



Congratulations to Yonex Canadian International Badminton for hosting a world-class badminton competition at Markham Pan Am Centre



Glad to represent the city at the FlixBus launch at Cornell Terminal



Honoured to kick off the Hard Tech Summit - Mixer as Markham's Economic Development Committee Chair



Honoured to be one of the Convenors for the "Toronto Responds: Support for Hong Kong Fire Victims."

Introduce My Executive Assistant: Scott Xie



I'd like to introduce my Executive Assistant, Scott Xie. We have been working together for many years, addressing residents' concerns and handling a wide range of issues. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please feel free to contact him at sxie@markham.ca or 905-479-7780.



Alan 何胡景
HO

City of Markham
Regional Councillor

- Newsletter 2026 -



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- A MESSAGE FROM REGIONAL COUNCILLOR ALAN HO -

Dear Markham Residents,

It is my honour to serve you in the Markham Council for the past 16 years. I remain committed to working tirelessly alongside you to continue strengthening our beautiful and diverse home, the City of Markham.

The City has recently adopted the 2026 Budget, which includes a 3.9% property tax rate increase. Markham continues to maintain the lowest 21-year average property tax increase in the GTA. For the regional portion, York Region's 2026 Budget includes a 3.28% tax levy, along with the continuation of a separate 1% Rapid Transit and Infrastructure levy. The 2026 Regional Budget makes important investments, including additional sworn officers, civilian staff, and fleet for York Regional Police; the hiring of new paramedics and support staff; the planting of 70,000 trees and shrubs to protect and enhance green spaces; and funding for York University's School of Medicine to support the expansion of health care services across York Region.

As Chair of the Culture and Economic Development Committee, I am proud to share the exciting announcement made by Mayor Frank Scarpitti that Markham will host the 2026 Ontario Honda Dealers Indy. This new five-year partnership between the City of Markham, Green Savoree Toronto ULC, and IndyCar will bring this iconic race to Markham Centre from August 14 to 16, 2026. The event typically attracts approximately 150,000 visitors over three days and will be a major economic driver for our city and region, generating significant economic activity, supporting thousands of jobs, increasing tourism and hotel stays, and providing substantial promotional value through national and international media coverage.

To help residents better understand city and regional services, I co-hosted a community information event, "Your City, Your Services, Your Safety," last November. This free public event provided residents with valuable insights into municipal services while promoting community safety awareness. Representatives from the City and Regional departments participated through open houses and presentations, including the York Regional Police, Paramedic Services, York Region Transit, Markham Fire & Emergency Services, By-law Services, Recreation Services, the Markham Public Library, the Markham Small Business Centre, and the Markham Contact Centre. I would like to sincerely thank all residents who attended, as well as the dedicated regional and city staff and volunteers who helped make this event a success.

On transportation, I continue to work closely with regional departments to respond to residents' requests, including the installation of new traffic signals and left-turn signals on regional roads. With respect to public transit, I have followed up on the addition of new bus shelters at several YRT Bus stops, and I am still working with YRT to advocate for expanded travel distances for the YRT On-Request service for seniors aged 65 and over, as well as lower fares and the possibility of free rides for seniors using public transit.

I have also been sending a weekly e-newsletter to my constituents every Friday since being elected as Regional Councillor in 2022, with more than 160 editions published to date. If you have not yet subscribed, please scan the QR code to receive the latest news and updates from the City of Markham and York Region. Thank you for your continued support and trust. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with your ideas, questions, or concerns. Your voices help shape the work we do, and I am grateful for the opportunity to represent you in the final year of this term.

