

# WARD 5 ROUND UP

NEWS FROM YOUR MARKHAM  
COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

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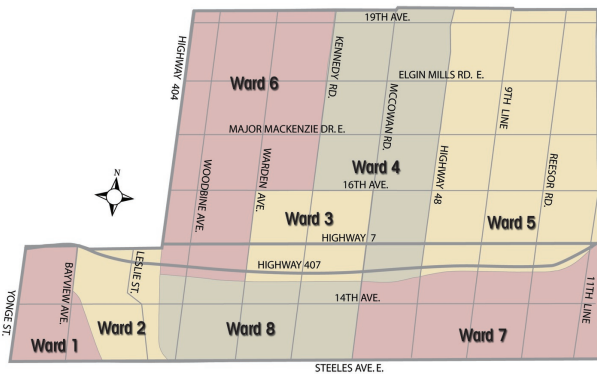
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**COLIN CAMPBELL**

**Ward 5 Councillor**

**WINTER 2013**



## Upcoming Ward 5 events

**Nov. 29, 6 to 9 p.m.**— Festival of Lights, Main St. Opening ceremony and Christmas tree lighting at 7 p.m.

**Nov. 30, 11 a.m.** — Santa Claus parade, Main St.

**Beginning Dec. 1** — Free public ice skating at Markham Civic Centre outdoor rink. Daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Dec. 6, 7 p.m.** — Annual Cornell community tree lighting. Mews Park (corner of Country Glen Rd. and Cornell Park Ave.)

**Keep an eye out for information about my Ward 5 Skating Party, coming in the new year!**

**For further information and more community events, visit [markham.ca](http://markham.ca) or [guidingstar.ca](http://guidingstar.ca)**

Fellow residents, it is my pleasure to bring you my winter edition of the Ward 5 Round Up. Feedback on this semi-annual publication is very positive and people seem to enjoy receiving updates on what's happening in our ward and across the city.

Congratulations are in order for all Ward 5 residents for making our garbage diversion from landfill rate one of the highest in the world. We are now at 81% diversion, which is amazing. With your help, we successfully introduced clear garbage bags in the spring. I don't know about you, but my family's garbage (3 people) is now down to a small bag every few weeks. You all deserve a pat on the back and a big thank you from Council. This is a big win for our environmental footprint!

In my last newsletter, I promised action on snow removal, especially for the laneway system in Cornell. I'm happy to say that Council agreed with me and improvements are forthcoming for this winter. More details in inside pages.

I also thank all residents and business owners for their patience while we are dealing with Markham Main St. construction and other works taking place all over the city. Main St should be substantially finished by Nov 29 in time for our

two major holiday festivities, the Festival of Lights and Santa Claus Parade (see calendar).

Public meetings took place recently on plans to upgrade Morgan Park and Library Square. Schematic options were presented and work will continue to bring these two projects to fruition in the next few years.

Lastly, a vote should take place sometime in the future to finally make a decision on the proposed GTA Centre or as its commonly known, the "Markham arena."

Even though I would love to see an NHL team and an arena here, I do not believe taxpayers should be put in the position to possibly bear the financial burden for it. I will vote accordingly and still hope that private funding can still be sought.

I'm privileged to be your Council representative and thank you for your support. At this special time of year, may I wish everyone Seasons Greetings, Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year.



## Kick off the season

Mark Nov. 29 & 30 on the calendar!

On the evening of the 29th, the Festival of Lights will be held on Main St. Returning to its original Friday night time slot, the Festival of Lights promises to be a great family time with shopping, entertainment, fireworks and of course, the lighting of a 30 foot Christmas tree at 7 p.m.

The following day at 11 a.m. is the 41st annual Santa Claus Parade.

'Tis the season so come out and celebrate the holidays and our beautiful Markham Village.

## Winter standard reminder

The snow's almost here. I thought I would provide a reminder about winter maintenance standards.

**Salting/sanding:** Once it starts snowing, trucks are sent out. They treat primary, then secondary/collector roads. Residential streets receive sand salt on hills and curves and as needed.

**Plowing:** Primary and secondary roads are cleared as soon as snow begins to accumulate. Residential streets are plowed only after there is more than 7.5 cm of snow. Please keep in mind that it takes a while to clear all



**A MADE-IN-MARKHAM MASCOT:** I pose with some of the Buttonville Public School students who created Pachi, the official Pan Am mascot. The porcupine has 41 quills — one for each country participating in the Pan Am Games. The City of Markham will be host to some exciting competitions during the 2015 Pan Am Games.

streets after a snowstorm.

