



MEET SAVINDI

Hello, Ward 4 Residents! My name is Savindi, and I'm Councillor Rea's new assistant. I'm looking forward to getting to know you all and assisting

you in whatever capacity I can! Please bear with me as I get accustomed to this new role. If you need to get in touch with me, you can call me at 905-477-7000 ext. 4886 or email me at sjinasena@markham.ca

And here's a little more info about me... 😊

- I love dogs!
- My current favourite cozy mystery series is *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. I recommend it to everyone!
- I'm a huge fan of British Tv. Some of my favourite shows are: *His Dark Materials*, *Shetland*, *Father Brown*, *Poirot* and *Allo Allo!*
- One of my go-to restaurants in Markham is Starving Artist. I love their Potato Waffles!

NO PARKING ON STREET WITH SNOW REMOVAL

Between November 15 and April 15,

you can only park on the ODD numbered side of the street (unless existing parking signs state otherwise). However, all parking (even permitted parking) on all streets is not allowed during a snowstorm or snow clearing operations. Residents can expect snow clearing to continue for up to 24 hours after the snow has fallen. Our plows cannot effectively plow the streets when cars are on the road and can also make access by firefighters and emergency personnel very difficult. You could receive a \$150.00 ticket for interfering with our snow removal process.



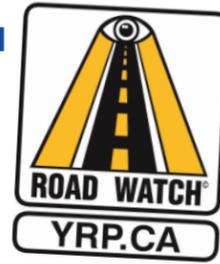
CANADA POST MAIL BOXES

Canada Post is responsible for snow clearing of all community mailboxes and their immediate surrounding area. Please report any related issues directly to Canada Post at **1.800.267.1177**.



ROAD WATCH

Aggressive driving continues to be an issue across the GTA. Road Watch is a community driven program that provides residents with a means to report aggressive or unlawful driver behaviour. Speeding, unsafe lane changes, disobeying traffic lights and stop signs are some typical types of behaviors that qualify for a Road Watch submission. File a confidential report at <https://onlinereporting.yrp.ca/RoadWatch.html>



CONSTRUCTION HOURS

The operation of any equipment connected with construction is only allowed between Monday and Friday 7am to 7pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm. Construction noise is prohibited Sundays & all Statutory Holidays. This includes home renovations and the replacement of a roof.



ICE RINKS

The City is again building ice rinks for residents to enjoy this winter pending weather conditions. Locations are at Huntington Park, Victoria Square Park, Milliken Mills Park, Markham Museum, and Milne Dam Park. Together with the Markham Civic Centre outdoor refrigerated ice rink, these locations will provide easier access to residents in all parts of Markham, and offer safer and professionally maintained skating experiences. A friendly reminder... to stay off Markham's ponds, stormwater ponds and waterways as the ice is unsafe and not maintained for recreation purposes. Ponds may contain salt from nearby roads and other debris, which can speed up thawing. Ice may appear thick, but it is unpredictable and some areas may have little to no ice.

Stay safe and stay off natural ice.

NOTICE OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- **Markville Community Secondary Plan Study** – Check out yourvoicemarkham.ca for further details and to sign up for the meetings. **A Virtual Community Meeting will be held January 19th at 6pm, and a Virtual Visioning Workshop is February 3rd, 1pm.**
- An application for a 13 story apartment building has been submitted for **5871 Highway 7**. The proposed Official Plan Amendment application is to re-designate the property from Mixed Use Mid Rise to Residential High Rise. **A Community Meeting will be held January 24th at 7pm at Markham Village Community Center.**



WINTER SNOW OPERATIONS

During snow storms, Markham's Winter Maintenance INTERACTIVE MAP shows the progress of road and sidewalk plows. – For full snow clearing details, visit: markham.ca/winter

Happy New Year!

Winter 2022–2023

Ward 4 NEWS

www.karenrea.ca

Update from your Markham Council Representative Karen Rea

Dear Residents,

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you for the support in the election and for returning me as your Ward 4 Councillor.

