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VOL. 2

Ratepayers Association

NEWS & VIEWS

Your Voice in Our Community

New Development Proposal at Yonge and Steeles

Come learn about what's happening at the north-west corner of Yonge and Steeles in Vaughan. Approximately 2 acres has been purchased by the Eastons Group/Gupta Group for development and is the gateway into Vaughan. The developer has submitted a proposal to the City for one 65-storey high rise and two 55-storey towers, 14.3 density; more than 1400 condominiums, a hotel as well as office and retail space. The official plan maximum is 30 storeys and 5.0 density. Don't miss your opportunity to learn more and speak up!

You are invited to attend an information meeting on Wednesday, May 8th at the Garnet A. Williams Community Centre from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. You will have a chance to speak to our Ward 5 councillor Alan Shefman, City Planning Department personnel and the developer to let them know your suggestions and concerns. All are welcome.



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Short Term Rentals in Vaughan

BY TOM DEUTSCH

Imagine a vacant house next door to yours, or even down the block, with new occupants every few days or weeks. Imagine someone on your block renting out rooms to a constantly changing array of people and the possibility of loud parties or tenants creating a nuisance. Short-term rentals can destabilize neighbourhoods and lower property values, especially when there are many such homes within a specific geographic area.

The evolving world of short-term home rentals, powered by companies such as AirBnB, presents some challenges to communities. These accommodations can be a complete house, apartment or just a room or two within someone's home, and can be more convenient than renting hotel rooms. Short-term rentals can also be a needed opportunity for struggling homeowners to earn an extra income by renting out unused areas of their home and travellers who can't afford hotel stays.

All municipal governments in major urban areas in Canada are struggling with this issue. Because this is relatively new, there are no

bylaws currently in place to manage the pitfalls. Vaughan municipal council had arranged a survey and a series of public hearings on this issue. For more information on this see Vaughan.ca/ShortTermRentals.

In recommendations from staff to council, the City is leaning towards drafting a bylaw that permits these rentals only under specific criteria - municipal licensing, license fees, only principal residences, minimal standards, etc. Of course, this is not finalized until council votes on the issue at some point in the future, probably later this year.

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**ENTER FOR A
CHANCE TO WIN!**

From the President

On behalf of the SpringFarm Ratepayers (SFRA) executive, welcome to the second edition of our community newsletter. Although our area is one of the most mature in the City of Vaughan, there is a lot happening. Developers are submitting new proposals for high rise residential and commercial developments in our area, especially along the Yonge/Steeles corridor. You may not live in that area, but these new developments will have an impact on all our lives - traffic, storm water, schools and more. The City has put together a plan for that area but many developers are petitioning for exemptions. The SFRA is currently working with both developers and the City to ensure that the community's views are known.

The SFRA has been told that the community cannot win against developers because they have deep pockets.

That is simply not true. It is not a matter of winning or losing, it's about working to find solutions that are acceptable to all parties. We worked hard with both the City and the developer at the Sobeys (Spring Farm Plaza) and the developer did listen to the community – the idea of a 31 storey high rise was scrapped. But we need your help – this is not someone else's problem. We all complain about traffic, noise, construction, etc. and now is your opportunity to get involved, as much or as little as you wish.

We need more volunteers to help ensure that the community is well represented at the city, region and province. As I said, this is not someone else's problem.

Join or start a committee. Please contact us at: springfarmra@gmail.com to get on our mailing list or explore volunteering. All information is kept confidential and is not shared outside the SFRA. See the bottom of the page for Facebook and website links.

We would be more than happy to meet with you, listen to your ideas, concerns and help find solutions. We look forward to speaking with you.

Regards,
Pam Taraday-Levy

Who Are We

The SFRA represents our community in Vaughan from Centre St. to Steeles Ave. and Bathurst St. to Yonge St. – about 9,500 households. We are registered with the City of Vaughan, work closely with our councillor, city departments, and are privy to information about new development proposals, parks, storm water, roads and much more. We are a very mixed neighbourhood – single family homes, townhouses, apartments, condos and many businesses, with a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Our Mandate

- To promote a strong sense of community
- To represent the collective welfare of Spring Farm area residents and in matters pertaining to the community which includes measures to improve the community, legislation and good government.
- To regularly seek input and direction from Spring Farm residents and collaborate with other relevant associations and organizations.