**Sidewalks:** Sidewalks are cleared when there is more than 5 cm of accumulated snow. Sidewalks on primary roads are cleared first, followed by secondary and residential sidewalks.

You can report slippery roads or clearance that does not meet these service standards via the Contact Centre (see information on back page).

## Walk in winter

Want to join the indoor walking track at Cornell Community Centre ?

Did you know you can purchase a track-only membership for \$180/year, \$108/6 months or \$65/3months?

That way you can walk all winter without paying the full recreation membership fee.

## Remembering Shania



On Sept. 29, a parkette was dedicated in Grand Cornell to a special Ward 5 resident. Shania Johnston started the Shania's Sunflower of Hope Fund, which has raised over \$300,000 to date for the Hospital for Sick Children and the James Fund for Neuroblastoma.

Shania died at age 8 from neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer.

Her story is inspiring. I can think of no better namesake for one of our parks.







**OUT AND ABOUT:** From bottom left: celebrating Markham's 81% waste diversion rate at an August press conference; participating in the Canada Day parade; honouring the graduates of a seniors' computer course; presenting one of the winners of the Markham Auto Classic.

## More snow clearing capacity

I've received support from council to increase winter maintenance service in East Markham, including in back lanes.

Here are some highlights of the upgrades:

- 7 new large front-end loaders to be used in rear lane communities
- 2 new sidewalk plows & sanders
- 1 new tandem plowing/sand truck
- Extended hours of service for our Contact Centre
- A new mobile app to show winter clearing status and logistics
- A dedicated weather information number
- Better liaison with York Region operations (who clear regional roads)

I know that Cornell has some unique challenges. I recently asked that staff address the lack of on-street parking, lack of visitor parking and lack of snow storage in future new urban developments. This won't help existing neighbourhoods, but will prevent some of the issues in Cornell being replicated as the community expands.

## Windrow clearing

The City of Markham has a windrow clearing program eligible to seniors and others unable to clear snow from the bottom of their driveways.

The City will send out contractors to clear the ridge caused by the plow at the end of driveways if it snows more than three inches. They will clear one car width.

All members of your household must be over 65 (or less than 12) or you must provide a doctor's note indi-



**WE'RE NUMBER ONE:** On October 26, my own club, the Markham Irish Canadian Rugby Club won the McCormick Cup, Ontario Rugby's championship. I am a huge rugby fan, having played myself, and congratulate all team members on their victory.

cating you can't clear the snow yourself.

You must apply for this service each year. The application is available on the Markham.ca website, or I can mail one to you if you give me a call.

## Join your ratepayers association!

New Cornell and Greensborough residents: do you want to be informed about issues in your community? Consider joining your local ratepayers association.

- For the Cornell Rate Payers Association, visit [mycornell.ca](http://mycornell.ca).

- For the Greensborough Community Ratepayers Association, email [waraich3@hotmail.com](mailto:waraich3@hotmail.com)

You can check out the full list of Markham ratepayers associations, with contact information, at [www.markham.ca/wps/portal/Markham/Residents/RatepayerAssociations](http://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/Markham/Residents/RatepayerAssociations).



## Now you know: the significance of the Black Walnut

Many of you will know that Black Walnut Public School opened in Cornell last school year. But many of you may not know the significance of the school's name.

Black Walnut trees grow best in deep, fertile soil.

When settlers came to Markham, more than two centuries ago, they saw Black Walnut trees growing. They knew this was a good sign that they had found an area that would be good for farming.

More than 65 German Pennsylvania families, many of them Mennon-

ites, came to Southern York Region because of, indirectly, the Black Walnut.



One of these settlers was Christian Reesor. He and his family settled in Cornell. Their original homestead was on Reesor Road.

The name 'Cornell' derives from the maiden name of the wife of Christian Reesor's youngest son, who continued to live at the family homestead.

*Great thanks goes to the Markham Historical Society, Markham Museum and Lorne Smith for their knowledge and background on this subject.*



**IN THE COMMUNITY:** A ribbon cutting at Main Street Massage Therapy; Visiting with three of my newer Ward 5 residents, triplets Olivia, Jacob and Nicholas, on Canada Day; model trains at the Markham Village Train Station during Doors Open Markham.

Welcome to all new Ward 5 residents! You've made a great choice! There are so many exciting initiatives happening in the ward and across the city. Greetings and a warm welcome!

City of Markham Contact Centre  
905-477-5530  
customerservice@markham.ca

Monday to Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Markham's Contact Centre is your first stop for any city request or inquiry, including those related to roads, parks, grass/forestry maintenance, snow removal, parking, bylaw, taxes and garbage/recycling. Clip this and keep it handy.

**CONTACT ME**

905-479-7750  
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