

GARA News

Message from the Chair

Markham voted in its Mayor, Ward 1 Thornhill and Regional Councillors along with School Board Trustees to serve the community for the next four years. Each successful candidate had their own platform that was embraced by the community. It is now up to residents to work with these politicians to see their campaign promises come to fruition.

To this end, GARA is quickly moving forward post election, enlisting the direct involvement of Politicians and city staff to ensure our community is a top priority. We continue to drive the community agenda of building community services and safety into development plans. The Ward 1 Thornhill Councillor, our four Regional Councillors and the Mayor are directly responsible for our area. They have been very open to GARA suggestions in the past, however, some specific community issues related to traffic and new amenities need some timeline management because little physical evidence of plans are in place. Certainly, government moves slowly, particularly during elections, but GARA expects some forward momentum in the months to come.

On a personal note, I have decided that I will not run for Chair of GARA. The support of residents and guidance and affection of the GARA executive has always been a tremendous anchor in my community work and warmly appreciated over these many years. No one could ask for a better executive team or neighbourhood to serve.

Ricardo Mashregi,
Chair GARA

www.thornhillgara.com



What is Happening in Our Park??

Join GARA for our Annual General Meeting and find out from a city official what is happening or not happening at Grandview Park and WHEN?

Please join us for this important meeting.

Reconnect with other members of your residents' association or join us if you are new to the community.

An annual membership fee of only \$10.00 per family in the best bargain you will find this shopping season.

Henderson Avenue Public School, Thursday, November 15th, 7:30 pm

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Grandview Community real estate market update

Wondering about the value of our homes in a volatile real estate market seems to be a local passion and so we asked a local real estate agent, Ivana Djordjevic, for her view of the current local scene. This is what she told us:

Contrary to negative media bombardments, real estate markets across the GTA are stable with steady and continuous growth in both number of sales and price. According to the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB) statistics, the sales in September 2018 were up 1.9%, compared to September 2017, and with the average selling price (ASP) of \$796,786, there was an increase of 2.9%.



Our Grandview Community includes various micro-markets, such as the World-On-Yonge condominium complex, high-end townhomes on Arlington Way, more affordable townhouses on Henderson Avenue, the new, newer and “land value” properties west of Henderson Ave., a sought-after east of Henderson Ave. pocket, and the luxury market of the Steel Valley Community. It is important to understand these different micro-markets and how market trends affect each of them.

In the third quarter of 2018 (since July 1st) in the Grandview Community there have been 96 new listings, 43 sold properties, and as of October 17th, there are currently 36 properties available for sale. The ASP was \$603,295. The ASP for single detached houses was \$1,340,778, and for condominium apartments and townhouses \$506,258.

Type of property	# of new listings	# of sold properties	Average Selling Price (ASP)	# of properties currently available
TOTAL	96	43	\$603,295	36
Detached houses	34	5	\$1,340,778	20
Condominium	62	38	\$506,258	16

Prepared by Ivana Spasic Djordjevic, Royal LePage Your Community Realty, source: Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB)

It seems that the market is balanced and the coming months will give us a better picture on where it is heading in 2019. One thing remains certain, “in a region where the economy remains strong and the population continues to grow, ownership housing remains a solid long term investment”, said Mr. Garry Bhaura, president of the Toronto Real Estate Board. Properties that are well presented, priced at the market value and have a firm marketing platform sell.

If you would like to receive regular market updates or if you have any further questions about real estate conditions in the Grandview Community, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email ivana@djordjevic.ca or by phone 416-858-5869.

Ivana Djordjevic

Thank You Ricardo!!

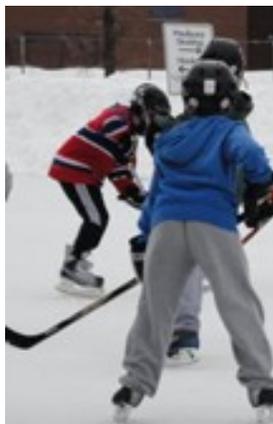
The GARA executive, on behalf of our entire community, would like to express our thanks and gratitude to Ricardo Mashregi, our association's Chair for the past six years, for his work on our behalf. Ricardo has decided to retire from his position at our Annual General Meeting on November 15, 2018.

