plan calls for heights up to 50 storeys and approximately 30 towers across the entire subject land. The province has their own plans for this area, which would allow up to 80 storeys in height, and although they have approximately the same number of towers it is only using half of the land. Double the density, no additional jobs and an inadequate amount of community facilities including schools, community centres, libraries and parks. Everyone should be concerned, as this could make other areas in the city vulnerable to changes imposed on us by the province. At time of writing, staff and Council do not support the TOC as proposed and have asked the province to withdraw it.



Motion to Abolish the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT)

On April 3rd 2018 the Province of Ontario replaced the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) with the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal which gave municipalities more control over land use and planning decisions. Even though these changes received unanimous support from all parties, the current Ontario government has overturned all of those positive changes and reinstated the rules and authority of the outdated OMB. Markham and York Region have joined the growing list of municipalities that have passed motions calling on the Province to eliminate what is now called the Ontario Land Tribunals.

A BETTER GTA – Residents have formed a new GTA Ratepayer Alliance and their website provides more detailed information and statistics on both of these topics, please visit abettergta.com



App to assist in locating people that are lost or in distress

9-1-1 call takers know exactly where to dispatch resources in situations where every second counts.

York Regional Police are now using the innovative location technology what3words. They are urging residents, especially those who enjoy the outdoors in remote or unpopulated locations, to download the app so our



ROAD WATCH

Aggressive driving continues to be an issue across the GTA. Road Watch is a community driven program that provides residents with a means to report aggressive or unlawful driver behaviour. Speeding, unsafe lane changes, disobeying traffic lights and stop signs are some typical types of behaviors that qualify for a Road Watch submission and can be reported through the York Regional Police website: onlinereporting.yrp.ca/RoadWatch.

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Karen Rea, Ward 4 Councillor, 101 Town Centre Blvd, Markham ON L3R 9W3
krea@markham.ca or 905.479.7751





HIGH CONTAMINATION RATES FOR RECYCLING

The City of Markham has seen an increased level of contamination in the blue box stream. Blue box & green bin programs will continue to have high contamination rates unless we do our part to check out what is & isn't accepted. Try our "What Goes Where" search tool. Download the "Access Markham" app or check the city website for the Recycling & Garbage tools. Bagged recyclables and organics are two major sources of contamination. All recyclable food containers should be washed before they are placed in the blue box. Paper products covered with food residue (e.g. a pizza box) should be placed in the green bin to reduce contamination.

TRAFFIC CALMING – MAIN ST. MARKHAM

Main St. has become a thoroughfare for traffic and a resolution is needed to reduce the amount of traffic and speed on the street. A secondary plan for the development of Mount Joy has not yet been finalized but the area will see significant density and Main St. could see increased traffic south of 16th Avenue. As part of our comprehensive multi-year road safety strategy, Main St. was identified in the capital budget and funds were approved in our 2022 budget to identify an appropriate solution to addressing speed mitigation between 16th Avenue and Bullock Drive. The feasibility study and consultation will likely occur in 2023.



360° EXPERIENCE, overnight fundraiser, March 3, 2022



Did you know... that throwing out batteries in regular garbage can cause a fire? Remove batteries from your garbage. Batteries are banned from curbside collection and must be dropped off at a City recycling depot.



Blue box and green bins are still collected on the same day, but at different times, as they are each collected in separate trucks.

The change in the collection is to allow the City to be flexible ahead of future provincial blue box program changes when Ontario Stewards will take over the pickup of our recycling.

ROAD SAFETY

When making an allowable U-turn, you must be able to see well in both directions. It is illegal to make a U-turn on a curve in the road, on or near a railway crossing or hilltop, or near a bridge or tunnel that blocks your view. Never make a U-turn unless you can see at least 150 metres in both directions.



211 Central Region 211 is a free and confidential information and referral service that connects residents in Toronto, Peel, York and Durham to social services that are needed.



This service is available 24/7 in 150 languages and can be accessed...
• By phone at: 211
• Online – Search: 211Central.ca
• Text – send an SMS to: 211
• Live chat: 211Ontario.ca/chat
• or via Email: gethelp@211Ontario.ca

COYOTE UPDATE

Council adopted a Coyote response and co-existence strategy during our Council meeting of December 14th. Besides providing education on living with wildlife, staff have the discretion to use lethal intervention at any stage of the proposed incident escalation framework should circumstances warrant it. Council also requested that the Minister of Northern Development Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry formally review the issue of human/coyote conflict in Ontario and develop a Province wide solution.



KEEP MARKHAM / Play BEAUTIFUL / Your Part

If we all do our small part and work together to be good neighbours, we can all be proud of our community and enjoy our outdoor spaces.



KEEP MARKHAM BEAUTIFUL BY-LAW

– Our City has a by-law that helps our streets and communities remain safe and beautiful.

No Person shall throw, place or deposit any refuse or debris, garbage or yard waste on any private or public property. Dumping costs everyone and if caught, you can be charged.

CONSTRUCTION NOISE BY-LAW

The operation of any equipment connected with construction is only allowed between Monday and Friday 7am to 7pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm. Construction noise is prohibited Sundays & all Statutory Holidays. This includes home renovations and the replacement of a roof.

NEW WINTER TENNIS BUBBLE

Karl Hale will be operating winter tennis and pickleball at 73 Wootten Way N. The Premier Racquet Club is slated to open October 1st 2022 and will operate in the winter months. 6 courts within 2 bubbles will promote the sport for youth, adults, seniors and persons with disabilities. For more information you can contact the new club at info@premieracquetclubs.com or call their team at 647.368.7178

• Apply for a permit before destroying any tree in Markham with a trunk diameter of 20 cm or more.

• Ensure pools are safe and in good repair at all times.

• Clean up after your pet.

• Dump out standing water. It provides a breeding environment for mosquitoes and spreads diseases like West Nile virus.

• Maintain hedges bushes & shrubs. • Keep yard clear of garbage, debris and inoperable vehicles.

• Garbage must not be dumped in public places. It is illegal.

BUILDING PERMITS

If you are a homeowner planning to demolish, construct, renovate or change the use of a building it is important to make sure you are constructing in accordance with the Ontario Building Code. Building permits are required before proceeding with any construction or home renovation projects. Please remember that an outdoor shed over 100 square feet requires a permit. To learn more about the types of permits and what is required, please visit our Markham website or contact Building Standards at 905.475.4858

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

144 Main St. N. – An application has been submitted to build a retirement living building consisting of independent, assisted living and a long-term care facility.
347 Main St. N. – An application has been submitted to build 15 three-storey townhomes.
10-20 Fincham Ave. – A settlement has been reached with the applicant to build a detached house on Fincham Avenue, 6 three-storey condominium townhomes facing 16th Avenue and 7 two-storey condominium townhomes on the inside lane.
Mount Joy Secondary Plan for development – Ongoing, please check the City website to get involved.