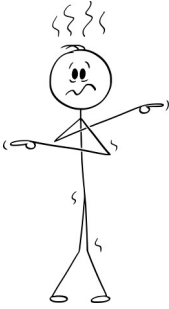


Our Neighbourhood News

Finding Light in Uncertain Times

The world has been turned on its head. Trade wars are sending economies reeling from the loss of dependable trading partnerships. Diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives are being purged. Environmental regulations and climate accords are being abandoned. Threats to take over sovereign countries evoke memories of WWII.



These recent events are deeply unsettling. How is one to deal with the chaos and uncertainty?

- Focus on taking care of family and friends and what one can influence
- Limit personal and business risk so as not to compound the external risks
- Spend time in nature to find calm and rejuvenate (see "Beautiful Nature Close to Home" on p. 6)



How can we, as a community, do things better than what is going on in the world?

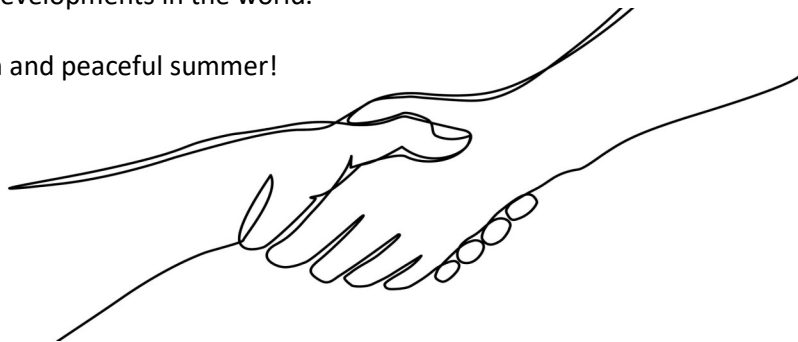
- Respond to the horrific wars in Gaza and Ukraine with kindness
- Counter the self-interest and protectionism in the world with sharing and collaboration within our community (see "Keeping our Neighborhood Beautiful" on p. 4)
- Respond to intolerance by celebrating inclusion and diversity (see "Canada Day Picnic" on p. 5)
- Answer the dismantling of environmental regulations by minimizing our environmental footprint and supporting green initiatives



www.thornhillgara.com
garathornhill@gmail.com
905 731 0284

The GARA Executive hopes this newsletter offers some ways to counterbalance the negative developments in the world.

Have a fun and peaceful summer!



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.

Grandview Area Residents Association— Free Gardening Advice to our Members

Our garden specialists, Peter Cox and Majda Ambrozic, are volunteering their time to come to your garden. What better service could there be, just for being a member of our Grandview Area Residents Association?

So many nagging questions!

What is a weed?

How can I make a pollinator garden?

What is eating my plants and shrubs?

How can I solve insect and disease problems?

Making plant choices, gardening in general, lawn care, and pruning of shrubs can feel overwhelming.



Peter and Majda can advise you. They can provide fresh ideas for your garden and where to find materials and/or help. Their advice and suggestions are based on many years of gardening experience and education. We hope that what you learn, you will share with your neighbours and friends. We care about keeping our community looking beautiful, and helping neighbours connect with neighbours.

Contact Peter Cox at 905-889-8963 or pcox1@rogers.com to arrange a home visit.

You may become a member of the Grandview Area Residents Association (GARA) by visiting GaraThornhill@gmail.com or using the membership form at end of this newsletter.



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Why Our Neighbourhood Must Have a Ring Road

The traffic moving through our neighbourhood already worries many of us. Taking a walk ourselves or encouraging children to walk or bike to school feels more and more risky, especially since most of our streets don't have sidewalks.

The bad news is that within the next few years, subway construction together with the influx of thousands of new residents in the many towers to be built on both sides of Yonge Street means the situation is going to get a whole lot worse. Many, many more local drivers, plus people avoiding local traffic snarls will be rushing through our streets. Although those living closest to Yonge Street will feel the greatest impact, it will ripple out to almost every street in the GARA area.



How can our neighbourhood be protected?

Just south of us, there is a relatively simple solution that has worked well. When the area around the North York Civic Centre and Mel Lastman Square was being redeveloped, in order to protect the neighbourhood to the east, a ring road, Doris Avenue, was included in the overall plan. A ring road allows traffic to by-pass the major road but not access the quiet residential side streets. Traffic moves smoothly without rushing down quiet residential streets.

How could this work for us?

Dudley Avenue could be our ring road. Physically blocking cars from cutting through Highland Park and Woodward Avenues would discourage a great deal of through traffic in the whole area. We have been told Grandview Avenue has to be left open to allow access for emergency services but other plans are being considered to discourage unnecessary traffic on that street.

We need this type of traffic protection built into the current planning process. It is crucial not to wait until construction has already happened, traffic patterns established and we are being hammered by the entirely predictable tidal wave of speeding cars.