Alan Ho
Regional Councillor Alan Ho
City of Markham:

- Chair, Culture & Economic Development Committee
- Chair, Markham Subcommittee

York Region:

- Director, Housing York Inc. Board
- Member, Audit Committee
- Member, Accessibility Advisory Committee



Scan the QR code to subscribe to my weekly E-newsletter

X: [@alanhomarkham](https://twitter.com/alanhomarkham)
Youtube: [@alanhomarkham](https://www.youtube.com/@alanhomarkham)
Wechat Public: [alanhomarkham](https://www.wechat.com/public/alanhomarkham)
Instagram: [@alan.ho.markham.ca](https://www.instagram.com/alan.ho.markham.ca)
Facebook: [Regional Councillor Alan Ho](https://www.facebook.com/RegionalCouncillorAlanHo)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN MARKHAM & YORK REGION

Call 9-1-1 for immediate Police, Fire and Ambulance Response

York Regional Police (non-Emergency) 1.866.876.5423
Rogers Customer: *York(9675) Bell Customer: #York (9675)

Crimestoppers 1.800.222.8477

Kids Help 1.800.668.6868
(or Text CONNECT to 686868)

Mental Health (CAMH) 416.535.8501
or 1.800-463.2338

Ontario Poison Centre 1.800.268.9017

Ontario Helpline 211 call 2-1-1
(Community Health & Social Services)

York Region Public Health Connection 1.800.361.5653

York Region Services 1.877.464.9675

Central Local Health Integration Network - LHIN 1.888.470.2222

Telehealth Ontario 1.866.797.0000

Markham Fire & Emergency Services 905.477.2011

Markham Stouffville Hospital 905.472.7373
Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital 905.883.1212

CHATS Community Home Assistance to Seniors 1.877.452.4287
or 905.713.6596

York Region Transit 65+ Services: 1.888.762.2950
Community Living - York South 905.884.9110

OSPCA - Animal concerns or injuries 310.SPCA (7222)

UTILITIES

Alectra Utilities 1.833.253.2872
(Customer Service and Power Outages)

Enbridge Gas (Emergency) 1.866.763.5427
(Customer Service) 1.877.362.7434

Ontario One Call 1.800.400.2255
(Call Before You Dig)

Water Emergency and Municipal Issues:
After hours and on the weekend 905.477.7000
- press "0" for non-Emergency FIRE dispatch
and messages will be monitored
Or call the Direct Contact Centre line 905.477.5530
- your call will be returned the next business day

York Region (Access York) 1.877.464.9675 (1-877-GO4-YORK)
Email: accessyork@york.ca

City of Markham Blue Bin Related:
Phone 905.477.7000 Miller Waste: 1.855.752.3762
Facebook cityofmarkham Email: area10@millerwaste.ca
Twitter @cityofmarkham
Radio The Region 105.9 FM

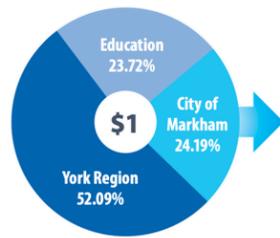
Email: customerservice@markham.ca

My office has "slow down" signs. If you are interested, kindly contact me at alan.ho@markham.ca



UNDERSTAND YOUR PROPERTY TAX

Your tax dollars, your services



For every \$1.00 of property tax revenue Markham keeps...	
Fire & Emergency Services	\$0.29
Roads, Bridges & Sidewalks	\$0.22
Library Services	\$0.11
Parks Maintenance	\$0.11
Waste, Recycling and Environmental Management	\$0.11
Recreation Services	\$0.11
Arts & Culture	\$0.02
Planning & Development	\$0.02
Bylaw Enforcement & Licensing	\$0.01

The City of Markham: approved the \$677.9 million budget for 2026. The tax rate increase in 2026 will be 3.9%. For the average home in Markham, this represents an increase of \$54.99 on the City portion of your tax bill. Markham continues to have the lowest average tax rate increase in the GTA over the past 21 years.

York Region: approved the \$5.2 billion budget for 2026. The budget includes a 3.28% tax increase, funding front-line services, Police, Paramedics and other Public Works. This also funds \$25 million for York University's School of Medicine. Taxes will rise 3.28%, plus a 1% Rapid Transit levy, costing the average homeowner about \$129 more.

