



YOUR WARD

NEWS



**Markham
Ward 8**

Isa Lee Ward 8 Councillor



Winter 2019

Dear Residents,

December has always been a special month, and this December is especially important for me as it marks my first year as your Ward Councillor.

One of my election platforms was to enhance community safety. In the last year, I worked closely with residents in Ward 8 to establish a Neighbourhood Watch Program to help connect residents together to reduce break-ins in the community. I also held several crime prevention seminars - including the most recent session in November, where I brought in York Regional Police officers to discuss theft from vehicles, as well as distraction thefts and fraud targeting seniors. Officers gave residents great tips on how to protect themselves from these types of crimes.

Community safety is a top priority of my work. I will continue the focus on safety with more neighbourhood activities in Ward 8. I believe empowering residents with knowledge will effectively reduce and prevent crime within our community. If you have any specific topics you would like to learn about, don't hesitate to let me know!

I've had the honour of meeting some of you in September, at my 1st Annual Community BBQ. Residents enjoyed burgers, ice cream, children's activities, as well as some exciting performances from local artists and dance groups. Residents also had the opportunity to visit 18 information booths, including Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association's Mobile Health Unit (MHU), which provided seniors with on-site health services; Markham Cycles, which promoted hub programs like Do it Yourself Bike Repair, Group Bike Rides, and Workshops. For those who missed out this year, I look forward to meeting you at our BBQ next summer.

Ward 8 has greater than 16% population that are older than 65 years old, as local Councillor, it is my priority to improve the quality of life for seniors in the community. Over the past few months, some seniors expressed concerns about flooding and drainage issues on the park trails they use on a daily basis. I discussed the issue with City staff, who agreed to install drainage and culverts to resolve the situation. Small details in our everyday lives matter. I hope each of these minor improvements will help seniors get around the community safely during the winter season.



I look forward to hearing more from you in the near future. Happy Holidays, and all the best in the new year!

Yours Sincerely,

Isa Lee

Councillor Isa Lee
Ward 8
City of Markham



Neighbourhood Watch-Hagerman's Corner

Worked with neighbours in Markham Ward 8 (John, Julian, Margaret, Laila) to successfully set up the new Hagerman's Corner Neighbourhood Watch Community, which covers streets east of Kennedy Rd, west of McCowan Rd, north of 14th Ave, south of Hwy 407, as well as Harness Cir, located south of 14th Ave. If you would like to be a part of the Ward 8 Neighbourhood Watch program, please register via neighbourhoodwatchward8@gmail.com



This newsletter is intended for the residents of Ward 8. Residents in adjacent wards may receive this newsletter as a result of Canada Post's distribution routes that do not align with Markham ward boundaries."

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ROADS

Snow Windrow Removal

Currently Windrow Removal Service is available for seniors 60yrs of age and older and/or for physically challenged persons. Proof of identification and a valid doctor's certificate is required for all persons living at the same address. The service includes clearing the centre portion of the driveway windrow (one car width), and does not include clearing the remainder of snow from private approaches to residence or driveways or the windrow left by the sidewalk plow. Windrows are currently cleared within 8 hours after crews plow the road. However, Council recently voted to have staff report back with more information in 2020 about shortening the time frame for clearing windrow.

Some Tips for this Winter Season:

- Drive slow, increase your following distance and always brake before making turns
- When shoveling, always take it slow and stretch out before you begin. Remember to lift with your legs, not your back
- Road conditions can be unpredictable during the winter season, always plan ahead for potential delays or accidents.

Winter Operations

The City of Markham strives to make life easier for those travelling around the winter season. Different sections of roads are owned and maintained by different levels of government. This includes the City of Markham, York Region, the Province of Ontario, or the City of Toronto. Markham is responsible for managing the services of Markham-owned roads only - These are mostly local roads and roads that don't cross over City boundaries into other municipalities. During the winter season, we receive a significant volume of resident inquiries on the timing of snow removal. The snow removal schedule is determined by the City road classification:

1. Primary roads (those with the largest volume of traffic) get plowed and salted first so emergency and public transit vehicles can drive on bare pavement at all times, and you have access to hospitals, schools, workplaces, libraries and community centres.
2. Secondary roads lead onto primary roads. We clear them next so that they're bare between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
3. Local roads and lanes are usually roads with houses and less traffic. They are plowed when snow reaches 7.5 cm (3 inches) or more. If snow keeps falling, plowing begins once it stops or the build-up exceeds 12 cm.

