

# Our Neighbourhood News

## This Year ... Something for Everyone

Are you new to the neighbourhood and wanting to meet your neighbours?

Have you lost touch with neighborhood friends because of lockdowns and Zoom meetings?

Would you like to learn how to stay safe from scams and fraud from York Regional Police?

Are you wondering what's happening with the subway and development nearby?

Are you ready to be more involved with Grandview Area Residents Association supporting our neighbourhood?

Would you like to meet Keith Irish, our Ward 1 Councillor, or Jenny Chen, our public school trustee?



This year on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the GARA Annual General Meeting will once again be live at Henderson School but can also be seen over Zoom.

So we can all reconnect with friends and neighbours, from 7:00 to 7:30 pm, there will be refreshments and a chance to chat with old and new friends, Councillor Keith Irish, Trustee Jenny Chen and members of the GARA Executive. Then, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., we'll have a neighbourhood update from GARA, a presentation from York Regional Police on avoiding online scams and fraud, updates from our Councillor and Trustee, and our annual GARA elections. Please join us. You can find more information at [thornhillgara.com](http://thornhillgara.com) or by calling 905-731-0284.

*We wish to respectfully acknowledge that we live in the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We are grateful to live on this land.*

## The Greenbelt fight is not over

There has been a great deal of news coverage about the “Greenbelt” in recent weeks and the GARA executive has spent some time discussing the issue since it affects all of us. What exactly is the “Greenbelt” and why should we care what the Provincial government does with it?

The Greenbelt was created by provincial legislation in 2005 and includes about 800,000 hectares (2 million acres) of land. It extends over 325 km from the eastern end of the Oak Ridges Moraine to the Niagara River in the west. It includes some of the world’s best farmland, forests, wetlands, rivers, lakes and the sources of much of our clean drinking water.

These lands safeguard the resources that clean our air and water, reduce the risk of flooding, provide homes for wildlife, protect over 70 at risk species, ensure that we have a local supply of food, and enable us and our children to enjoy open, natural spaces.

In November 2022, the provincial government removed 7,400 acres from the protection of the Greenbelt and gave permission to a select and favoured group of developers to build houses on the land. These developers could have made huge profits at the expense of the present and future needs of all of us. Doug Ford said that this action was required because of the province’s dire need of housing.



Two of the many problems with that argument were:

- First, the Ontario Housing Affordability Taskforce reported in 2022 that there is no shortage of urban land on which to build housing and that incursion into greenbelt lands is not necessary and should be avoided.
- Second, the Ontario Auditor General found that the process by which these parcels of land were selected lacked transparency, objectivity, consultation, and ignored the vision and goals of the greenbelt legislation.

Due to the unrelenting pressure from citizens, residents associations, and grass roots organizations across the province, in September, the Ford government relented and passed legislation to replace all of those lands back into the Greenbelt.

However, the fight is not over. Opposition parties are calling for another investigation because Ford’s government required some municipalities to actually change their urban boundaries to include farms and green space, again with the result that certain developers could profit from increased property values of their land.

The GARA executive supports many other organizations in calling for the RCMP to open an investigation into why and how these lands were removed from greenbelt protection and for the Auditor General to open a new investigation into the forced urban boundary changes.

We need answers and we need transparent urban planning that benefits the people, not just a few wealthy developers.

### Show us your jack-o'-lanterns!!!!



Join us for GARA's first Pumpkin Parade in Grandview Park on November 1st from 6:30 to 8:30. Bring your pumpkin or just come to watch. Have lots of fun and maybe win a ribbon. All the information you need is on the GARA website [thornhillgara.com/pumpkin](http://thornhillgara.com/pumpkin)



### Winter is coming!

Over the years, our Grandview Park skating rink has been an on and 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. Now they are telling us that in order to continue they have to have more help.

They are looking for dedicated, hardy individuals who are interested in helping to scrape and flood the ice surface.. No experience is needed. Please contact us at 905 731-0284 or [garamail@yahoo.ca](mailto:garamail@yahoo.ca) and let us know you're interested.



**ANGELO'S GARDEN CENTRE**  
 1801 Hwy. #7 West (Between Keele & Dufferin)  
 Concord, Ontario L4K 1V4  
 Tel: (905) 669-9220 Fax: (905) 669-6277  
[angelo7@rogers.com](mailto:angelo7@rogers.com)  
[www.angelos.ca](http://www.angelos.ca)

Owned and operated by the Ammendolia Family since 1974  
 Stella - Carlo - Domenic

**TORONTO FLORIST SHOP**  
*Quality Flowers & Service*

Sandra Pacitto

75 Glen Cameron Rd.  
 Unit #4  
 Thornhill, ON L3T 1N8  
[www.torontofloristshop.ca](http://www.torontofloristshop.ca)  
[www.torontofloristshop.net](http://www.torontofloristshop.net)

  


Tel.: (905) 764-6332  
 1-800-303-0092  
 Fax: (905) 764-6532  
[flowerstore@bellnet.ca](mailto:flowerstore@bellnet.ca)  
[info@torontofloristshop.ca](mailto:info@torontofloristshop.ca)

Thank you to our advertisers. Click on each ad for more information. Please support them and let them know you learned about them in our newsletter.