For many years GARA has been one of the most active residents associations in the City of Markham and that certainly did not change under Ricardo's leadership. He devoted himself to our community in so many ways, from helping to shovel our community ice rink on cold wintry nights, to working with elected officials from all levels of government to prevent increased freight trains through our neighbourhoods, to advocating for the extension of the Yonge subway, to helping to ensure that the new recreational amenities in Grandview Park serve all of our residents and that they actually get built!

Not only has Ricardo been a whirlwind of activity but he has led our executive and our residents association in a most professional and inclusive way. He has advocated for us in an informed and respectful manner at Markham Council, included members of our community who have never been active in local issues before, worked with other residents associations for the benefit of all of Ward One, and always made us proud that he represented us.



To Ricardo we give our heartfelt thanks for his service on our behalf. We also thank his wife Nancy, and their two great daughters, who have offered their support and given up time with Ricardo so he could work on our behalf. Ricardo, we will miss you!



Calling All Hosers!

Summer is gone, the trees are turning, the Leafs are beginning another season and so are we.

Last year's creation and maintenance of our outdoor ice rink was a phenomenal success and seeing all the families & hockey addicts making full use of our labour of love was extremely rewarding for everyone who volunteered.

Now the 2018-19 version of the rink is on the drawing board and the first order of business is volunteers. 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.

So let's start sharpening the scrapers, dust off the Ronboni and lay out the winter woollies – you can get fresh air, exercise and do a little something for your community! Want to be a true Hoser? We can make it happen!

Please send me an email at bkforrester@sympatico.ca

Brian Forrester





October, 2018

Dear Residents,

It has been my privilege and pleasure to work with you and GARA as your local Thornhill Councillor. We have accomplished many projects to make our community more sustainable, beautiful and a better place to live.



In 2005, Thornhill was hit by a severe rain storm during which stormwater runoff exceeded the capacity of drainage systems, causing extensive flooding of private property and roadways. This was a serious wake-up call about the challenges with extreme weather resulting from climate change as well as inadequate stormwater infrastructure. This storm event triggered the implementation of the ambitious West Thornhill Stormwater Flood Remediation program to mitigate flooding by improving Thornhill's infrastructure to the 100-year storm event level.

In 2007 the City negotiated \$2 million as a part of Section 37 of the Municipal Act from the World on Yonge development to enhance amenities in Grandview Park. The process has been very long and challenging with a great deal of volunteer participation from GARA. Finally, there appears to be "light at the end of the tunnel" and construction is anticipated in 2019.

In 2010, the St. Roberts Soccer Dome was built and the Thornhill Community Centre was refurbished with updated accessibility improvements and attractive space in the lower level. Solar panels were implemented to help reduce our carbon footprint. A statue to honour Benjamin Thorne, founder of Thornhill was recently installed at the front entrance.

The Yonge/Colborne streetscape project improved Thornhill Village with beautiful planters, pavers, benches, a bicycle rack and a historic plaque. Colourful murals at Pomona Valley Tennis Club, Henderson/Proctor CN bridge and the wrapping of traffic control boxes enhanced our community with interesting artwork. Visitors to the magnificent historic Heintzman House can now learn about the interesting history featured on the artistic interpretive sign in the garden.

In 2014, the Thornhill Community Centre welcomed the new Markham Cat Adoption and Education Centre, a first of its kind for a Canadian municipality. The goal of reducing the euthanasia rate of healthy adoptable cats has exceeded targets. Residents have benefited from the very popular Children's Reading Therapy program, educational workshops and low-cost rabies clinics.

In 2014, Markham's bird-friendly guidelines were implemented to help prevent migratory and resident birds from death/injury due to collisions with glass. Markham became the first municipality in the world to retrofit the City's existing buildings. The mitigation of harmful light pollution and public awareness of dark-sky compliance measures will help us be able to view our night sky and the wonders of the universe...

