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W5UPDATE

Councilor Alan Shefman's
Ward 5 - Thornhill Update



September 11, 2007 Volume 2, Number 8



Our very best wishes to all members of the Jewish community celebrating Rosh Hashanah this week. Have a healthy, peaceful and sweet new year.

Alan Shefman Debi Traub

Web Links

[City of Vaughan](#)

[RoadWatch](#)

[York Region Police](#)

[YRT](#)

[Greening Vaughan](#)

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Greening Vaughan - Phase 3

Well, as everyone knows, as of this week the third phase 3 of Greening Vaughan is beginning. This phase marks another evolution in how we deal with our waste in the City. At the same time it is part of a process that we initiated in September of 2005 when we began weekly collection of recycling materials and a huge expansion of the items that could be recycled. Don't forget that up until that time, blue boxes were only collected every other week. Prior to that date very few items could be placed in your blue boxes, but with our new program, everything from empty paint cans, to a variety of hard plastics - always refer to the number imprinted in the triangle on the bottom of the plastic item (#1-7) to tell whether it is recyclable - to aerosol cans, to aluminum foil etc are now acceptable.

Last November we took the second major step when we started our organic recycling program with the distribution of Green Bins to residents across the City.

These bins accept virtually anything that would have the possibility of becoming smelly - from fish to paper towels to diapers to animal waste to vegetable scraps - anything that might attract animals to rummage through your garbage. Use your Green Bin and the possibility of having to clean up ugly messes at the curb in the morning after some animal has ripped apart your green garbage bag is almost reduced to zero.

Starting the week of September 10, Vaughan will be collecting garbage every two weeks. As Toronto Star reporter Phinjo Gumbo reported on September 10, Vaughan is just one of seven York Region municipalities going to biweekly collection this fall, joining Markham which made the move a couple of years ago. Toronto started every two week garbage collection in 2005 (but still only collect blue boxes and green bins every other week!!)

Double-up Weeks Approved by Council

In order to try to provide an opportunity for residents to deal with extra garbage over the course of the year, Council will be implementing four "double-up" weeks when, rather than three bags of garbage, up to a maximum of six bags will be allowed. The dates for these special collections weeks will be determined shortly.

How are we doing?

So how have we done so far? The answer is in the statistics. We have gone from 19% diversion of garbage from landfill in 2005 to over 51% today. This summer we canvassed 7200 homes in the City. We found that 84% of the residents had put out blue boxes, 65% had green bins and the average number of garbage items was 1.74 per household.

Need a Green Bin or a Blue Box?

Blue boxes - \$6.00; Green Bins - \$20.00;

Garbage tags - \$10.00 for 10.

September 30 -- 10:00 - 3:00 - Dufferin Clark Community Centre - also, free mulch giveaway

Throughout September the City's Joint Operations Centre on Rutherford, just east of Jane (2800 Rutherford Road) will be open on Saturday and Sunday in the afternoons. Go to greeningvaughan.ca for more information.

Not sure what day is your day for garbage - go to the Greening Vaughan site and you can enter your address and the system will tell you when your garbage is being collected.

Ask the Candidate - Get involved with the Provincial Election

As you can easily see by the signs popping up all over the Ward, we are now immersed in a provincial election. On October 10 you will have the opportunity to vote on who you would like to represent us locally in the the Thornhill Riding as well as what political party will govern for the next four years. While everyone has their own set of issues, I would like to suggest a number of questions relating to municipal matters and the City of Vaughan that you may want to ask your local candidate.

1. What is your position on building rapid transit in the City of Vaughan - to the corporate centre at Jane and Highway 7 and up Yonge Street to at least the 407? What will your government do to ensure long range planning and support for the expansion of rapid transit throughout York Region?
2. What is your position on the building of a hospital for Vaughan? Will you commit to a fast-track approach to get the hospital built as quickly as possible?
3. What are you planning to do about the property tax assessment system? What would you do to make it fairer?
4. What will you do to advocate for provincial programs, especially related to social services downloaded onto municipalities, are not funded through the property tax, but rather by the province through incomes taxes?

Thornhill Village Festival

Our great community fall festival is taking place this Saturday, September 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the Thornhill Village area in both Vaughan and Markham. The Festival is run entirely by volunteers and is organized by the Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill (SPOHT). Throughout the area streets you will find craft and information booths, different types of food and drink and terrific entertainment.



You will also find the Councillor Alan Shefman booth near the Centre Street (at Yonge) entrance to the Festival. Please come and see us, say hello and get information on the city. Look forward to seeing you on September 15.

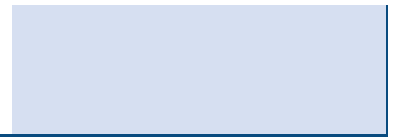
Come to the Festival parade beginning at 12:00 along Centre Street and Yonge. Visit Thornhill Park for new activities taking place there. Visit historic MacDonald House for a wonderful display and sale of art.

Tell everybody about the NEW!!! W5Update!!!

We want to be able to let more Ward 5 residents know about what's going on in their neighbourhood and across the city. Please forward your copy of W5Update to your friends, or, if you prefer, send us their email address and we will send them a copy for their consideration.

Missed an edition of W5Update? View current and past editions and sign up for

W5Update on the Vaughan website <http://tinyurl.com/295ybc>



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