

Oak Ridges Wrap Up

September 2024

Special Edition



WE HAVE BEEN HEARD!



NEW TRAFFIC LIGHTS FOR BAYVIEW

Since being elected, Carol has been advocating for traffic lights at Bayview/Bethesda, so it's gratifying to finally see some action. York Region has been monitoring the intersections of Bayview Avenue/Bethesda Drive and Bayview Avenue/Anchusa Drive for the last three years; monitoring includes traffic data collection and ongoing analysis. As a result of the most recent review, and in partnership with City of Richmond Hill staff, York Region will be installing traffic signals in 2025 at both intersections, subject to York Regional Council and budget approval. Ultimately, the safety of all residents lies with all drivers following the rules of the road.

OUR FIRST SECONDARY SCHOOL

Carol has been unwavering in her efforts to expedite the construction of a high school in Oak Ridges, and it's finally happening. The York Region District School Board (YRDSB) has submitted an application to the city to build the Dr. Bette Stephenson Secondary School in Oak Ridges. YRDSB wants to convert the existing adult learning centre into a public secondary school, with a 5,100sq metre addition to the existing building. While the school won't be built overnight, this is a significant step towards making it a reality. The new secondary school will bring the community together as kids go to school in their own community. According to the YRDSB website, the school is proposed to open in September 2027.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IS EVERYWHERE

Everywhere we turn, there seems to be road construction, and Oak Ridges is no exception. But don't despair; it will get done, and our roads and infrastructure will be better for it. City and York Region-led construction is necessary municipal work to ensure Richmond Hill's infrastructure remains safe, and is capable of meeting the city's current and future needs. As pipes age, it's crucial to maintain clean drinking water and prevent flooding and other sanitation issues, especially as we experience more frequent major precipitation events.

Anticipated completions for 2024 include:

- Bethesda Sideroad Reconstruction
- Active Transportation Improvements Bayview Park Lane, Sandbanks Dr. and Park Cr.
- York Region: Yonge St. from Stouffville Road to Bloomington Rd.
- York Region: Bathurst Street from Major Mackenzie Dr. to King-Vaughan Rd.
- York Region: Air Management Facility, King Rd. & Yonge St. (This is expected to resolve the nasty odours in the area)

Anticipated completions for 2025 include:

- Road Reconstruction: Blackforest Dr., Acorn Rd. and Rosegarden Cres. Completion late 2025
- York Region: King Road Project Completion Spring 2025



Learn More!
Park & Road Improvements in Richmond Hill.



OAK RIDGES GREEN BEATS
Sunday October 6th 1 to 3pm
Oak Ridges Community Centre
Pack up the family, grab your lawn chairs, and your used electronics and join us on October 6th at 1 pm for an interactive and family friendly community event.
Drop off your e-waste and stay for an exciting 1 hour performance with Enviro Drum.
(plus a few surprises for the kids)



Learn More!

Subscribe!

Weekly Wrap Up every Friday. Stay in the Know.



CAROL'S CORNER

Hello Neighbours,

I hope you enjoy the first print edition of the Oak Ridges Wrap Up. With the loss of the Liberal newspaper, I wanted to create a community newspaper specifically for us, the residents of Oak Ridges. While it won't be published weekly or even monthly like a real newspaper, it will feature city news and information relevant to our Ward 1 community. I would love to hear your thoughts. Do you find this newspaper worthwhile? Make sure to send any feedback or suggestions to carol.davidson@richmondhill.ca. See you around the neighbourhood.

LET'S CONNECT!
carol.davidson@richmondhill.ca
905-780-2045
www.caroldavidsonoakridges.ca

CAROL Davidson
COUNCILLOR WARD 1
OAK RIDGES/RICHMOND HILL

WORKING Together



Oak Ridges Wrap Up

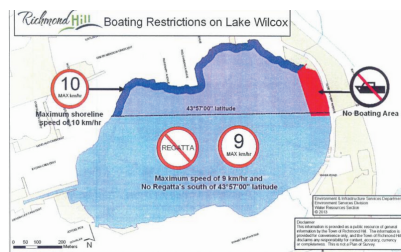
OUR LAKES

Lake Wilcox: Our beautiful Lake Wilcox is the largest kettle lake on the Oak Ridges Moraine and is home to a variety of wildlife and fish. We all need to do our part to protect the lake and keep it healthy.

