

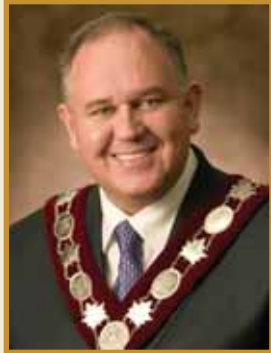
About Markham

www.markham.ca

June 2009

A Message from The Mayor

In Markham, we take great pride in our heritage and our environment. In this issue of About Markham, you will see a number of articles showcasing our recent achievements in those areas, including receiving the prestigious Lieutenant Governor's Heritage Award for Community Leadership and our ambitious goal of becoming a Zero Waste community.



Mayor Frank Scarpitti

You will also find the highlights of Markham's 2009 budget – which achieved a zero per cent tax increase on the Markham portion of your tax bill. The projects highlighted in the budget are in line with the six priorities that form Building Markham's Future Together, our strategic direction. Much work has been done on these priorities and their associated action plans, and in this issue, you can read about some of the key public consultations that took place in 2008 and 2009.

We also have a number of exciting events coming up this year for your enjoyment, including Markham Theatre's 25th anniversary season and our celebration to welcome the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch to Markham.

I hope you will continue to take part in our community activities and get engaged in our future planning. We are always open to new ideas. By listening to our residents and our businesses, Council and staff work each day to make Markham a better place.

In June 2009, Markham Council was saddened by the passing of Regional Councillor Tony C. Wong. We will all miss Councillor Wong's presence and influence around the Council table. The community will miss a committed public servant who advocated for the less fortunate in our society and dedicated himself to bridging the many cultures of Markham to help develop a greater understanding and appreciation of our diversity. Our thoughts continue to be with his family.

Frank Scarpitti

Frank Scarpitti, Mayor



Regional Councillor Tony C. Wong
1948-2009

Markham Only GTA Municipality To Bring In Zero Per Cent Tax Rate Increase

On February 10, Markham Council passed its 2009 Budget, bringing in a zero per cent tax increase and holding the line on Markham's tax rate for homeowners and businesses.

"I asked Council and staff to rethink how Markham does business," said Mayor Frank Scarpitti. "We engaged employees in all lines of business in a program called E3 – Excellence through Efficiency and Effectiveness. And, our efforts brought rewards. Through this process we found operating savings of \$4.5 million and developed a 2009 budget with a zero increase in Markham's net taxes. More importantly, we did this without reducing services."

Overall, Markham receives about 25 cents of every dollar of residential property taxes collected, with the remainder divided between education (25 cents) and the Region of York (50 cents). For the business community, Markham's commercial and industrial tax rates continue to be among the lowest in the Greater Toronto Area.

• Operating Budget:	\$161.8 million
• Capital Budget:	\$117.6 million
• Waterworks Budget:	\$64.3 million
• Building Standards Budget:	\$7.0 million
TOTAL:	\$350.7 million

2009 Budget Projects and Priorities

Some of the projects and priorities funded in the 2009 budget include:

Transportation and Transit

- Work on the Rodick Road extension from Miller Avenue to 14th Avenue and 14th to Esna Park Drive
- Construction of the second phase of Enterprise Drive
- Road reconstruction, bridge rehabilitation, watermain construction and streetscape work on Main Street, Unionville, south of Highway 7
- Continuation of the pathways, trails and bike path program
- Work on traffic control signals and intersection improvements
- Design of 404 ramp extensions at various cross streets
- Construction of the Woodbine by-pass (Lord Melborne to Woodbine)
- Continuation of the travel demand management program – a car pooling program to promote the reduction of single-person vehicle use
- New train anti-whistling project

Growth Management

- Ongoing construction of new parks including: Angus Glen Community Park; Berczy Park; Leitchcroft Times Galleria Community Park; SE Community Centre Park and Box Grove, South Village Neighbourhood Park
- Development of guidelines and policies to support a made-in-Markham strategy for community growth
- Design for the Cornell fire station

Environment

- Ongoing development of the Green Print Community Sustainability Plan with an annual report to the community
- Continuing to fund Trees for Tomorrow – over 50,000 trees have been planted on the way to the goal of 75,000 by the end of 2010
- Continuing the organic collection program in multi-residential buildings and the community mailbox recycling program, along with special events recycling and becoming a zero waste community
- Ongoing maintenance of storm water management ponds
- Purchase of three additional hybrid vehicles for the Town's fleet
- Connecting the Civic Centre to the Town-owned Markham District Energy plant

Municipal Services

- Facility improvements at community centres, libraries, fire stations, the Civic Centre and culture sites
- Replacement of arena refrigeration equipment at the Crosby Community Centre
- Upgrades to the Thornhill storm sewer and sewer construction on the Glynwood site
- Replacement of the Milliken Mills soccer dome field
- Funding for one permanent public washroom
- Resurfacing of tennis courts.