15 CORE SERVICES

Legislated services provided directly to the public to help maintain a high quality of life for York Region residents.

- Police Services
- Children's Services
- Wastewater
- Transit
- Regional Roads
- Water
- Community Housing
- Social Assistance
- Paramedic Services
- Public Health
- Waste Management
- Long-Term Care
- Court Services
- Forestry
- Economic and Development Services

The **City of Markham** collects 24.19% of property taxes on behalf of the Province of Ontario and the Region of York.

Province of Ontario (Education) 23.72% of the property tax payment for residential properties funds education.

York Region's portion of the tax bill is 52.09% including 15 core services →

SNOW WINDROW REMOVAL

During the winter season, our office received a number of complaints from residents about snow windrows left at the ends of driveways. At this time, the City of Markham does not provide city-wide windrow clearing. The City currently offers a **Snow Windrow Removal Assistance Program for residents aged 60**, as well as children under 12 or residents aged 12–60 with a doctor's note confirming a physical inability to clear snow.

There are several reasons why a city-wide snow windrow clearing has not been implemented. The main concern is cost. Introducing a city-wide service would require significant investment in specialized equipment, additional staffing, and ongoing maintenance. There are also equity considerations; a city-wide program would require all residents to pay for a service, but some households in condominiums or houses with rear lanes may not benefit from it. Operational challenges are another factor, as windrow clearing requires specialized equipment that operates more slowly and could delay overall snow-clearing operations on local roads. While our neighbouring municipalities, such as Richmond Hill and Vaughan, do offer windrow clearing, they have reported mixed results, including service delays and occasional damage to curbs.

In 2019, the City conducted a public survey through **Your Voice Markham** to ask residents whether windrow clearing should be provided city-wide, given the service limitations and associated costs. Of the 71 responses received, 40.8% were in favour, while 59.2% were opposed.*

As this feedback is now several years old, I will be launching a new survey to gather updated input from residents. Please scan the QR code to share your views so I can bring your feedback to the Council.

Survey:
Do you think the City should provide windrow clearing services to all residents, considering the service's limitations?

Markham currently offers a **Snow Windrow Removal Assistance Program** for residents who meet specific eligibility requirements. After a snowfall of 7.5 cm or more, the service clears one car-width of snow from the driveway entrance about 4 hours after the street is plowed. Beginning in the 2008 winter season, the City Council approved lowering the qualifying age from 65 to 60, allowing more older residents to access the service.* For more information, please scan the QR code to complete the Snow Windrow Removal Application form and submit it to my office or email it to customerservice@markham.ca



Application for Snow Windrow Removal Assistance (QR Code)

*Winter Maintenance Workshop – Special General Committee, June 17, 2019

MARKHAM BUSINESS

Markham Business offers multilingual support and serves a variety of sectors to ensure Markham remains a premier destination for business. Services include Small Business Services and Advisory Support, Small Business Grants, Free Online Seminars, and a wide range of business resources.

Markham Business can help with business plan reviews and provide guidance on licenses, loans, registration, and permits needed to start a business. And also provide information on trade, patents, copyright and trademarks, and connect you to mentoring and networking opportunities. **Book a one-on-one consultation now:** www.markhambusiness.ca

BLUE BIN - SMALL CHANGE

Ontario's residential blue box program shifts to full producer responsibility. For Markham residents, daily recycling habits remain largely unchanged.

All blue box inquiries, such as missed collections or requests for new/replacement boxes, should go directly to Miller Waste at [1-855-752-3762](tel:1-855-752-3762) or area10@millerwaste.ca, not the City. Blue boxes are no longer sold or exchanged at Markham Recycling Depots or city facilities, but will be available through Miller Waste.

Markham depots STOP taking Styrofoam, plastic film, large cardboard, or blue box recyclables, as these now go curbside. New blue box items include chip bags and snack wrappers, deodorant and toothpaste tubes, Styrofoam, plastic bags/film, black plastic containers, coffee cups, frozen juice containers, and ice cream tubs. Oversized cardboard must still be flattened and bundled (2' x 2' x 1').