Keith Irish, our Ward 1 Councillor, is proposing that money be set aside in the next city budget to fund public consultation. We'd love to hear your thoughts on the matter. Let us know at garathornhill@gmail.com

Keeping our Neighbourhood Beautiful and Healthy

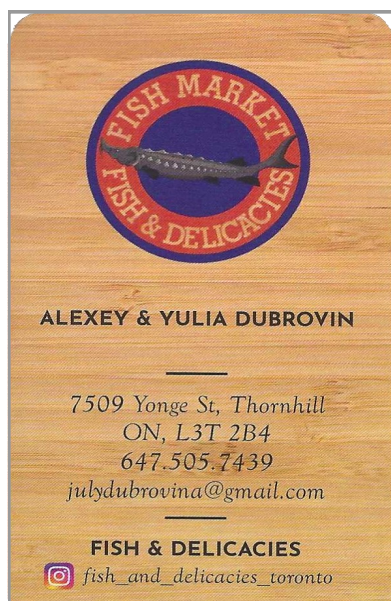
One chilly spring day in April, a wonderful group of GARA neighbours, young and old, worked together to clean up Grandview and Proctor Parks and the neighbourhood around them. Many of them said they enjoyed the time they spent contributing to our shared community spaces and working beside new and old friends. Once again, Peter Cox, organized the day. We cannot thank him enough for everything he does to make our neighbourhood a beautiful place.

Thanks to the following residents for your time and efforts. As the award ribbons everyone received said, you truly are Good Neighbours.

Kevork Yerevanian
Bruce Telfer
Benjamin Fan Hu
Jonathan Cree
Chokdee Cree
Keith Irish
Nicki Parhizgari
Matteo Fiorini
Naru Kimura
Shunya Kimura
Nargol Nateghi
Fiona Blondin
Kathie Lal
Sharon Angelidis
Marilyn Ginsberg

Jenny Balon
Marie Telfer
Yiu-Han Fan
Karen Cree
Susan Martin
Zahra Parhizgari
Andy Wong
Cathy Mobilios
Momoko Kimura
Jaleh Nateghi
Rojim Nateghi
Majda Ambrozic
Jason Lal
Stephanie Angelidis
Laura Smith

If you missed this opportunity, or enjoyed yourself and would like to come again, another clean-up day is planned soon. Let us know at garathornhill@gmail.com if you're interested.



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Great Fun! Don't Miss GARA's Canada Day Picnic! You're Invited!

On Tuesday, July 1st, starting at noon we will be hosting our second annual Canada Day Picnic in Grandview Park next to the splash pad. Everyone is welcome. Come and meet new friends or reconnect with old ones as we welcome both newcomers to Canada and those who are long-time residents.

Last year we discovered how much fun it could be. This year will be even better. Bring your picnic lunch and maybe a blanket to sit on. There will be music, games and sports for young and old, good company, and cake!



Picnic
in our
Park

TUESDAY, JULY 1ST
NOON at GRANDVIEW PARK

FREE EVENT

Join us for a picnic on Canada Day!
Bring your family and friends, a picnic and a blanket.
Let's enjoy some fun and birthday cake together.

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Beautiful Nature Close to Home

Whether walking, hiking or biking, nature offers recreation and exercise for the entire family. It also provides an amazing way to rejuvenate and find tranquility, natural beauty and biodiversity in our urban surroundings.

Here are some suggestions to enjoy nature in our backyard or explore a little further afield.

Pomona Mills Park

Located at John and Henderson, Pomona Park has a beautiful 3 km walking path on both sides of the Don River. Thanks to an active group of conservationists, the park is home to a wide range of native trees and shrubs and a meadow of wildflowers. Pack a picnic or play frisbee in the meadow on the west side of Henderson.

Bestview Park

Bestview Park (Laureleaf Rd. S. and Bestview Dr.) is the trailhead into the Don River valley. It is an urban oasis with ravines and forests and a paved path that is ideal for walking or bike riding. Explore a side trail to discover more of the nature the park has to offer.

Edwards Gardens

Edwards Gardens, located at Leslie and Lawrence, is a botanical garden featuring perennials and roses at the entrance and wildflowers, rhododendrons and an extensive rockery in the valley. It is especially stunning in spring when flowers and shrubs are in bloom. The path connects into the Sunnybrook Park trail system. Admission is free except for paid parking on site. www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/get-gardening/public-gardens/edwards-gardens