Integrated Leisure Master Plan

- Funding uplift for construction of the East Markham Community Centre and Library
- Expansion of the Varley Art Gallery to provide more exhibition space
- Ongoing work on the integrated leisure master plan to provide strategic direction for these services being delivered to residents.

Diversity

- Increased support for accessibility program and training along with a diversity strategy and competence training
- Continuing to be involved in the Career Bridge/Ability Edge program – an internship program that provides employment opportunities for foreign trained immigrants in their field of expertise, and for graduates with self-declared disabilities
- Work to increase the diverse representation of residents on Markham committees and boards
- Continuing to provide Language Line interpretive services in more than 170 languages.

In Memory Of Regional Councillor Tony C. Wong

On June 17, 2009, Regional Councillor Tony C. Wong passed away. He was a dedicated public servant, a strong advocate for the less fortunate, and a highly respected and valued member of Markham Council.

Regional Councillor Wong began his political career in 1997 when he was elected to Markham Council. He continued this service for six years – two terms – until 2003 when he was elected as Member of Provincial Parliament for the riding of Markham.

In 2006, Mr. Wong returned to municipal politics as Markham Regional Councillor where he provided extensive and extremely valuable contributions to the community through 23 public service appointments.

Regional Councillor Wong was instrumental in forging strong business relationships and partnerships in Markham and abroad on behalf of the Town.

He played a critical role in organizing Markham's business mission to China in 2008, and was involved in other domestic and international business ventures. More recently, Regional Councillor Wong served as chair of York Region Planning and Economic Development Committee and Markham's Economic Development Committee.

Tony Wong also extended his community service at a personal level. In 1996, he founded Markham's Give-A-Gift Project that provided over 1,000 wrapped Christmas gifts to children in need. He was also a strong supporter of D.R.E.A.M.S. Inc. and Spirit of Life, groups dedicated to raising awareness about individuals with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Wong lived in Markham with his wife and daughter. He will be greatly missed by family, friends and colleagues.

Coming Soon To Your Doorstep: Markham Life!

Markham is launching an exciting new publication for all residents on August 1, 2009.

Markham Life will provide up-to-date, timely information on the hundreds of programs, events and community activities taking place at Markham recreation and community centres, cultural venues and libraries. It will also carry important information of interest to every resident about major municipal projects and initiatives.

Markham Life will be the official Markham publication and will replace several existing publications, including the Recreation and Culture Guide. It will be distributed to Markham households four times a year.

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

Don't miss your opportunity to advertise in Markham Life and connect with residents living in one of Canada's most dynamic and successful communities. For more information, contact Fred Sanders at 647-271-2175.

Celebrating Our Heritage

With over 200 years of recorded history, Markham is one of the oldest communities in Ontario. Markham's earliest roots stem from German settlers led by William 'Moll' Berczy in 1794.

In August 2008, Markham welcomed an important delegation of dignitaries from Nördlingen, Germany, our partner city, to celebrate this heritage.

Led by Nördlingen Lord Mayor Hermann Faul and Council members, the 120 person group was the largest official Nördlingen delegation to visit Markham. It also included Nördlingen's band Knabenkapelle Nördlingen. The more than 60-member band – ranging in age from 8 to 20 – performed at the Unionville Main Street Band Festival, Markham Museum, and the Canadian National Exhibition.

In 2001, the two communities established a cultural alliance through a partnership agreement. The agreement set the stage for a number of social and cultural exchanges and activities to promote peace and harmony throughout the world. Cultural groups and dignitaries from Nördlingen and Markham have exchanged visits and performed at festivals since the agreement was in place.



Above photo: Markham Members of Council and Nördlingen delegates participate in a ceremonial tree planting at the Civic Centre, mirroring a tree planted in Nördlingen, Germany in Markham's honour.