SUPPORT MARKHAM FOOD BANK



Markham Helping Hands is an annual food bank drive that I have been grateful to start organizing in 2022 after the COVID-19 Pandemic, in partnership with the Markham Fire Department and with the generous support of residents and businesses across the City of Markham. Through everyone's collective efforts, the initiative has contributed increasing amounts of food to the Markham Food Bank over the past four years.

The Markham Food Bank is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization that currently supports approximately 800 families, serving more than 3,000 residents each month. For more information: markhamfoodbank.ca

MAAEC: ADOPT, EDUCATE, CARE

Markham Animal Adoption and Education Centre (MAAEC), located at the Thornhill Community Centre: 7755 Bayview Ave, the MAAEC operates in partnership with the Ontario SPCA. It is the first municipally funded adoption storefront in Ontario and works to reduce euthanasia rates in York Region. Visit Future Adoption Events: markham.ca/AnimalAdoption

YORK REGION HEALTH DATA

York Region Public Health has launched a new Population Health Assessment dashboard, providing residents and community partners with easy access to local health data and information. This interactive tool helps with understanding the health of people in York Region, offering a clear snapshot of health indicators across the Region and supports informed decision-making for healthier communities. For more information and to view the dashboard and report, visit york.ca/HealthData

Looking for a career with the **City of Markham**? Scan the QR code to see current job openings:



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Community safety remains the top priority, and residents have tools to help protect their neighbourhoods.

The **YRT Security Camera Registry** lets homeowners and businesses register cameras with York Regional Police. This helps officers quickly identify potential footage during investigations—without giving direct access to your cameras and the **Community Safety Data Portal** offers crime maps, CCTV camera locations, neighbourhood watch information, and vehicle theft trends. It's an easy way to stay informed and engaged with local safety initiatives. More information is available at YRP.CA

Neighbourhood Watch is another key program that reduces crime by encouraging residents to work together proactively. Communities interested in starting a group can contact York Regional Police at neighbourhoodwatch@yrp.ca or my office at alan.ho@markham.ca for support.

For road safety, although the provincial government has removed all Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) across the province, including in community safety zones and school areas, I will continue working with York Regional Police and the Transportation Department to explore more ways to protect our children from speeding during school hours.

YORK REGION TRANSIT 65+ SERVICES

Mobility On-Request
65+ service

YRT is offering an on-request transit service for seniors 65 years and older. The service is offered throughout York Region for seniors who want to try taking public transit using a smaller vehicle that picks you up at your home. On-Request 65+ uses smaller vehicles like sedans, minivans and small buses to transport customers, and vehicles are thoroughly cleaned.

Simply call [1-888-762-2950](tel:1-888-762-2950) during the service hours, and On-Request 65+ will pick you up and take you to your desired location within **5 kilometres** of your home. This can be a grocery store, doctor's office, pharmacy or any other address. Please read below for more details and booking instructions.

Service Hours - Weekdays: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Fare: PRESTO card: \$2.52 / Cash, credit or debit card: \$4.50

REGIONAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

York Regional Road Construction Schedule:

- 16th Ave (Leslie–Kennedy): Widening 4→6 lanes (2026–2030)
- Hwy 404 crossing north of 16th Ave: New bridge (Summer 2023–Late 2026)
- Warden Ave south of Major Mackenzie E: Culvert rehab (Summer 2025–Summer 2026)
- York Durham Line (Bethesda–14th Ave): Resurfacing (Summer 2025–Spring 2026)
- Ninth Line (Steeles–Fieldside): Widening 2→4 lanes (2026)
- Kennedy Rd (N of Hwy 407–Hwy 7): Widening + BRT (2027)
- McCowan Rd (14th Ave–Hwy 7): Widening 4→6 lanes + Transit-HOV (2028)