## Henderson Highlights

GARA continues to build our partnership with Henderson Avenue Public School and to highlight news or student contributions shared with us by the school.

In September, during its annual Safety Week, students practiced various drills (fire drills, lockdown drills, etc.). As community members, it is important we also help keep the children safe. Near the school please drive with care and obey all speed limits, road traffic signs and crossing guards. This is particularly important around student drop-off and pick-up times.



On the **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Day** at the end of September, students and staff came together to learn and *celebrate*.

- Classes learned about residential schools and their long-term impact on so many lives
- The “Every Child Matters” flag was raised to visually acknowledge the hardship and injustice of that system
- Many students joined the community wearing orange shirts to honour the memory of Phyllis Webstad and the need for truth and reconciliation that she has come to represent..

The School hosted its annual Terry Fox Run/Walk on the afternoon of October 6<sup>th</sup>. You may have seen lots of students walking and running on this day to honour Canadian hero Terry Fox.

October 4<sup>th</sup> marked the kick-off of International Walk to School Month (IWALK), an annual celebration of active travel to school. Families are encouraged to use an active mode of transportation to and from school. Please see more details here ([International Walk to School Month - Ontario Active School Travel](#))

Thank you, Principal Zaitlin, for your on-going willingness to work with GARA to support our children and neighbourhood.

Reesor's  
organics • meats • cheese • deli

Organic Farm Fresh Meats & All Natural Cold Cuts  
Variety of Cheeses from around the world.

7509 Yonge Street  
Thornhill, ON  
L3T 2B4  
ReesorsOrganics.com Tel: 905.731.2270

Friendly Service Since 1972



**Sabi Ahsan**  
Sales Representative

office: 705-739-1300  
direct: 416-931-1339  
toll free: 1-866-871-1151  
email: ahsan@sutton.com

Sutton Group-Incentive  
Realty Inc., Brokerage  
Individuals, Owned and Operated  
241 Meech Point Road, Suite 401, L4N 4C1

Thank you to our advertisers. Click on each ad for more information.  
Please support them and let them know you learned about them in our newsletter.

## What We Which We'd Known Before our Car was Stolen!

**Hard earned advice from Peter Cox after thieves stole his car from his driveway**

Notify the following people as soon as you realize your car has been taken:

- Police
- Car Insurance Company
- 407 transponder [on and off the 407 is monitored]
- Ministry of Transportation

If you are lucky enough your car has not yet been stolen here are some tips.

Take photos of your car including the license plate, V.I.N.# and 407 transponder.

Keep a photo copy of the ownership and insurance certificate in the car and the original documents in your home in a safe place.

Always lock your car and if possible, keep it in the garage.

Don't leave anything valuable in it e.g. prescription glasses, sports equipment, electronics.

Regularly, make a mental note of the mileage and status of the gas tank as the police will ask you for both.



Store your keys/fobs in a metal box to block the signal. Thieves often use a device to intercept the signal and access your vehicle.

Equip your car with 2 GPS trackers. Hide one where thieves can find it fairly easily and then they may stop looking not realizing there's another better hidden one.

Get an aftermarket immobilizing device professionally installed. If your auto is equipped with a factory-installed immobilizer, it may not be enough.

The "Club" is an excellent low-tech way to deter thief who may well skip you car on seeing it.

Never try to track your vehicle personally for safety reasons. Give the GPS information to the police instead.

Cover your VIN number on the dashboard to prevent anyone from attempting to get a duplicate key /fob for your car.

Consider purchasing "replacement value" insurance. The replacement value of our 2021 car was considerably more than the price paid and was fortunately covered because we had the extra insurance.

## And Now for More Mature Audiences ...

In our last edition, we offered suggestions for family-based children's activities; here are some geared to older family members.

**Markham at the Movies** brings award winning Canadian and international films to the Flato Theatre in Markham. If you missed an audience favourite at TIFF or Cannes, you may catch it in Markham. For more information check <https://www.markhamatthemovies.com/>

### LifeLong Learning

LifeLong Learning Markham is a volunteer, not for profit organization dedicated to providing intellectually stimulating and thought-provoking lectures for adults in the Markham area. Lectures are held on Monday mornings at Angus Glen Golf Club on Kennedy Road. They cover a wide variety of topic areas including international affairs, the arts, history, science, law, travel, music, health...the list is endless! <https://lifelonglearningmarkham.com/home/>