Right photo: Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti with Aksel Rinck and Nördlingen Lord Mayor Hermann Faul.

Catch The Olympic Spirit In Markham

Markham is very proud to have been chosen as a "Celebration Community" for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay.

You will have the opportunity to see the Olympic Flame in person when it stops in Markham on its way towards the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Date: Thursday, December 17, 2009
Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (TBC)
Location: Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd.

This will truly be an exciting event for all of us, and a great moment for the nation, and the world, to watch. As one of the most diverse municipalities in Canada, our community is a reflection of the global community – and the flame coming to Markham will allow us to showcase that incredible diversity.

CALLING ALL PAST OLYMPIANS!

We want to hear from Markham residents who have participated in the Olympics or Paralympics in the past. If you or someone you know was an Olympian or Paralympian, let us know! Contact Anna Rose at 905-477-7000 ext. 2662 or arose@markham.ca and tell us which Games and event you participated in, and what country you represented.



Right photo: Students from Bill Crothers Secondary School joined Mayor Scarpitti for the torch relay announcement.

Connecting With Residents On Markham's Future Plans

Building Markham's Future Together is Markham's strategic direction and the foundation for future planning and activities. It includes 31 individual action plans built on Markham's six strategic priorities: *Growth Management, Transportation/Transit, Environment, Municipal Services, Integrated Leisure Master Plan/Public Safety and Diversity.*

In 2007, the six priorities were developed by Town staff and Council, and then confirmed by Markham residents and stakeholders through an extensive public consultation program, including an award-winning, online survey called *Click With Markham.*

Throughout 2008, and early 2009, Markham made significant progress on the action plans, including conducting extensive public consultations and community-based research.

In November 2008, more than 150 residents attended Markham's Transportation Summit – *Gridlock Transit and You.* This event gave residents the opportunity to hear how emerging social trends, new technologies and urban pressures are driving the future of transportation and transit. Participants also heard about, and provided feedback on, Ontario's 25-year Metrolinx transportation plan.

In early February 2009, Markham held its first ever World Café – an innovative forum for key stakeholders to exchange ideas on the future of Markham and discuss how the community can become sustainable, in an open, informal and conversational setting.

Following the World Café, hundreds of Markham residents attended a series of Monday night public consultations on each of Markham's strategic priorities. The consultations featured guest speakers and some included interactive audience polling and small group discussions. Markham received valuable feedback from residents on its programs, services

and future plans. Consultations on more detailed aspects of the priority action plans will continue throughout 2009-2010.

Looking forward, Markham's priorities and action plans, with input from residents, will guide the development of the Green Print community sustainability plan – a plan that will help Markham meet the demands of our growing community in an economically, socially, culturally and environmentally sustainable way.



Markham residents participate in unique, informal roundtable discussions during the first ever World Café.

To find out more about Building Markham's Future Together visit www.markham.ca/bmft, or call 905-477-5530 for a copy of the Building Markham's Future Together document.



Markham Receives Lieutenant Governor's Award

On February 20, 2009, Markham was presented with the first ever Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership in the large municipality category. The award recognizes communities for exemplary leadership in heritage conservation and promotion.

Key facts about Markham heritage:

- More than 250 individual properties have been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act
- Markham has three heritage conservation districts, comprising over 1100 properties – Thornhill, Markham Village and Unionville – with a fourth district (Buttonville) nearing completion
- Canada's first heritage subdivision was created by Markham in 1988 as a place of refuge for buildings that cannot be retained on site and are under threat of loss.
- Since the early 1960s, Markham has saved many heritage resources by assuming public ownership of them, including the Unionville and Markham Train Stations, the Pingle House, the Thornhill Village Library and Heintzman House.

The success of Markham's heritage conservation program is in no small part due to the commitment of numerous local residents and community groups who subscribe to the Town's motto of "leading while remembering".



The Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable David C. Onley (centre) presents the Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership to Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti (right) at the Queen's Park ceremony. Also pictured, from the left, are Markham Councillor Carolina Moretti, Her Honour Mrs. Ruth Ann Onley and Markham Heritage Manager Regan Hutcheson (second from right).

The Many Faces Of Markham

Markham performers were in the spotlight at the 11th annual Many Faces of Markham concert on April 18, 2009. Sponsored by Markham's Race Relations Committee, this year's theme was "Celebrating the Beauty of Diversity" and featured performances from a variety of local talents including the Art of Guzheng Music Ensemble and Spanish dancers Los Companeros de Baile.