Here's some suggestions on how to keep our lake healthy. Follow posted speed limits when boating. Keep music and boat noise to a minimum. Keep shorelines vegetated with native plants. Reduce your use of fertilizer. Wash boats, cars, and pets away from the lake. Pick up and dispose of pet waste in the garbage.

Swimming is not allowed at Lake Wilcox because the water may be unsafe and is not tested or supervised. Safety issues may include high levels of bacteria and sink holes.

Transport Canada regulates vessels in the area under the Canada Shipping Act. York Regional Police are responsible for enforcement of the lake restrictions, contact them at the general line at 1-866-876-5423 for information about boating restrictions in a non-emergency.



Bond Lake: This stunning gem is part of the Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve (ORCCR), an important ecological linkage on the Oak Ridges Moraine. It's owned by the province and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), it's managed by the conservation authority to preserve and protect habitat along the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Permitted activities include hiking, biking, bird watching, on-leash dog walking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Activities that are not permitted include swimming, boating, canoeing, fires and BBQs, picnicking, and fishing.

Unfortunately, this piece of paradise is overrun by visitors, causing parking issues on local streets and engaging in prohibited activities that are damaging the fragile ecosystem of the lake. Carol has been urging the city to discuss better control of the corridor lands with the TRCA. At this point the TRCA has "no immediate plans" to build additional parking areas, so the city is reviewing the parking issues on local streets.



Learn More!
View the TRCA website

PARKS

Brickworks Park: As many of you may know, Brickworks Park, located behind Lake Wilcox School, is set for redevelopment. Two different park design plans were presented on the Richmond Hill website, inviting residents to choose their favourite. However, the feedback Carol received indicated that the proposed play equipment was insufficient for such a highly-used park. The most disappointing aspect was the absence of the beloved saucer swing in both plans.

Carol completely agreed with the residents and requested Richmond Hill planning staff to revisit the designs to include more engaging equipment within the budget. She is thrilled to announce that they listened, and a new plan has been created that includes additional equipment and even a saucer swing. Construction is scheduled for 2026, pending Council approval. Your voice truly matters!



Minthorn Park: The revitalization of Minthorn Park, located just off Yonge, south of Bloomington, has recently been completed, and it's beautiful. The highlight of the park is the inclusion of rain gardens, which help manage stormwater and provide habitat for wildlife. We hope residents will be inspired to create rain gardens at home. Be sure to visit the park and see it for yourself.



TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

One of Carol's first priorities when she was elected was to address speeding in our neighbourhoods, and she put forth a motion initiating traffic calming measures across the city.

If traffic calming measures had been installed years ago, we might not be facing these issues now. Unfortunately, they weren't, and here we are. The measures implemented in 2024 are just the beginning. Carol will continue to collaborate with city staff to advocate for traffic calming measures on priority streets in Oak Ridges for 2025 and future years.

FACES & PLACES



1. The Knights of Columbus BBQ and all the wonderful volunteers at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church 2. Proud parents at the Bond Lake Public School Graduation 3. Fun at the Uptown Asian Festival 4. With Sonny Dhillon & the 360 Kids Food Drive 5. Art in Brickworks Park hosted by Rinat Moshe-Solnik 6. Richmond Hill School Student Iftar event 7. Attending the Carefirst 2024 Young at Heart Charity Gala with my council colleagues 8. With Deb Thompson and Glemena Bettencourt at the Oak Ridges Traffic Safety Public Education Session 9. Lots of neighbours at the Oak Ridges Ward 1 Neighbourhood Watch meeting 10. The annual Oak Ridges Lions Club and No Frills Food Drive

ODDS & ENDS

Slowdown Initiative: One of the major concerns in Oak Ridges is speeding cars on our local roads, which endanger our residents and children. Carol has launched a 40km Slowdown Initiative, encouraging parents to place 'Maximum 40km/h stickers on their children's backpacks. You can collect a sticker at the Oak Ridges Green Beats event on October 6th. If you are unable to attend, please send an email, and we will gladly mail one to you. Hopefully this will encourage drivers to slowdown especially in school zones.