The City follows Council-approved service levels and provincial winter maintenance standards. In fact, our winter service levels exceed the provincial standards for clearing snow from roads and sidewalks.

Markham standards: We start plowing at 7.5 cm of snow, to be cleared within 12 to 16 hours.

Provincial standards: Municipalities must start plowing at 10 cm of snow, to be cleared within 24 hours.

Active School Travel Pilot Project:

York Region Public and Catholic District School Boards, with support from the City of Markham, have implemented an Active School Travel Pilot Project at 8 elementary schools across the City of Markham. In Ward 8, two schools have been selected: Randall Public School and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Elementary School. The aim of this pilot program is to encourage more students to walk or bike to/from school. If more students participate in the program, there will be less traffic congestion in school zones and a more pedestrian friendly environment. Also, having more active children can result in improved academic performance. For more information on this project, you can contact Reena Mistry, Active School Travel Coordinator, at reena.mistry@yrdsb.ca.

Winter Street Parking Restrictions

Markham's winter parking restrictions is now in effect. Between November 15 and April 15, you can only park on the ODD numbered side of the street (unless existing parking signs state otherwise). However, all parking (even permitted parking) on all streets is not allowed if there is a snowstorm. In addition, overnight-parking exemptions is not allowed during winter storms, so the online system is removed from the City's website to avoid confusion.

The fine for "Interfering with Snow Removal" is \$150. For full parking information, visit markham.ca/winter and read How Markham Manages Snow Removal.

Anti-Whistling on Stouffville GO Line

Markham and York Region have been working closely with Metrolinx to implement whistle cessation at the public at-grade train crossings along the Stouffville GO Line. Whistle Cessation has now been implemented at the following locations within Ward 8

• Denison Street and Kennedy Road South

It is important to note that even when Metrolinx approves anti-whistling at the thirteen (13) at-grade crossings, the whistling may be required for other Canadian Rail Operating Rules (CROW) requirements, locations, or at the train engineers' sole discretion.



COMMUNITIES



Milliken Mills Pool Change Room Renewal Project

Milliken Mills Community Center opened its doors in 1989. Since then it has been an integral part of the health and wellness of the Milliken community.

In June 2019, we began work to renew the pool change rooms at Milliken Mills pool. The pool change room renewal project was initiated to ensure that Milliken Mills Community Center will continue to meet the needs of a changing community. The focus of the project went beyond the requirement to upgrade its amenities, but more importantly to address the many requests from families with young children that wanted a more inclusive experience.

The renewal would focus on 2 phases:

- Phase 1 which began June 2019 focused on a complete renewal of the two pool change rooms. This work consist of renovating the two existing change rooms to Universal Locker Rooms that will ensure all residents, including families, can access the change rooms. Phase one renewal plans are currently on schedule and the pool change rooms and pool are scheduled to re-open January 3rd, 2020.
- Phase 2 which will include a renewal of the lobby area, which will begin in 2020.

We are excited for the reopening of the Milliken Mills Pool and to welcome back all our members!

For any questions, please feel free to contact Anthony Ierulli, Community Recreation Manager at aierulli@markham.ca

City of Markham's Drinking Water Quality

The City of Markham has not encountered any lead issues in the City's drinking water. The City of Markham has conducted residential, non-residential and distribution sampling for lead between December 2007 to 2011 and since then continues to sample the distribution system as per all the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks regulations. There have been no samples that have exceeded the limit of the Ontario Drinking Water Standard for lead. All sample results did not show elevated lead levels and were all found to be safe. The City of Markham does not have any lead pipes on the public side.

To check if your home has a lead service locate your water

meter, typically found in the basement, and look at the pipe coming up through the basement floor into the bottom of the water meter. Lead is grey, does not echo if you gently strike it, scratches easily and leaves metallic marks when you rub the scratched area against paper.

If you suspect that your home has a lead service, or can not determine whether your home has a lead service, contact the City of Markham Contact Centre at 905.477.5530 or customerservice@markham.ca and the Environmental Services Department will conduct an investigation and determine if a lead test is required.