Above photo: Art of Guzheng Music Ensemble

Below photo: Los Companeros de Baile Spanish dancer.



East Markham Community Centre And Library

Design work is underway on Markham's new state-of-the-art East Markham Community Centre and Library. Located next to the Markham Stouffville Hospital, this new 130,000 sq. ft. facility will include:

- swimming pool
- community rooms
- wellness lounge
- rehearsal and multi-use spaces
- indoor children's playground
- triple gymnasium
- fitness facilities

In addition, the new library branch will house a health and wellness information centre. The community centre, in combination with the planned Markham Stouffville Hospital expansion, will essentially create a health and wellness campus in Markham.



The project is currently in the design stage, with construction expected to start in spring 2010, and be completed by the end of 2012.

Markham Aims For Zero Waste

Markham is once again standing out as a leader in environmental sustainability.

In 2008, for the second consecutive year, Markham residents were recognized as the best recyclers in Ontario by the Recycling Council of Ontario. With the highest waste recycling rate of any urban municipality, (70.7 per cent), Markham is now working towards becoming a Zero Waste community.

Zero Waste is an ambitious goal. It recognizes that the majority of waste is not 'waste' at all, but a by-product of poor packaging, bad product design, convenience and inefficiency. Zero Waste represents a fundamentally different approach to waste reduction, by tackling the root causes of waste and broadening responsibility for the solutions.

Markham's Zero Waste accomplishments:

- The Markham Civic Centre is the first municipal building in Canada to go Zero Waste.
- The Civic Center and the Town's facilities at 8100 Warden currently divert over 85 per cent of all waste by using recyclable or reusable material wherever possible.
- Markham's Zero Waste policy now applies to community events held at Town facilities, including parks and community centres
- Markham's Waste Management Department runs lunch and learn sessions for local businesses who are interested in learning about how to save money and the environment by going Zero Waste.
- Weekly recycling collection is available at most Markham apartments and condominiums
- Markham has partnered with Goodwill to provide drop-off locations for reusable household items

Youth Have Their Say In Markham's Future

From October to December 2008, Markham ran an online challenge for students, aged 11 to 18, to give them the opportunity to share their ideas on the future of Markham and engage them in helping Markham become a healthier and more vibrant community.

The Quest for the Best Markham contest, which called for short, written submissions about how to achieve a greener community, received more than 2,000 entries.

In February 2009, Markham students and schools were recognized for their top-notch submissions and participation.

To view the winning submissions, visit www.markham.ca/greenprint.



Mayor Scarpitti presents students from Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School with the prize for first place.

TOP STUDENTS

- FIRST PLACE: STEPHANIE CHANDRAKUMAR, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School
- SECOND PLACE: DIEGO SANTESEBAN, Thornhill Secondary School
- THIRD PLACE: KEANE ALDRICH GO TAN, Markham District High School

TOP SCHOOLS

- FIRST PLACE: PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU HIGH SCHOOL
Level of participation: 713 students
- SECOND PLACE: ST. JUSTIN MARTYR CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Level of participation: 175 students
- THIRD PLACE: MARKVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOL
Level of participation: 51 students

Recognizing The History Of Peter Street

On May 9, Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Members of Council and the Markham Village Conservancy unveiled a new Markham Remembered Plaque to recognize the unique history of Peter Street and to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the arrival of pioneer Abraham Ramer to the area.

The Ramers, who came from Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, supplied Markham Village with all of its water up until 1973. Abraham's descendent, Jonas Ramer, created Peter Street in 1891. Today, the Peter Street neighbourhood has one of the most intact Victorian streetscapes in the Town.

Several Ramer family descendents were on hand for the unveiling, as were many Peter Street residents

(pictured below) who generously volunteered to purchase historical plaques for their homes to help honour the street.



What's New In Arts And Culture

Recently confirmed Director of Culture, John Ryerson, has a busy year ahead of him. In addition to working with the community to develop a culture plan for Markham, he will also oversee the construction of the Markham Museum's collection building, the Varley Art Gallery expansion, and support Markham Theatre's 25th Anniversary.

