

GARA News

November 2017

Serving Our Community Since 1989

From Our Chair



Ricardo Mashregi (centre left) meeting with MPP Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca (centre), Markham Deputy Mayor Jack Heath (left), Vaughan Councillor Alan Shefman (right) and representatives from Woodbridge and Vaughan ratepayer associations .

The Missing Link Report commissioned by the City of Milton recommends that their CP freight traffic be diverted onto our CN tracks in Markham and Vaughan. This would provide their commuters with improved service to and from downtown Toronto at the cost of vastly increased rail freight traffic through our neighbourhood and nearby areas.

Metrolix operates GO Transit and has a mandate to introduce Regional Express Rail service within ten years. This network will offer two-way, all-day GO Transit service on its entire system. Milton-Mississauga's GO line, however, currently shares tracks with CP freight trains. To overcome this problem the concept of the "Missing Link" was proposed as a solution. **Continued on Page 2**

www.thornhillgara.com



Inside this issue:

Markham at the Movies	2
Missing Link cont,	2
News from HAPS	3
Local Hero?	3
Gara Executive 2016-17	3
Waiting for the Subway	4
Support for Seniors	5
Councillor's Update	6
Support our Advertisers	7
Join Us	8

Identity Theft and Fraud How Can You Protect Yourself? Presented by Detective Constable Gino Benedetti

Please Join Us for
Grandview Area Residents Association
Annual General Meeting
November 16th, 7:30pm
Henderson Avenue Public School

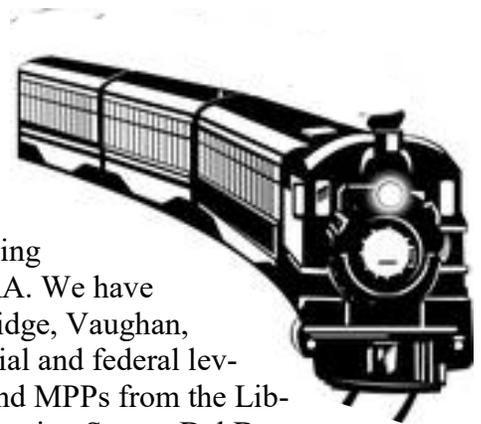


Do you long to see film festival type of films but hesitate to make the long and potentially expensive trek downtown?

Now Markham has a reasonably priced alternative closer to home. Markham at the Movies, a partner with the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) is screenings some very intriguing movies at Markham's Flato Theatre (Highway 7/Warden). Showings are generally on Tuesdays with both evening and matinee performances and individual tickets priced at \$10.00, less if you buy a season pass. More information including this season's titles is available at www.markhamatthemovies.com. Popcorn, anyone?

Continued from Page One **The Missing Link**

In order to ensure that Thornhill does not become the dumping ground for CP freight I have taken action on behalf of GARA. We have enlisted the support of ratepayer associations from Woodbridge, Vaughan, Markham and our elected officials from municipal, provincial and federal levels. As this is a non-partisan issue we have met with MPs and MPPs from the Liberal and PC parties including MPP (L) Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca, MPP (L) Minister of International Trade Michael Chan, MPP (PC) Gila Martow, MP (L) Francesco Sorbara, MP (PC) Peter Kent and MP (L) Mary Ng.



While many have been involved in this process I would like to especially thank Markham's Deputy Mayor, Jack Heath, and Pam Taraday-Levy, President of the Spring-Farm Ratepayer Association of Vaughan, Thornhill.

This is not an issue of "nimbyism". The citizens of Markham and Vaughan accept their fair share of rail freight traffic through our communities every day. This plan simply proposes dumping by Milton and Mississauga. Our message is simple - the re-routing of rail freight traffic from one densely populated area into another densely populated area is not an acceptable solution.

We expect nothing less than a re-examination of this issue using an objective, transparent, scientific, and totally public process including community consultation with Metrolinx and our politicians. Please sign the petition which can be Googled at, 'Public Transparency 4 Freight Trains' or this link <http://bit.ly/2ds6xTB>

Ricardo Mashregi
Chair GARA

News From the Principal's Desk



The new school year at Henderson Ave. P.S. is well underway. In just a short time students have been active in the Terry Fox run, cross-country, volleyball, band, primary soccer group and yearbook start up. Our classes have gone on several field trips to places including YRDSB ECO Camp, Swan Lake Outdoor Centre, Lionel's Pony Farm and Freedom Day at Dundas Square. Our senior band has been invited to perform the National Anthem at the Marlies' game in November. Most recently, our school yard has been graded and sodded to resolve the erosion of property. It will be fenced off until the summer to give the new sod opportunity to root.