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2015
Gallanough Park
storm water issue
brings community
together

2016
Registered with
Vaughan as a
Ratepayers
Group

First AGM
and general
elections
held

Ratepayers Influenced GO Train Service

You may recall that two years ago concerns were raised about a proposal called "The Missing Link," which advocated for an increase in GO train commuter service from Milton, Mississauga and Cambridge. Unfortunately the result would have been an increase in the number of CP freight trains moving through Vaughan and Markham on tracks running beside our local schools, behind our homes and near our neighbourhood parks.

Our affected communities were not in favour. The SFRA and Grandview Area Residents Association (GARA) in Markham initiated many meetings and worked together with community leaders, city councillors, provincial and federal representatives and residents, to ensure they were all aware of this issue, the community's objections, and that any local increase in freight traffic would not be an acceptable solution. York Region residents have and continue to accept our fair share of freight traffic but the proposal could have doubled that.

Though many people say that it is impossible to go against big companies and/or government, on December 17, 2018, at the Kitchener VIA Station the provincial Minister of Transportation Jeff Yurek said, "We are now increasing service to Kitchener GO by 25 per cent and there will be more news to come. Thanks to an enhanced relationship with our rail partner, CN, we are increasing GO train service for people travelling on the Kitchener line without waiting for a costly rail bypass." This 25% increase in service along the Kitchener line includes no rerouting of additional freight trains through Vaughan or Markham, as rerouting freight trains from one densely populated area into another is not a viable solution.



The Town of Milton had proposed additional rail tracks - The Missing Link - to run alongside this 'costly rail bypass' in order to off load CP freight trains into the cities of Vaughan and Markham. Now that the 'costly rail bypass' is dead, Milton's Missing Link proposal is highly unlikely.

We would like to thank the following for their hard work and efforts over these past two years. Pam Taraday-Levy and Esther Bobet of the SFRA, Ricardo Mashregi and Marilyn Ginsburg of GARA, our local MPPs/MPs, Councillor Shefman of Vaughan, former Councillor Burke of Markham, Mayor Scarpitti and Regional Councillor Jack Heath of Markham as well as the many community leaders and residents who worked together to voice and share our concerns.



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2017
SpringFarm
(Sobeys) Plaza
development
proposal
defeated

2018
Missing Link,
Yonge Steeles
Corridor,
Promenade
Redevelopment

Message From Your Neighbours at KCC

Kayla's Children Centre is a recently established organization resulting from the merger of two organizations that shared a passionate desire to empower children with disabilities and to provide them with opportunities for growth. After purchasing what used to be the Leo Baek Day school at 36 Atkinson Avenue, the organization was named Kayla's Children Centre in honour of Kayla Serruya.

They are now in the middle of their first year in their new home. It would be our pleasure to welcome you to visit our centre so that you can see first-hand what we offer to our families. Our building is filled with specialized spaces such as a sensory gym, snoezelen room, sports gymnasium and a full therapy clinic. If you'd like to get involved in events or to volunteer please contact liora@kaylaschildrencentre.org or visit our website at www.kaylaschildrencentre.org.



Some Current Issues

- Community information sessions with Vaughan Public Library coming this spring.
- Missing Link - curtailing the increase of freight trains running through our area
- Gallanough Park Water Catchment
- Kayla's Children Centre

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Enter for a chance to win one of three prizes - a \$100 grocery store certificate

1. Visit this website, <https://www.thornhillhistoric.org/old/walktour/walktour.html>.
2. Identify the origin of the name of our town, Thornhill. What is it named after?
3. Email springfarmra@gmail.com with your answer, to be entered in the contest.

Rules and Conditions: One entry per person. Winning entries will be picked at random. Winners will have 10 days to respond by email before a runner up is chosen. Entrants give permission to be added to SFRA emailing list.

HON. PETER KENT, P.C., MP THORNHILL

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Who You Gonna Call???

