



Councillor Alan Shefman's *W5-Thornhill UPDATE*

Dear Neighbour

Fall 2017 Edition

I am very pleased to present the Fall 2017 edition of the W5 -Thornhill UPDATE — the newsletter for the residents of Ward 5 – Thornhill. This newsletter is just one part of my commitment to communicate with the residents of my Ward. I want to help inform you of the issues, events, celebrations, and processes that take place in your City. As always, I look forward to hearing from you about the issues that are important to you.

As I write below about transit in our community, along with any major infrastructure development comes disruption and inconvenience. We are starting to see that already on Bathurst and Centre Streets. I will do my best to keep you informed through the electronic version of the W5 Update of what will be taking place as the work intensifies. As well, I would urge you to use the VivaNext site at www.vivanext.com for their updates.

Finally, I want you to know that I am working closely with local ratepayer groups to do everything possible to restrain development projects that do not fully respect our community. I will do everything possible, as your Councillor, to work with my Council colleagues and the proponents of projects to ensure that only the highest quality projects are considered and approved.

If you want to be kept informed of what is taking place in your community, sign up for the electronic version of the W5 Update at ward5.vaughan.ca.

Alan Shefman

Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Lands

Last summer, I brought a motion to Council to show respect for the Laboriginal people whose land we all live on. As of September, at the beginning of City of Vaughan Council meetings, the Mayor is reading the following statement of acknowledgement.

“We respectfully acknowledge that we are situated on Traditional Territories and Treaty Lands, in particular those of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, as well as the Anishinaabeg of the Williams Treaty First Nations, the Huron-Wendat, and the Métis Nation. As representatives of the people of the City of Vaughan, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.”

License Required!

Before signing a contract, make sure you ask for a City of Vaughan licence.

As of this year, business licences are required for anyone offering the following consumer services:

- alteration, repair, or renovation of buildings or structures
- installation of swimming pools or hot tub
- installing fences, bannisters or rails, including pool enclosures
- paving, resurfacing, repairing or sealing driveways or parking lots on private property
- creating, altering or maintaining “soft landscaping” which refers to vegetation, and “hard landscaping.”
- persons who solicit or advertise any of the above activities

The purpose of this new bylaw is to help ensure that the vendor you are hiring meets basic standards of service – to protect you from unscrupulous and fly-by-night operators.

Further information is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/y96g29bz>

2017 City of Vaughan Menorah Lighting

In 2006, I brought a recommendation to Council to make the City's Menorah Lighting in recognition of Hanukkah, an annual event on the city calendar. Every year, with Rabbi Kaplan's assistance, the menorah is lit at City Hall.

Last year, because City offices were closed, the ceremony was moved to Garnet A. Williams Community Centre. It was a great success, with a large number of people attending and a variety of food and entertainment provided by the City. As a result, this year the City will sponsor both the official Menorah lighting at City Hall and a second one at Garnet A. Williams Community Centre.



VAUGHAN CITY HALL
2141 MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE
TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2017 @ 3:30 P.M.
MULTI PURPOSE ROOM - LEVEL 1
&
GARNET A. WILLIAMS C.C.
501 CLARK AVE WEST
SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 2017 @ 1:00 p.m.
MULTI PURPOSE ROOM

Vaughan and our Philippine Sister City, Baguio – 20 Years of Friendship

Over my years as the representative of the residents of Ward 5, I have had the pleasure of working closely with the substantial, local Filipino community. This is an active and dynamic part of our diversity. Included in my involvement has been attending important events such as the annual Philippines Independence Day celebration at City Hall, helping the community to lease the Patricia Kemp Community Centre as their base and meeting with the leaders of Baguio City when they have travelled to Vaughan.

It was a great pleasure to greet Mayor Mauricio Domogan and his delegation in late October to celebrate our 20 years of friendship.