Debbie Mida
Principal Henderson Ave. P.S

Be A Local Hero!

We need dedicated, hearty individuals who are interested in helping us scrape and flood our local rink. One or two days a week would be the commitment, assuming we have enough people signing up to help.

Want to be a true Hoser? We can make it happen! Send me an email at bkforrester@sympatico.ca
Brian Forrester



GARA Executive 2016 – 2017



Clockwise from the left: Chair: Ricardo Mashregi; Secretary: Loreena Pattanaik; Member-at-Large: Mohammad Azar; Past Chair: Marilyn Ginsburg; Treasurer: Majda Ambrozic; Volunteer Coordinator: Peter Bernotas; Webmaster/Editor: Corie Bonnaffon; Committee of Adjustments: Tarun Dewan; Membership & Special Events: Rhonda Duma. Absent: Member-at-Large: Sandra Pyke.



Waiting and Waiting and Waiting for the Subway

For well over 30 years our neighbourhood has speculated when will the subway come to us? At one point, some years ago, the line was approved and definitely going ahead only to have priorities change. Local politicians have, however, continued to press for the extension and the idea has always been very popular with residents. Plans for the current Yonge Street residential intensification were based on the belief that the subway would be here by now.

Where do things stand?

Current plans call for a 7.4 km extension north from Finch to Highway 7 with stops at Cummer/Drewry, Steeles, Clark, Langstaff/Longbridge and Richmond Hill Centre. Environmental reports and conceptual designs have been done and approved. Within the past year and a half, the federal and provincial governments have contributed over 90 million dollars to advance design work and most recently Toronto City Council has withdrawn its objections. Current upgrades to the Yonge-University line and regional express rail are expected to add sufficient capacity for the additional ridership without building the downtown relief line first. According to the York Region Transit website the Yonge /subway Extension is now ready to move to full engineering and construction. Completion of the extension will take approximately 10 years once begun. Adding spice to the hopeful speculation, it has been suggested that the upcoming provincial election might be a prime time for that funding announcement many of us having been waiting for a long time. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Support for Seniors: Who Can You Call?

Many seniors live in our neighbourhood and some may sometimes need additional support. Younger residents may also be concerned about their aging parents, relatives or friends. In times of need it can be very difficult to know where to turn, whether an older person wishes to be able to continue living at home but needs extra help or if it is time to think about moving into a different living situation with more assistance. Sometimes it is the caregivers who need support. Here are some suggestions.

Client Intervention and Support Services (CISS)

This is a free service which aims to allow seniors to live independently for as long as they can. They offer in-home assessments; information and referrals to community programs and services; supportive counselling; advocating for clients needs and rights and help to access appropriate services. Areas of assistance are broad and may include bereavement, finances, managing family relationships, elder abuse, or support for family members and caregivers. The service is free to seniors over 60 years old living in York Region. To reach them call 1-877-464-9675 x 73433.

Senior INFOline

This free provincial phone line and online resource provides seniors and their families with information about provincial programs and services in over 30 languages. Call toll free 1 888-910-1999.

Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

Home Care or Assisted Living?

Some seniors can continue to live at home very well with extra support. If one qualifies, the Ontario government can provide a wide range of services. If you don't qualify for funding the agency may still be able to help you find services that are affordable for you. For others, it is time to plan to live somewhere with more support than can be available in the community, the LHIN is also the gateway to such facilities.

Our area is covered by the Central LHIN which can be reached at 416 222-2241. They provide a wide range of services to support living at home plus they are responsible for applications to all funded nursing homes and assisted living.

The first step is to call and arrange a meeting with a case manager in your home. They will speak to you about your needs and how they can be met. If appropriate they can help you apply for government funded care. As needed, in home services can include visiting health care professionals such as nurses or physiotherapists, personal care such as bathing, dressing or foot care or homemaking services. They can also help assist you with an application for a nursing home or other assisted living facility if that's appropriate.

Like other changing stages in life, it can be an overwhelming or frightening time. Often the best option is to reach out with that first phone call. Even if the first call you make does not connect you with exactly what is needed, staff there may well be able to use their experience and knowledge to help you find out who can.