(Not Ghostbusters)

BY JORDAN MAX, SFRA VICE PRESIDENT

The sewer grates are plugged... the neighbour's cat screams all night... the park swing is broken... the street lamp is burnt out again... the garbage didn't get picked up today??? Should I call my Councillor, the Mayor, the City of Vaughan hotline or the Region?

Most of us don't know the right people to contact when there is an issue and to help our community better understand and navigate what seems to be a maze of government departments, the SFRA is planning a series of seminars. To download the "Who's Responsible for What?" slide show, go to the SFRA website at www.springfarmra.com.

The first seminar will help you understand how Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws are made and amended, how to get involved, and how to get building permits when needed. That seminar will be held at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 19th, in the Multipurpose Room at Garnett Williams Community Centre at 7:30pm.

Other information sessions and slide decks will include:

- City budgets: How are taxes divided between Vaughan and York Region?
- How Council and City Hall work.
- Issues the City is working on.
- How citizens can participate in Council meetings.
- How to organize to initiate change.

For the last item above, we have been fortunate to partner with Vaughan Public Library to host a free, interactive, 1.5 hour session called "How To Become a Local Change Agent" on Thursday, July 18th at the Dufferin-Clark Resource Library, 1441 Clark Ave. West. Sign up for our email, visit our website or Like our Facebook page to get more details as they are available.

Volunteers are always needed to help plan and run these seminars, and to give us critical feedback. To volunteer on this project, contact the SFRA at springfarmra@gmail.com.

Below is a short question to test your knowledge. How did you do?

What percentage of your Property Tax bill is allocated to the City of Vaughan?

48 % 38% 28% 18%

Correct answer: 28%

Solving one of the big mysteries of life in Thornhill - Who does what?

BY WARD 5 COUNCILLOR ALAN SHEFMAN

With two-tier municipal government in York Region, each municipality and the Region have a variety of responsibilities that impact residents. It can be frustrating, when there is a concern about a service, when you don't know who to go to for help. Almost without exception, most residents call or email their local councillor no matter the issue. Usually, when it is a regional matter, that will result in my office then having to contact someone at York Region. Also, it is important to remember that there are three Regional Councillors and the Mayor who sit on York Regional Council who are available to deal with issues under their jurisdiction.

To be more efficient and effective in solving municipal problems here is a listing of some of the key services for Vaughan (V) and York Region (YR).

- Snow: V - Plow residential and arterial roads (Clark, Hilda, etc), and plow sidewalks including major roads. YR - Plow major roads (Yonge, Bathurst, etc).
- Garbage: V - Household collection of garbage and recycling. YR - All sorting and distribution.
- V - Fire & Rescue. YR - Ambulance depots and York Region Police.
- V - By-laws and Land Use Planning. Major planning documents, by approval of YR.
- Transit: like the Rapidway - YR.
- V - Road Maintenance: Residential and arterial roads. YR - All major roads.
- V - Seniors programs at community centres. YR - Social services for youth and seniors via homecare, seniors' homes, etc.
- YR - Installs major pipes in Vaughan. V - Installs residential pipes and delivers the water.
- V - Removal of waste water gets from homes. YR - Water to treatment plants.
- V - Care of parks, recreation and historical preservation (designation of historic districts like Thornhill Village).

WHO TO CONTACT?

York Region - Access York
1-866-512-6228 or 905-895-4293
accessyork@york.ca

City of Vaughan - Access Vaughan
905-832-2281
accessvaughan@vaughan.ca

Osteoporosis: A Pediatric Disease with Geriatric Consequences

BONNY O'HARE - PHYSIOTHERAPIST

It may surprise you to see the words "osteoporosis" and "pediatric" in the same sentence. Did you know that maximizing bone health in a child's early years can prevent or delay osteoporosis as they become older? Children and adolescents have a window of opportunity during crucial growth years to maximize their bone strength. What they are doing, or not doing, during those years can have a huge impact later in life. There is much that they can be doing to lay the foundation for strong bones.

Peak Bone Mass (PBM) occurs when bones have reached their maximum strength and density. Up to 90% of PBM is actually reached by age 18 in girls and age 20 in boys.