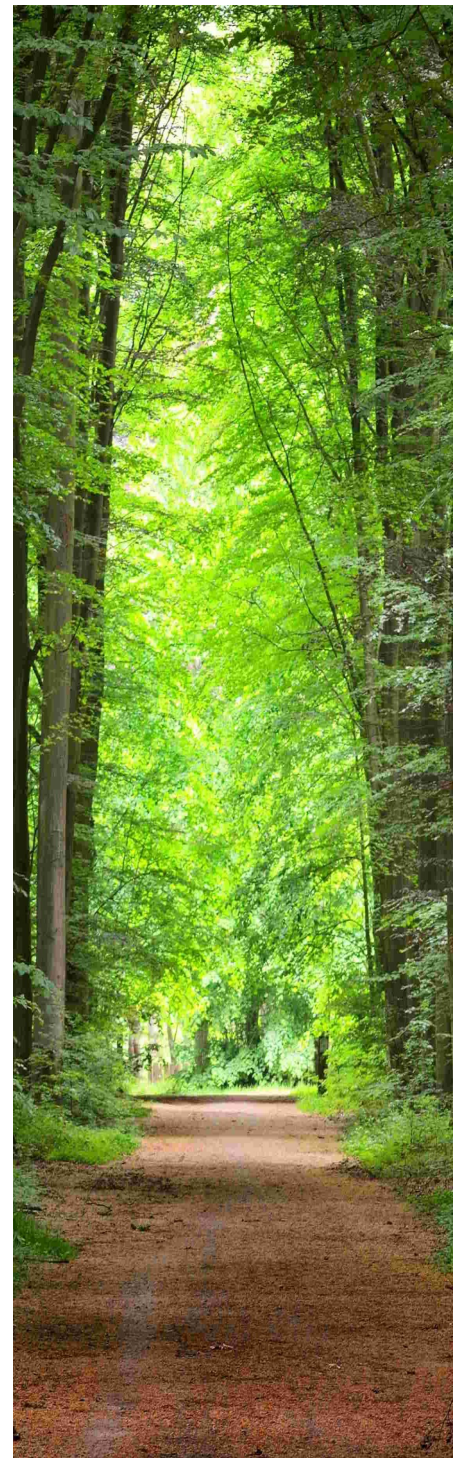
York Regional Forest

York Regional Forest comprises 22 hiking trails spanning a total of over 150 kilometres. There are 13 trails in the Whitchurch-Stouffville area easily reachable from Highway 404. York Regional Forest includes 4 accessible trails, enabling everyone to enjoy the forest. www.york.ca/environment/forests/york-regional-forest

McMichael Canadian Art Collection and ravine

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection, located in Kleinburg, showcases the Group of Seven and other Canadian landscape artists. Beautifully situated in 100 acres of forested land in the Humber River valley, it contains a network of paths and hiking trails. The gallery offers art classes for adults and children and summer camps for kids. <https://mcmichael.com>

For a handy way to identify plants and animals that you observe on your nature outings, download the Seek app by iNaturalist onto your mobile device. Hold the camera over the object in question and the name of the species will appear.





A Message from Our Councillor

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

Transit Station Area Density

I have written previously in my biannual newsletters to Thornhill residents that the Region of York, through its Major Transit Station Areas, and the province through its Transit Oriented Communities, require areas around GO Transit stations, subways and bus rapid transit lines be intensified.

As a refresher...

MTSA: the 800-metre radius area (representing a 10 to 15 minute walk) around an existing or planned public transit station. Thornhill has three MTSA's: Yonge at Royal Orchard, Yonge at Clark, and Yonge at Steeles.

TOC: mixed-use high density residential and commercial buildings built around new public transit stations with boundaries determined by the province. Thornhill has a TOC at the Langstaff Gateway (and another at Richmond Hill Centre immediately north of Highway 407).

At time of writing the city has two active high-density development applications along the Yonge Corridor in the Grandview neighbourhood and within the Steeles MTSA: 7115 Yonge Street and 8 to 14 Grandview Avenue (next to Golden Star Burgers) AND 7079 Yonge Street (northeast corner of Yonge and Woodward).

The City of Markham is studying the Yonge Corridor to determine the land use, parks, infrastructure, and community amenities (including schools) needed to support future growth.

Work on the **Yonge Corridor Secondary Plan** has been underway for 18 months and there are more opportunities for public engagement planned this year. Stay up-to-date, including reading the Interim Report, by visiting and registering here: <https://yourvoicemarkham.ca/yongecorridor>

Bayview John Visioning Exercise

The city is working on developing a vision for the "Thornhill Local Centre" located in the Bayview Avenue and John Street area from the perspective of Urban Design, Built Form, Land Uses; Transportation & Mobility; and, Community Uses.

Three very well attended public engagement sessions were held at the Thornhill Community Centre in January and February. A preliminary staff report is expected in June 2025 and I will hold a Community Information Meeting to solicit feedback on the report later this year.

In the meantime, residents can continue to provide input through "Your Voice Markham" at <https://yourvoicemarkham.ca/bayview-and-john-visioning-exercise>

Petro-Canada Gas Station

Suncor, the owners of the gas station at 274 Steeles Avenue East on the north-east corner of Bayview and Steeles Avenues, is in the process of rehabilitating the site with plans to re-open the station along with a car wash and drive-through fast food restaurant, in 2026.

Keith Irish

Councillor, Ward 1 Thornhill

City of Markham

905-948-5101

kirish@markham.ca

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:

Marilyn Ginsberg 20 Almond Avenue Thornhill, Ontario L3T 1L1

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Address: _____

Telephone: _____

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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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Delivering Newsletters | ☐ Organizing Social Events |
| ☐ Lobbying Markham Council | ☐ Park and Woods Maintenance |
| ☐ Various Committee Work (Traffic, etc.) | ☐ 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**

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