Message From Our Councillor



Winter Services and Emergency Preparedness

Winter will soon be here and I hope you and your family have an enjoyable and safe season by taking the time to be informed about the City of Markham's services and emergency preparedness. During snow storms, Markham's Winter Maintenance App enables you to follow snow clearing operations. Snow removal service begins on local roads when snow reaches a depth of 7.5 centimetres (about 3 inches) or more and from sidewalks when snow reaches 5 centimetres (about 2 inches.) Parking on both sides of all City streets is prohibited during snow clearing.

Markham's Windrow Removal Assistance Program helps seniors and residents with disabilities. This service provides each eligible resident with the removal of a car width of snow from the accumulation at the end of the driveway only. Clearing commences within eight hours after the road has been plowed. Please visit Markham's portal to find out if you qualify www.markham.ca

Snow clearing, litter control and general upkeep of all mailboxes and their immediate surrounding area is the responsibility of Canada Post. Please direct all concerns to Canada Post at 1-800-267-1177. York Region Transit (YRT) maintains all bus stop shelters. Please call YRT Call Centre at 905-762-2100.

The Ice Storm of 2013 reminded everyone that being prepared for an emergency is extremely important. It is our responsibility to take the necessary steps of emergency preparedness. Having a family emergency plan and an emergency preparedness kit (s) will save time and make real situations less stressful. Please look out for your neighbours, especially the elderly, people with disabilities and pets.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Valerie Burke'.

Valerie Burke,
Ward 1 Councillor, Thornhill
vburke@markham.ca
905-479-7747

Policy on Newsletter Advertisements

The Grandview Area Residents Association (GARA) is now accepting small advertisements from local residents and businesses in our area to be included in the newsletter. These advertisements are to be the size of a business card with all art work completed and included by the advertiser. GARA will assume no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the ads. They will be printed as is.

The executive of the association has the absolute right to refuse or accept any advertisements without explanation. Likewise, the executive has the absolute right to restrict the number of times any particular advertiser may place ads in its newsletters. If you have any questions about this policy, or would like to place an ad, please contact: Newsletter Editor Corie Bonnaffon at bonnaffon@yahoo.com

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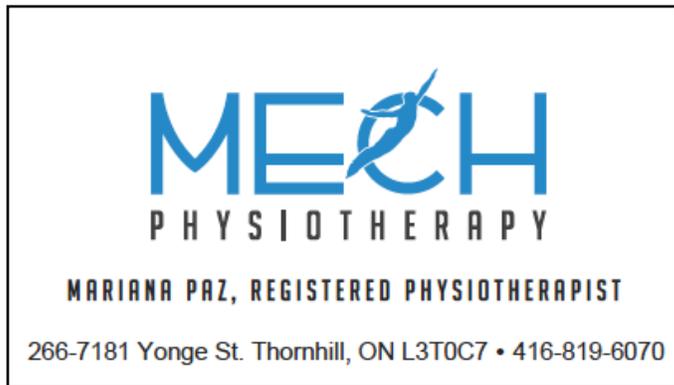
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Grandview Area Residents Association (GARA)

Serving Thornhill residents in the area between Yonge St. and Bayview Ave., south of the CN tracks to Steeles Ave.

Do you want to keep up with what's going on in the neighbourhood?

Need to know about resources and developments?

Our website is updated regularly with everything you need to know.

Go to our WEBSITE at www.thornhillgara.com for the latest news, events, photos
Available in 60+ languages—from Albanian to Zulu!! Try out the on-line translator.

Tell GARA your issues and your views by e-mail or the form below: garamail@yahoo.ca
Ricardo Mashregi (Chair) – ricardo.mashregi@gmail.com or 416-577-9543

Join GARA or renew your membership and be a part of the important work it does.

NOW you can renew or join on line.
Click the [Join Us](#) link at www.thornhillgara.com

If you prefer please use this form

GRANDVIEW AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT MY NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SO THAT IT CAN
CONTINUE TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE OF RESIDENTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY..

Please check off the applicable box: NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____ (our best method of reaching you and keeping you up-to-date
with local issues and events. E-mail addresses will not be used for any other purposes or shared outside of GARA)

Please share your issues and views on how we can best pursue our mission while fulfilling our roles and responsibilities in the space below:

GARA always needs your help in our community. Please indicate where you can contribute:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering Newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing Social Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbying Markham Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Park and Woods Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Various Committee Work (Traffic, Flood, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Rink Maintenance |

Membership is \$10.00 per household per year. Payment by cash or cheque is welcome.

Please make cheques payable to **Grandview Area Residents Association** and deliver or mail this application, along with your payment, to: **Majda Ambrozic 12 Almond Avenue Thornhill, Ontario L3T 1L1**