The more bone in their "bone bank" they are able to acquire during childhood years, the stronger their bones will be later in life. It is estimated that a 10% increase in PBM will delay the onset of osteoporosis by 13 years. How is that for an investment in your child's healthy future? To help the children in your life build better bones, consider the following:

- Speak to their Doctor about the amount of daily Calcium and Vitamin D they should be getting.

- Help them to be involved in regular exercise, including weight bearing exercise. Walking, skipping and hiking are weight-bearing activities. Sports such as soccer, basketball, tennis and other racquet sports offer great (and fun!) weight bearing activities. These sports are important because the quick directional changes help build stronger bones.
- Speak to a Physiotherapist about an individualized exercise program if there is a specific health condition.
- Model a bone healthy lifestyle yourself! Bones are for life and it is important that everyone from infancy to childhood, and from young adulthood to older adulthood, is looking after their bones. It is never too early, or too late, to build better bones!

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

THORNHILL - CARRVILLE DISTRICT OF VAUGHAN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (TCDV)

Aspiring to provide community ice hockey programs to children and youth of Spring Farm and surrounding areas, the founders of TCDV (Hiten and Charu Patel) believe diverse and inclusive participation by children encourages the development of youth leadership. This leadership is vital to the continued growth and development of healthy, self-sustaining and vibrant communities such as the communities in Ward 5, Markham Ward's 1, and southern Richmond

Hill. These areas are set to experience residential and commercial intensification over the next decade, transforming them from suburbs to cities which are designed for people who live in them.



Courtesy of Dan Nicholson photography
circa January 2013.

Inspiration for TCDV was drawn from programming at downtown Toronto community arenas. Priority at these arenas is given exclusively to local residents to meet their social needs before making ice permits available to other user groups. To learn how you can help transform arenas at Garnet Williams CC and Rosemount CC into similar community hubs, reach out to Hiten or Charu today. TCDV is the community affiliate of competitive hockey programs of Vaughan Golden Knights.

<https://VaughanGoldenKnights.ca/>
416-848-1724

[Facebook.com/VaughanGoldenKnights](https://www.facebook.com/VaughanGoldenKnights)

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PROMENADE

House of Commons Spring Sitting

BY HON. PETER KENT, P.C., MP

The spring sitting of Parliament, particularly in an election year, is usually preoccupied with debate on the budget, which was presented by the Finance Minister on March 19th, but this year the budget is overshadowed by the unfolding SNC-Lavalin issue.

Beyond this situation, we in the Official Opposition remain concerned about the economy and the deepening impact of U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum and Canadian retaliatory tariffs. Thornhill manufacturers say prolonged uncertainties have raised new concerns about permanent job losses and possible relocation of production facilities to the U.S.

Uncontrolled, illegal border-crossing by refugee claimants remains a key concern of Thornhillers contacting my office at Clark and Yonge. The Vaughan Food Bank reports that fully half of the 2500 monthly client visits are by refugee claimants awaiting processing of their claims.

In my capacity as the Shadow Minister for Ethics, Privacy, Lobbying, and Information, I've voiced concern over the risk of social media interference, both domestic and foreign, in this year's federal election.

Barely ten sitting weeks remain before the House of Commons will rise for the summer and the election set for October 21st. A reminder that I and my Thornhill office staff remain focused on assisting constituents with a broad range of issues that may arise involving taxes, citizenship, visas, passports or pensions.

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Shira Rocklin, Editor springfarmra@gmail.com

Susan M. Geller

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SFRA Annual General Meeting** June 19th at Garnet A. Williams Multi-Purpose Room, 7:30pm
- **SFRA Earth Day Clean Up** - May 5th, 2pm at three locations.
 - Vaughan Crest Park, 300 Pinewood Dr.
 - Gallanough Park, 1 Brooke St.
 - Heatherton Parkette, 299 Spring Gate Blvd. with Friends of Heatherton Park
- **Jane's Walk "Early Thornhill: An Immigrant's Perspective"** | Sat., 4th May 2019, 10 am - 11:30 am
Walk Leader: David Rawcliffe | Thornhill Village Library, 10 Colborne St., L3T 1Z6 | janeswalk.org

CONTACT US!!

Please reach out to us. We want to hear about your ideas.

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✉ springfarmra@gmail.com

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