Councillor Shefman with Mayor Bevilacqua, Mayor Domogan's Delegation

Retail Business Holidays Act

Did you know that as of January 1, 2018, businesses in York Region will be allowed to be open on all days of the year except for Christmas Day? Changes in the Provincial Act now allow municipalities to decide statutory closing dates. (A number of years ago, I brought a recommendation to Vaughan Council that was then approved at the Region to allow businesses to stay open on certain statutory holidays to facilitate the needs of the Jewish community, especially around Passover).

Gas Tax Funds Support Key Initiatives in Vaughan

In 2016, the City of Vaughan received \$8,765,268 from the federal Gas Tax Fund. Since the Fund was established in 2005, the City of Vaughan has leveraged \$46,461,084 to support 88 infrastructure and capacity building projects worth \$249,418,973.

There is no question that this substantial, ongoing transfer of tax funds is critical for our city to continue to maintain and enhance our infrastructure. Without this cash infusion, our ability to maintain our service standards and low property tax levels and add needed infrastructure would not be feasible.

Contact Councillor Alan Shefman's office:

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2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1

Debi Traub, Executive Assistant ext. 8685, email debi.traub@vaughan.ca

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Tree Planting Progress

There is no question that Vaughan residents are passionate about trees. After the ice storm in 2013, I talked to many very upset residents who had witnessed the trees on the boulevards in front of their homes destroyed by the storm. There is no doubt that the destruction was amplified by so many trees having been weakened already by the Ash Borer. Our audit showed that we had lost thousands of trees.



The challenge to replace the trees as quickly as possible was significant – we just didn't have the budget to do the job. I urged staff to do everything they could, including developing a special strategy and finding funds to replace the trees. At the Budget meetings the following year, the strategy was revealed and approved. Funds were drawn from a variety of sources and a street by street approach to replanting was put in place, with the overall priority being the trees in residential neighbourhoods.

Our program has been an outstanding success. **Since the program was established three years ago, the City has replaced 3291 trees in Ward 5 alone!** The massive tree planting project can easily be seen when driving along either Clark or Atkinson Avenues, where hundreds of trees have been planted over the last month.

Neighbourhood Traffic Safety

Our streets are increasingly unsafe

I tell the story often, as a runner how many times I have had to put my hand on the hood of a car, as the driver ignores me and the stop sign while driving through a residential intersection.

I am getting sick and tired of seeing a blatant disregard for our safety on the streets in Thornhill. Too often, drivers are NOT EVEN SLOWING DOWN as they go through an intersection. I have watched too many vehicles speed by my house at ridiculous speeds. We are all at risk.

While working with York Region Police is one way to help mitigate this growing problem, it is not the solution. Your actions – how you drive while going about your business in our neighbourhoods – is by far the most important way to improve community traffic safety.

While I know that many residents in Ward 5 have their own horror stories of unsafe, disrespectful driving, do you have any ideas that could be used to deal with this problem?

Please let me know – email me with your ideas to improve traffic safety in our neighbourhoods.

Hefhill Park Tennis Courts Officially Re-opened

Maybe it's the water in Vaughan, or perhaps the clean air, but without a doubt, our City, and especially the Thornhill area provides what it takes to create super athletes. How about Raonic, Wiggins and Marnier to name three from three different sports.



So, when I was told that Tennis Canada wanted to give the City \$25,000 to help rehabilitate the tennis courts at Hefhill Park, I moved quickly to bring the offer to staff's attention and to Council to get the project approved.

The opening, ribbon cutting included, was attended by the Mayor and Members of Council, as well as local residents and representatives from Tennis Canada.

Responsibilities for Snow Removal in Vaughan

City – clearing (de-icing) city streets and sidewalks, window clearing, municipal property.

Residents – your property – snow may NOT be shoveled onto the road! Remove your car from the street to allow ploughs to operate. Clear the sidewalk in front of your home.