I have dedicated the inside of this newsletter to **Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022** which was introduced by the Provincial government on Oct 25th, one day after our election. Despite strong opposition from residents, environmental groups, Markham Council and other municipalities, **Bill 23** was passed by the Ontario Legislature on November 28th 2022.

I have started to resend out monthly e-newsletters to keep you up to date with important and/or interesting topics on what is happening in the City. If you would like to receive these e-updates, please sign up via my website at www.karenrea.ca or visit my portal on the City website.

I hope everyone had time to relax and enjoy the holiday season with friends and family. Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous 2023!

Karen Rea

Karen Rea Ward 4 Councillor

"Have your say"... participate in on-line polls that work for you – www.karenrea.ca

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 - Final thoughts & what residents can do

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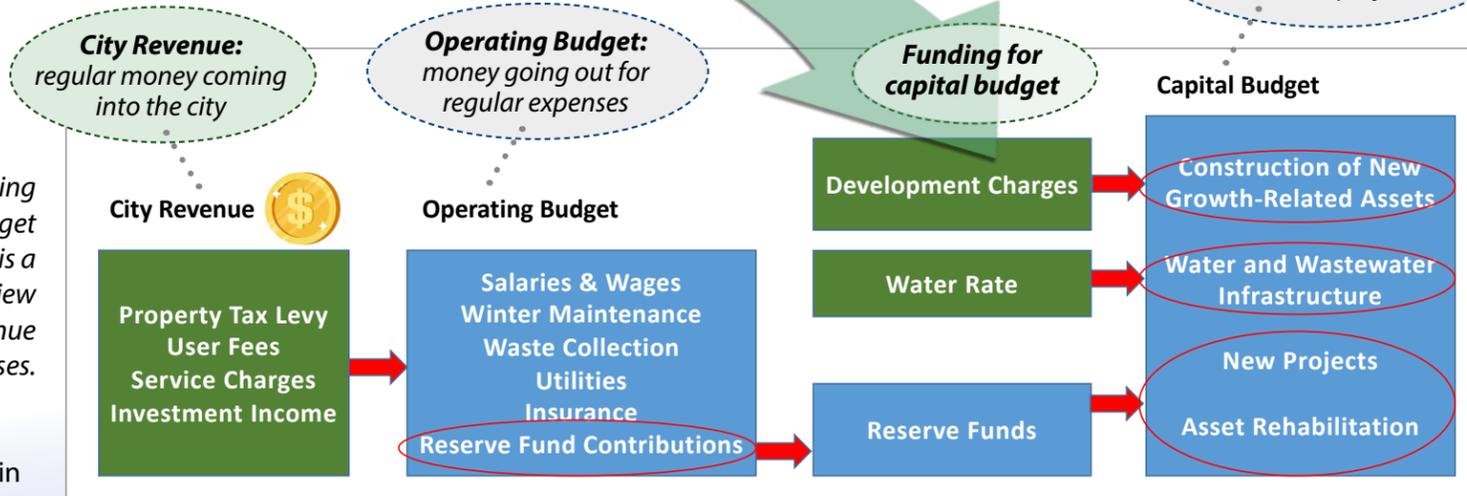


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How property taxes are split:
 City : 25%
 Region : 50%
 Province : 25%

BILL 23 – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND WHY WE CANNOT AFFORD THESE CHANGES

Understanding the City Budget – this is a basic overview of revenue and expenses.

Bill 23 is going to change this plan when development fees and charges are reduced, eliminated or refunded. Resident taxes may increase to replace lost funding.



Overview

The Province wants 1.5 million new homes built in the next 10 years. In the provincial plan Markham has a target of 44,000 homes, which is double the current pace of new home construction for the next decade. We are expected to double our planned growth while facing a substantial reduction in revenue from development to build the strong, vibrant neighbourhoods that residents have come to expect. This revenue is critical to partially offset the cost of increased municipal services and infrastructure required due to population growth. To ensure we have new parks, community centres and the necessary road network, the City will need to significantly raise property taxes or risk overcrowding in amenities and services across the city.

