

# Our Neighbourhood News

Serving Our Community Since 1989

## Help Wanted!!

Living in a “real” neighbourhood means a lot to many of us. Being able to chat with our neighbours, maybe watching out for each other’s homes and children enriches our lives. GARA, as your residents’ association, works hard to sustain and enhance our community.

We need help.

We need willing volunteers to begin working on the Executive as Members at Large. Also, as we recognize that we will be called upon to respond to many development proposals in the near future, we are seeking to build a list of residents with expertise in related areas who would be willing to offer support and advice on specific projects. Please contact us at [garamail@yahoo.ca](mailto:garamail@yahoo.ca) or call to learn more about the possibilities.



[www.thornhillgara.com](http://www.thornhillgara.com)  
[garamail@yahoo.ca](mailto:garamail@yahoo.ca)  
905 731 0284

## Join GARA for our Virtual Annual General Meeting Sprawl, Tall, and Infill:

Are these really our only options?

2.9M people in the GTA over the next 25 years!

We need a sensible growth plan.

Politicians aren't doing it so citizen groups need to come together to create one.

Graham Churchill, Director with Ontario Federation of Neighbourhoods, who led much of the initiative against the Langstaff Gateway EMZO, wants to talk to GARA about options for growth and get our feedback.

Thursday November 3, 7:30pm

Register at [garamail@yahoo.ca](mailto:garamail@yahoo.ca) to receive the zoom link

*We wish to respectfully acknowledge the land on which we live is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.*

## On the edge of our park, tucked away is an often overlooked treasure, the woodlot.

This summer it was a place to connect in a different way, by volunteering and learning about nature.



It all began in early April, with a merry band of local volunteers who gathered on a Saturday morning and took care of our annual spring park clean up.

By the beginning of June, it was time for local high school students to help out. With support from the City of Markham and LEAF, twenty teens did a tremendous job of planting 139 native trees and shrubs. They did a great job. Almost everything they planted survived the hot, dry summer.



Every month throughout the summer and early fall, many of us enjoyed scheduled nature walks, hearing from experts about the more hidden life in our woods. Each speaker had their own area of interest and in turn they fascinated us about birds, trees and shrubs, flowers and insects. It was particularly fun to see young children with their parents, intrigued with what they were seeing, and to watch the aerial displays from the hawks nesting there.

Huge thanks to Peter Cox who organized all this, the many residents and volunteers who took part and the City of Markham and LEAF for their support. Keep your eyes open as Peter has more exciting plans for next summer.

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**Join the Hosers!!** Our park skating rink has been an on again off affair. For many years, it disappeared because no one stepped up to make it happen. It is not city run but entirely managed by neighbourhood volunteers. Since its rebirth it has been built and maintained by Brian and Steve with others helping as they could.

We are looking for dedicated, hardy individuals who are interested in helping to scrape and flood the ice surface. The commitment is one or two days/evenings a week, assuming enough people sign up. Meet times are 8 to 9 pm at the rink and help is needed as weather permits; eg: no flooding if it is snowing or if temperatures are greater than -5C.

All the tricks and techniques of creating a rink will become clear as you experience the delights of clear, crisp, winter night on the ice, under the stars, with new friends and neighbours. Come out and be part of an important and fun community project. Let us know if you are able to help at [garamail@yahoo.ca](mailto:garamail@yahoo.ca) or 905 731-0284.

## Wonderful news for those of us who love green space and feel that our neighbourhood is in the process of being eaten up by development.

The City officially announced that they have agreed to buy the 9 hectares (22 acres) Shouldice Property near Bayview and John Streets from Liberty Developments who had planned to build a massive high rise development on the site. Instead, it will now be park land. The \$188M purchase price will be funded by reserves specific for the purpose of acquiring and creating city park land collected through development applications.

“This will protect the property in perpetuity thereby preserving the unique and historic nature of the site while opening it up as additional parkland for generations of residents to enjoy.” said Ward One Councillor, Keith Irish.



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# Grandview Area Residents Association (GARA)

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

[Click here](#) to join electronically

or

Complete the form below and deliver or mail it along with your payment to:

**Majda Ambrozic 12 Almond Avenue Thornhill, Ontario L3T 1L1**

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*E-mail addresses will not be used for any other purposes or shared outside of GARA .*

GARA always needs your help in our community. Please indicate how 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, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Rink Maintenance       |

Membership is \$10.00 per household per year. Payment by cash, cheque, e-transfer or on-line is welcome. Cheques payable to **Grandview Area Residents Association**

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