More information and details at the City web site: <https://tinyurl.com/y8kq5j5k>

The Spring Farm Marketplace (Sobey's Plaza) Story

In so many ways, the Spring Farm Marketplace was a typical development scenario. The owner of the property, RioCan, decided to increase the value of the land they owned through intensification – in this case, a 20+ storey residential tower was proposed.

Months before the project was publicly announced, I met with the proponents. I was very clear about my position – their proposal was inappropriate – too high and too dense for the property. Furthermore, I attempted to help the owners understand that the Spring Farm site was in many ways quite different from most residential neighbourhood plazas because of its unique Kosher services and especially the Sobey's store – the development they were proposing would significantly disrupt the existing services.

As I always do for significant development proposals, I asked the plaza owner to hold a community meeting before officially submitting a plan to the City. As I expected, it was an extraordinary meeting. Hundreds of concerned, upset and angry residents showed up at the multi-purpose room at Garnet A. Williams Community Centre. After listening to the proposal, they vociferously expressed their concerns. The message was very clear – a high rise building was not acceptable to the community.

The SpringFarm Ratepayers Association was also there, and they took careful note of what was taking place. They immediately went into action, with a strategy designed to maintain open communications with the developer and the community, oriented toward convincing the developer that a more modest development might be acceptable. They worked closely with me throughout the process. A community survey was widely distributed and received an excellent response.

Over the next year, we worked together coordinating our approach and taking part in meetings with the developer. The approach taken was always to maintain a respectful dialogue on the key issues that had been identified in the survey results.

The result of this work was not at all typical. In response to the clear community position that we had established, RioCan came forward with a significantly different redevelopment proposal – a one-storey commercial expansion of approximately 10,000 square feet in the north-east corner of the property. This change was announced by RioCan at the September annual meeting of the Ratepayers.

I am hoping that other developers (and ratepayer associations) have taken note that establishing a respectful, dynamic and open dialogue based on substantial input from the community can lead to positive and widely accepted results.

Making Contact with the City of Vaughan

General Information.....905-832-2281

By-law Enforcement905-832-8505

Environmental Services

(Garbage/Recycling).....905-832-8562

Parks905-832-8577

Property Standards.....905-832-8505

Recreation905-832-8500

Roads905-832-8562

Snow Removal905-832-8562

Councillor Alan Shefman..905-832-8585

x8349

Debi Traub905-832-8585

(Council Executive Assistant) x8685

Subscribe to W5 Update at: ward5.vaughan.ca

Development Update

The pace of development in Ward 5, and throughout the City, continues at a breakneck speed. We are a booming city. While a focus of development is at the Vaughan Metro Centre in the Highway 7 and Jane Street area, there are a number of projects taking place in our neighbourhood.

Centre and Bathurst – Promenade Village Shops

- involves 7, 27 storey residential condos and a variety of commercial
- public meeting was held earlier in the year by the proponents
- application has not been received by the city as of this time

Promenade Shopping Mall

- sold to local interests (Yogen Früz and Liberty)
- new owners have stated their commitment to revitalize the mall as a commercial entity, while adding office and further residential development
- held a design competition to get input from architectural firms

Reena

- proposing a 6 storey residential building for persons with a disability, directly to the east of their current offices on Clark, west of Bathurst
- community meeting held in October

Councillor Alan Shefman
Ward 5-Thornhill

FREE FAMILY SKATE

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27, 2017
2:00 P.M. to 3:15 P.M.
GARNET A. WILLIAMS C.C. – INDOOR ARENA
501 CLARK AVENUE WEST

PLEASE JOIN US FOR:

FREE REFRESHMENTS
Bring your skates, helmets and let's hit the ice!

SIGN UP FOR COUNCILLOR SHEFMAN'S W5UPDATE NEWSLETTER @ ward5.vaughan.ca

Are you interested in how your money is being spent? The 2018 Budget process is underway. For further information and dates of meetings go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y7oaxbmt>