Bill 23 shifts the burden of growth to existing Markham taxpayers. A high level estimate from city staff says that we could see a 50-80% increase to property taxes if we maintain existing service levels (depending on regulations that are not yet defined in the Bill).

The impact of the property tax increase is estimated at \$600-\$1000 per year to the average homeowner.

Highlights of Bill 23

Greenbelt

The Housing Affordability Task Force Report was part of the government's plan to seek feedback to address the housing supply crisis. The report stated that a shortage of land isn't the cause of the problem "Land is available, both inside the existing built-up areas and on undeveloped land outside greenbelts".

Doug Ford said prior to the election "the people have spoken – we won't touch the greenbelt".

In 2020, under questioning in the legislature, Mr. Clark said he had made it clear to every community "that if you're going to give us a request to develop property within the Greenbelt, we have one short answer: No." *Globe and Mail Nov 26th 2022.*

The Province is ignoring the report that they commissioned and renege on a promise that was made a few months ago!

Tell Premier Ford and your Member of Provincial Parliament to repeal Bill 23 and keep their promise to protect the Greenbelt.

Bill 23 ...

- Would result in substantially less parkland and greenspaces for Markham
- There will potentially be a loss of heritage protections and design quality of new buildings
- Financial impact on the City would be over one billion dollars over 10 years
- Restricts the City's ability to collect development charges resulting in less money for the city to build parks, roads, trails, community centres and libraries
- Reduces the planning roles for Conservation Authorities
- Municipal zoning to provide MINIMUM heights and densities in all 22 major transit station areas (MTSA)
- As-of-right zoning to permit up to three residential units per lot
- Changes to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System
- To ensure the City is made whole from this loss of revenue that is geared to build complete communities, the City of Markham would either have to significantly raise property taxes, reduce or close community amenities or a combination of both.

FINDING REAL SOLUTIONS

The housing crisis in Ontario is complicated. There is no single cause and solving this requires a number of partial yet contributing solutions. The sound bite that we are all hearing is that we need more homes but I have not heard any explanation on how that will allow your children to buy a home, nor does reducing fees on pre-construction homes change the market price of a new home. The housing market simply doesn't work like that. Builders sell for the highest price the market will bear at the time of sale.

The University of Toronto has a simple and easy to understand video of the housing crisis which can be viewed at the below web address.

<https://www.schoolofcities.utoronto.ca/news/ontarios-housing-crisis-causes-and-solutions>

If we want to be serious about fixing the housing crisis then we need to address all the causes of sky rocketing prices including but not limited to... the financialization and speculation of housing, vacant homes, the lack of real affordable housing for those in need and increasing the purpose built rental supply. While an overinflated housing market is good news for a homeowner, it means that it's near impossible for the younger generation to be able to buy a home. There needs to be a balance and it will require all stakeholders to collaborate to resolve the housing crisis.

Final thoughts and what residents can do

Democracy is where people have the power to participate in the decision making process. It is a troubling sign of an autocratic system when insufficient time is given for discussion, or important voices are eliminated from the room.

All levels of government need to work together to find solutions for all housing issues.

I encourage all residents to review Bill 23 and share your feedback with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Premier and our local MPP's. The development industry does not need incentives or lower fees to build housing, nor do they need our dollars to pay for infrastructure and the community facilities that are necessary in any new community. Bill 23 with no adjustments will have serious impacts on our quality of life.

Take Action now and let your MPP know that Bill 23 needs to be repealed. Growth needs to pay for Growth. Simply put: The City of Markham and its residents cannot afford Bill 23!

For more in depth information, please refer to the City of Markham website – Special Council meeting November 22nd 2022.



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