Continued on page 6

Parenting in Canada in the 21st Century

In case you missed the first parenting workshop at Thornhill Community Centre on September 30th, here are some highlights:

- Forty parents attended, and after the topic was introduced, we discussed four parenting styles; permissive parenting, uninvolved parents, authoritative and authoritarian parenting. Participants shared with their group what they thought their parenting style was and how it might affect their child's personality.
- We talked about the implications of that style on their children's schooling. For example, a child raised by a permissive parent may find it challenging to follow school rules as he or she is not used to a structured environment. However, a child accustomed to routines at home and who has learned there are consequences for making wrong choices is more likely able to cope well with school expectations.
- Next we toured through the contents of a sample report card looking at the learning skills section (Organization Skills, Taking responsibility, Independent work habits etc.) and brainstormed strategies for parents to help their children perform and succeed at school.
- Finally, we turned our attention to the issue of parent involvement in school activities such as volunteering for educational trips and cultural events.



Coming soon, a parenting workshop, entitled A+ Communication, Winning Communication for Parents and Their Children, will be held at Thornhill Community Centre in the second week of December. For further information contact me: m_azar_99@yahoo.com.

Mohammad Azar

Local Politics Matter

With the recent election over and the results in, we know who our local representatives will be. They are generally very approachable and welcome input from constituents. So let's be active in addressing the issues that matter to us. Here is their contact information,

Mayor

Frank Scarpitti: fscarpitti@markham.ca or 905-475-4872

Regional Councillors

Jack Heath: jheath@markham.ca or 905-415-7549

Jim Jones: jjones@markham.ca or 905-479-7757

Joe Li: joeli@markham.ca or 905-479-7749

Don Hamilton (Deputy Mayor): dhamilton@markham.ca or 905-415-7549



Ward 1 Councillor

Keith Irish: TBA

Asked about his priorities, our new Councillor, Keith Irish, has said:

The top five issues Ward 1 residents told me are of most concern to them are: gridlock, reliable city services, investments in public infrastructure, the extension of the Yonge Street Subway, and ensuring our tax dollars are well spent.

Although I am an optimist by nature, I know there are no quick and easy solutions to these issues. However, I will champion items, related to each of these five, that I believe are achievable in the short-term.

The new council will be sworn in on December 1st.

Who Lives Here?

A hundred years ago our neighbourhood was prosperous farm land. Fifty or Sixty years ago, after World War II, it was crowded with young families with lots and lots of children. By 1989, there were only three children of kindergarten age and Henderson P.S. could not support a class for them. In the last few years, changes in the makeup of the neighbourhood have continued seemingly quite rapidly.

As it turns out, our neighbourhood exactly matches a particular census area so a dive into the 2016 Canadian Census allows an interesting snapshot of the GARA community.

- Area 1.71 square kilometers
- Population: 5,445 up from 3,350 in 2011 (+60%)
- 755 detached houses; 1155 apartments in buildings over 4 stories; 135 basement apartments; 130 town-homes
- Average household size : 2.5 people
- Mother tongue: English 1,585 Not English 3,655
 - Farsi 1,400; Korean 620; Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, Hakka etc) 695
- Households: Owners 1,170; Renters 1,020
- Household income: Median \$52, 352; Average \$99, 105
- 50 households are maintained by homeowners over 85 years old
- 40% of residents have moved to the neighbourhood within the last 5 years



If you'd be interested in learning more, our local census information can be found at <https://bit.ly/2St2c3w>

Councillor's Message continued from Page 4 ...

In 2016, Markham became the first monarch butterfly friendly city. Thornhill established a "butterflyway" in conjunction with the David Suzuki Foundation, providing native wildflowers and milkweed for our essential pollinators. The Pomona Mills Park Conservationists have transformed Thornhill Meadow into a significant pollinator meadow.

It is my hope that improvements to Thornhill will continue to be supported with the vision to think globally and act locally, and plan for the wellbeing of our community well into the future, beyond the next four political years. Once again, I thank you and GARA for all your support and passion to help make our community a better place. I wish you all the best in the future.

Sincerely,

Valerie Burke

Valerie Burke

Ward 1 Councillor, Thornhill

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

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HELPING YOUR BUSINESS BECOME KNOWN TO OUR RESIDENTS.

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PLEASE LET OUR ADVERTISERS KNOW YOU SAW THEIR AD HERE.

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

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**