**Tai Chi Journey**, another not for profit volunteer run group, offers ongoing friendly and supportive Tai Chi classes for all ages nearby on Glen Cameron Avenue, at Woodland Public School and on Zoom. Tai Chi is frequently recommended as a way to improve your balance, flexibility and mood in a holistic way. Here's a chance to do all that, have fun and make new friends <https://taichijourney.ca/thornhill-club/>



Also nearby is the **Parya Community Centre** at 344 John Street. Every Friday, Farsi speaking seniors from all over GTA come to Parya for a day packed with information, activities and discussions geared towards their interests. They enjoy a warm lunch while they share their life stories with their new friends, meet old friends, dance a little, sing a little, learn a little, banter over a game of backgammon and most importantly interact with peers of their own generation and all walks of life. <https://parya.org/programs-services/senior/>

If you never thought you'd be old enough to go to an "old folks place" then the **Thornhill Seniors Centre**, in the community centre at Bayview and John Streets, may make you reconsider. Current programs include: ballroom and line dancing; euchre and bridge, mah-jong and bingo; table tennis, pickle ball, zumba and yoga; darts and snooker; water color and mixed media art lessons and more! <http://www.tsclub.ca/> or 905 944-3781

126 Clark Ave. E, Thornhill  
(Clark & Henderson)

**905.709.8004**  
[www.reginospizza.com](http://www.reginospizza.com)

the eyeglass factory

**DR. NISARA BANDALI, OD, OPTOMETRIST**  
104 Doncaster Avenue  
Thornhill, Ontario L3T 1L3  
[eyecare@eyeglassfactory.ca](mailto:eyecare@eyeglassfactory.ca)

[eyeglassfactory.ca](http://eyeglassfactory.ca) • 905-881-1277



## A Message from Our Councillor

Thank you for the opportunity to share this update with GARA members.



### Yonge North Subway Extension Update

Preparatory work has begun on the subway extension from Finch station to Langstaff/Richmond Hill Centre.

In April Metrolinx issued a Request for Qualifications seeking interest from companies wishing to be included in the bidding process for constructing the tunnels.

The work includes tunnel design, supplying the tunnel boring machines, and building the launch/extraction shaft (in Langstaff) to be used to lower the machines into the ground and bring them to the surface again.

The RFQ also includes design and construction of the walls that will support the underground stations and emergency exit buildings, as well as relocating utilities along the route.

A shortlist of qualifying companies will then be invited to bid on the tunnelling contract through a request for proposals expected late 2023/early 2024. It will take approximately 12 months to complete procurement and award a contract. Tunneling will begin after the contract process is complete.

### YNSE Construction Impact on the Grandview Community

While a significant portion of the subway will be tunnelled using boring machines, there are portions along Yonge Street to be constructed using the oldest method of tunnelling: “cut-and-cover”. Doing so involves the digging of a trench from the road surface down, the construction of a tunnel, and then returning the road to its original state. The portion between the Steeles and Clark stations will be constructed this way.

If you think commuting along Yonge Street, particularly the intersection with Steeles Avenue, is congested now, just imagine what it will be like when subway construction is underway.

The result will be unimaginable interruptions to Yonge Street traffic. Vehicles trying to avoid it will infiltrate Grandview’s relatively quiet residential streets and neighbouring north-south arteries.

To that end, I have met several times with the city’s Traffic Engineers as they work with Metrolinx to develop a traffic plan. I am determined to do all I can to lessen the impact this work will necessarily have on Grandview residents.

### Zonix Development Application

In March 2022 Zonix Group Inc. appealed their application to build a high-density residential development at 36-48 Steeles Avenue East and 37-49 Highland Park Boulevard to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

In the intervening months the city has met with the applicant, as have Mayor Scarpitti and I, on several occasions to achieve an agreeable settlement. Once finalized, the details will be made public.

Keith Irish  
Councillor, Ward 1 Thornhill  
City of Markham  
905 948-5101  
[kirish@markham.ca](mailto:kirish@markham.ca)  
[www.markhamward1.ca](http://www.markhamward1.ca)

# 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**

NEW MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*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, etransfer (garamail@yahoo.ca) or on-line is welcome.

Cheques payable to **Grandview Area Residents Association**

Thank you to our advertisers. Click on each ad for more information.  
Please support them and let them know you learned about them in our newsletter.

www.stuartcarroll.ca



**Stuart  
Carroll**  
SINCE 1972

**QUALITY MEATS**

ALL MEAT 100% GUARANTEED

7509 Yonge St.  
Thornhill, Ont  
In the "Historic"  
York Farmer's Market  
905-731-2923  
E-mail: stuart@stuartcarroll.ca



**ORCHID  
FLORIST**

Karen DeVreeze

Thornhill Mews • 7787 Yonge Street  
Thornhill, Ontario L3T 2C4  
t - 905.731.5827 • 1.877.5.ORCHID  
orchidflorist@rogers.com • www.theorchidflorist.com