MARKHAM MUSEUM'S NEW ADDITION

Later this year, construction is expected to begin on the new collection building at the Markham Museum. This new \$9 million facility will extend north from the existing Museum Reception Center, at the Museum's 25-acre historic site. The addition will feature landscape improvements and will be one of the first museums built to LEED standards. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance "green" buildings.

When completed in 2010, the 17,000 sq. ft. addition will become the new main entry to the Museum and will give you a greater opportunity to explore Markham's heritage. The building will incorporate gallery space for temporary exhibitions, a research area to study Markham history and local genealogy, as well as much needed storage areas for the Museum's most fragile collections – the archives and textiles. The new addition will compliment the museum's strategic focus to explore the stories of settlement, the environment, and the evolution of technology that led to Markham's status as a major high tech centre in Canada.



Mayor Frank Scarpitti presents Mr. Wallace Joyce with a commemorative plaque to acknowledge his generous donation to the Varley Art Gallery.

VARLEY ART GALLERY EXPANSION

In December 2008, Markham Council approved plans to expand the Varley Art Gallery.

The \$2.56 million expansion, expected to be completed in 2010, will give the Gallery an additional 3000 square feet of space. The expansion will allow for a year-round exhibition of the work of Canada's greatest portrait painter and Group of Seven founding member, F. H. Varley, as well as other works in Markham's art collection. The popular art programs offered by the Gallery will also gain space, giving more people in the community and visitors the opportunity to be inspired creatively.

The expansion project is possible in large part thanks to a major contribution from Mr. Wallace Joyce, who donated \$1.4 million to the Varley-McKay Art Foundation. Though he has never lived in Markham, Mr. Joyce's Pennsylvania German ancestors (Bartholomew and Cook) were among the community's earliest settlers at the beginning of the 19th century, and his families were friends with the gallery's founder and former Unionville resident, Kathleen McKay.

The balance of funding for the expansion will come from infrastructure grants received by Markham through the Government of Ontario's "Investing in Ontario 2008 Act".

During the 2009-2010 season, the newly-renovated theatre will showcase over 40 artists and bring back some of Markham's favourites including *The Nylons*, *The Irish Rovers*, and *Stuart McLean*. The season will also feature a special Holiday Gala with two *Canadian Tenors* concerts, on December 18 and 19, 2009.

Live performances can inspire, make us laugh and make us cry. Step away from the computer screen for the real thing. Season tickets are now on sale for this exciting new season, which starts in September 2009. Single Show tickets will be available starting July 14, 2009. For more information, call 905-305-SHOW (7469) or visit www.markhamtheatre.ca.

MARKHAM CULTURAL EVENTS CALENDAR

VARLEY ART GALLERY

May 21-October 11: *Carnival: The Spirit and Soul* Exhibit
 July 1: Canada Day Celebrations
 September 7: Labour Day Celebrations
www.varleygallery.ca

MARKHAM MUSEUM

July 11-12: Art in the Park
 August 8: Annual Rotary Car Show
 September 11: Annual Wine Tasting
 September 26-27: Applefest
www.markhammuseum.ca

MARKHAM THEATRE

September 26: Opening show of the 25th Anniversary Season featuring *The Nylons*
www.markhamtheatre.ca

Experience Markham This Summer!

- July 1 Canada Day Celebrations at Milne Park
- July 4 Urban Fishing Festival at Toogood Pond, Unionville
- July 11-12 Unionville Celtic Day Festival
- July 19 Main Street Markham Pedestrian Day
- August 3 Unionville Simcoe Day Festival
- August 9 Giro de Markham
- August 14-16 Markham Jazz Festival
- August 14-16 and 21-23 Unionville Jazz On Main Festival
- August 29 Doors Open Markham
- September 7 Unionville Heritage and Big Band Festival
- September 12 Milliken Children's Festival at the Markham Civic Centre
- September 19 Thornhill Village Festival

Mayor and Members of Council



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Distributed by the Town of Markham in June 2009. Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this issue is correct. If you have questions or comments about this newsletter, call 905-415-7548. Please recycle.

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www.markham.ca



Markham information in many languages

905-477-5530

Information Markham en plusieurs langues

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Informazioni su Markham in molte lingue

萬錦市以多種語言發佈的信息

اطلاعات مارکھام به زبانهای مختلف

அநேக மொழிகளில் மார்க்கம் செய்தி

بہت ساری زبانوں میں مارکھم کی معلومات