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## W5UPDATE

Councillor Alan Shefman's  
Ward 5 - Thornhill Update



March 21, 2008 Volume 3, N

## Wishing You and Your Family a Very Happy Easter



**Alan Shefman**

**Debi Traub**

## Clearing up a bottleneck

Residents living in the Atkinson and Bathurst area have gotten increasingly frustrated as they attempt to travel through this very busy intersection. Going west, there is no dedicated right turn lane. This has resulted in vehicles attempting to go north (turn right) lining up behind other vehicles that are going straight through the intersection. This problem is going to be dealt with this year.

One of the budget items recently approved by Vaughan City Council was to remediate the intersection to allow an improved traffic flow. The key part of the plan will be to widen the intersection to allow for a right turn lane on Atkinson to go north on Bathurst.

## Another small road change

Further south on Atkinson at Edmund Seager there is no dedicated left turn lane when travelling south - going north there is such a lane. While not a major traffic issue, it didn't seem to make much sense to have vehicles make their left turns onto Edmund Seager from the inside traffic lane. This problem will be resolved this year when the City roads staff will be remarking the lanes to establish a dedicated left turn lane.

### Web Links

[City of Vaughan](#)

[RoadWatch](#)

[York Region Police](#)

[YRT](#)

[Greening Vaughan](#)

[Gallanough Resource Centre](#)

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Committee of the Whole-Mar  
25, 1:00 p.m.**

**Council- March 31, 1:00 p.m.**

**All meetings are at City Hall  
unless indicated**

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## Double up days - Round Two

Two editions ago, I used the announcement of our first Greening Vaughan Double-up days as an example of the City's problems communicating with our residents. Well, the second round of "double-up" days is coming the weeks of April 7 and 14.

If you are in the "Yellow" collection area, your double-up week starts on April 7 and if you are in the "Blue" area, then double-up days begin on April 14. If you have kept your collection schedule from the fall you will note that in Ward 5 everything south of Centre is in the Yellow area and everything north is Blue. If you need to check on what week garbage is collected please go to [www.greeningvaughan.ca](http://www.greeningvaughan.ca).

Double-up days allow you to dispose of 6 items of waste (as opposed to the normal three) without the need to purchase garbage tags.

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## Do you read the Vaughan City Page?

Now I know that you get most of your City news in this newsletter, but on the chance that you look elsewhere as well, . .

For the last number of years the City of Vaughan has published a weekly **City Page** in one of the local newspapers. While in the past the City Page has been published only in the Liberal, recently, with the establishment of other weeklies such as Vaughan Perspectives and Vaughan Today, it will be published in those newspapers as well.

There is some question about the effectiveness of this information page, so, with the readers of the W5 Update being so keen, let me ask you for your opinion.

Questions:

1. Are you aware that the City publishes a Vaughan City Page?
2. Do you read the Vaughan City page? How often do you read it?
3. What do you like about it? What don't you like about it?
4. How would you improve it?

**Please email me your answers**

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## Thornhill Drainage Study Completed

When the big storm hit the City of Vaughan on August 19, 2005 nobody was prepared for its ferocity or the damage that it caused. Hundreds of homes in the city suffered flood damage. Some of the worst effected areas were in Thornhill, especially in the area bounded by Centre Street, Yonge Street, Arnold Avenue and Charles. As a result the City initiated a drainage study to look at our current situation and how we might alleviate flooding in this area in the future. After an intensive engineering study and public consultation sessions held in February and December 2007, our consultants have

identified a number of steps that could be taken to deal with this problem.

The first suggestion and one that is currently being implemented is to repair and upgrade the culverts that exist in the area. People living on or near Centre Street between Oakbank and Thornbank recently received a notice informing them of preliminary engineering design work, a first step in the process for that area.

The second recommendation is to rehabilitate the network of roads in the Thornridge area. This is a top priority for the city this year. When the city does this type of road work, the associated drainage issues are also addressed.

The third recommendation, and by far the most controversial one, is to establish a storm water catchment "facility" in the Gallanough Park. **This idea is only at the recommendation stage at this point** - it was only revealed as an option by our consultants at the public meeting held in December. Clearly, a recommendation like this will need extensive public consultation and consideration before any decisions are made.

There are three issues that will have to be considered before any decisions are made; the concerns of the public, the utility of such a project and the cost involved. It has been roughly estimated that any type of "facility" would cost any where from \$1 million to \$3+ million.

The reason why this recommendation was made relates to our current infrastructure in the area and the way storm water flows in the area. Without getting into too much detail, storm water from the area south of Clark, east of Hilda drains north through a large drainage system that currently exists under Gallanough Park. From there the water travels in a deeply buried pipe that lies under Brooke Street and continues north to drain into the Don River at some point in the valley that crosses Yonge Street. At the same time the water draining from the area south of Clark and east of Atkinson also drains in the same direction, meeting the more southerly flow somewhere around Brooke and Thornridge. The problem, as you can imagine, is where the two flows of water meet. In a major storm everything backs up and we end up with flooding. The consultant's recommendation is that establishing a containment area in the Gallanough Park will result in a capability to control the water flow to the north.

Please remember the following in regard to the Gallanough recommendation:

1. **No decisions have been made**
2. **Before any steps are taken to consider the consultant's recommendation, staff will need to review all options and prepare a plan for Council and public consideration**
3. **Whatever that plan might suggest will only be considered after an extensive public consultation process.**

As the City begins to look at this possibility I will report our progress in W5 Update.

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