Steeles Ave E Grade Separation

With increase in trains and more frequent service along the GO rail system, Metrolinx is building a grade separated crossing of Steeles Avenue East at the GO rail corridor (rail bridge) between Kennedy Road and Midland Avenue. Works will also include widening of Steeles Avenue East from 4 to 6 lanes, addition of cycling facilities, 4 new elevators at the rail crossing, pedestrian walkway bridges, intersection improvements, and elimination of Turff Avenue intersection at Steeles Avenue.

In order to construct the Steeles Avenue underpass and rail bridge, a temporary road closure of Steeles Avenue East (between Redlea Avenue and Old Kennedy Road) will be required. During this temporary road closure, Steeles Avenue East traffic will be shifted to a diversion road, north of the existing roadway. The diversion road will have the same number of existing eastbound and westbound traffic lanes, with a pedestrian sidewalk on the north side only. The diversion road is anticipated to be constructed and opened in early 2020 and may be in place for up to 24 months. During this time, access to retail on either side of Steeles Avenue between Redlea Avenue to Old Kennedy Road will be restricted and access to the Milliken GO Station will also be restricted to Redlea Avenue.

Metrolinx will be hosting monthly meetings with the Construction Liaison Committee, which involves key stakeholders, to provide them with any updates to the project.

The project is scheduled to be completed in 2021.



(City of Toronto, June 21, 2019, Go Expansion Program – Steeles Avenue East Grade Separation and Temporary Diversion Road)

Carbon Monoxide

Exposure to Carbon monoxide (CO) can cause flu-like symptoms such as headaches, nausea, dizziness, as well as confusion, drowsiness, loss of consciousness and death. CO is produced when fuels such as propane, gasoline, natural gas, heating oil or wood do not burn completely in fuel-burning appliances and devices such as furnaces, gas or wood fireplaces, hot water heaters, stoves, barbeques, portable fuel-burning heaters, generators and vehicles.

In the province of Ontario, homeowners are required to provide a working CO alarm adjacent to each sleeping area if the home has a fuel-burning appliance, a fireplace or an attached garage. If you live in a condominium or apartment building with a service room, CO alarms must be installed in the service room and adjacent to each sleeping area of all homes above, below, and beside the service room. In condominium or apartment buildings that have a garage, CO alarms must be installed adjacent to each sleeping area of all homes above, below, and beside the garage.



Lighting the ceremonial lamp in celebration of Hindu Heritage Month



Markham is a fantastic place for entrepreneurs to start, expand and grow. I was honoured to give my opening remarks at the annual Markham Small Business Forum this year and meet with the many small business owners in person.



Attended the Global Cooperation Day Tree of Peace and Reconciliation tree planting event on behalf of the City to show our support in the fight against climate change.



Honoured to take part in my first Markham-Milliken Children's Festival - Ontario's largest annual children's festival - as co-chair this year. Had a wonderful time meeting our community partners and residents at this fun-filled event.

Extended Driveways

The Extended Driveways By-law 2006-96 applies to all driveways in the City of Markham. It controls the extent to which driveways may be widened, in order to maintain the beauty and value of our neighbourhoods while satisfying homeowners' increasing need for more parking on their properties.

All driveways must comply with the City's Extended Driveways By-Law, but there are some exceptions. If you are not certain that your present or planned driveway meets these general guidelines, please call the By-law Enforcement & Licensing Department to discuss your situation. A staff member will advise you of all the options available within the by-law.

Winter Maintenance Interactive Map

Did you know you can check the progress of snow plows on Markham's Winter Maintenance map? Stay up-to-date on the City's snow clearing efforts:



<http://www.aatracking.com/markham/wintermaintenance.html>



Held a joint press conference with Metrolinx and the City of Toronto to let residents know more about the Steeles Ave. E. Grade Separation project



Joined the launch of The Lendery - which makes available a wide range of items like tools or small appliances that may be borrowed instead of purchased - at Markham Public Library's Milliken Mills branch.



Contact Centre: If you have an issue regarding City of Markham's services, programs, or inquiries (e.g. by-laws, license, garbage, recycling, trees, roads) please contact the City's Contact Centre at (905) 477-5530 or customerservice@markham.ca.