J.H.C. Durham Cobblestone Cottage, 12761 Yonge St.: Have you ever wondered about the delapidated stone cottage located near Bond Lake? According to Facebook group Richmond Hill/GTA - Then and Now the little stone cottage at the bend around Bond Lake is a historic landmark. Originally part of the "Craigmore" estate owned by John H. C. Durham, the cottage was built around 1915 by William H. Graham for the farm manager. The land, initially granted to William Bond in the late 18th century, saw significant development, including the extension of Yonge Street. By the 1850s, part of the land was sold to the Metropolitan Railway and converted into a park.

Sadly, the Province has informed the City that they intend to demolish the JHC Cobblestone Cottage. Since the property is owned by the Province, the City cannot give it heritage designation to prevent demolition. A structural assessment by the province in 2022 deemed the cottage unsafe for repairs. Council cannot deny the demolition due to provincial ownership.

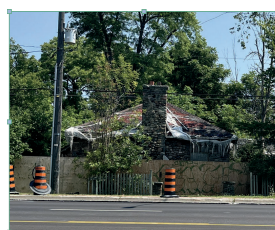
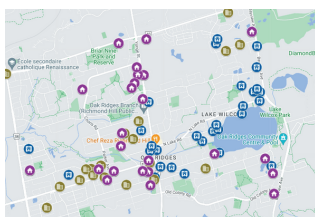


Photo courtesy of Richmond Hill/GTA - Then and Now

New Richmond Hill Public Library CEO: The Board of the Richmond Hill Public Library, which includes Carol, has appointed Mr. Bruce Gorman as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will begin his role on September 23, 2024.

Mr. Gorman comes to Richmond Hill Public Library with over 18 years of executive leadership experience in public libraries in Ontario and Nova Scotia, as CEO or Director. More recently at Aurora Public Library, he completed a multimillion-dollar renovation and reimagining of the library space. He has spent much of his career advocating for libraries, developing unique partnerships, introducing new services, and programming, and showcasing how libraries profoundly impact and influence communities every day.

Development Activity Map: Did you know that the city's website offers an overview of development applications currently under review by the Development Planning Division? We've mapped these applications to help you easily see what's under review in your neighborhood.



Learn More!
View the map here

York Regional Police Community Safety Data Portal: Are you interested in learning about crime and road safety occurrences in your neighbourhood and how you can contribute to community safety? York Regional Police have a terrific resource available to all of us. Visit the Community Safety Data Portal for information on crimes and road safety occurrences in our community. Don't forget to check out the crime prevention tips by clicking on the Resources link at the top of the portal to find out how you can help keep our community safe! Below are dashboards showing year to date numbers for Richmond Hill, including a comparison to the same time last year.

York Regional Police Road Safety Trend Dashboard			
Month	Year	Change	Count
Impaired Operation	107	+18.9% from last year (90)	107
Stunt Driving	103	+0% from last year (103)	103
Dangerous Driving	61	+1.7% from last year (60)	61
Street Racing	0	+0% from last year (0)	0
Driving Disqualified/Prohibited	171	+20.5% from last year (215)	171
Careless Driving	230	+2.5% from last year (225)	230
Graduated Licence Suspension	35	+2.8% from last year (36)	35
Total Traffic Collisions	2,670	+6.8% from last year (2,499)	2,670
Traffic Collision - Fatal	2	+200% from last year (0)	2
Traffic Collision - Personal Injury	272	+22.5% from last year (222)	272
Traffic Collision - Fail to Remain	408	+12.1% from last year (364)	408
Traffic Collision - Property Damage	1,988	+3.9% from last year (1,913)	1,988

York Regional Police Crime Trend Dashboard			
Month	Year	Change	Count
Assault	671	+9.6% from last year (742)	671
Attempt Murder	4	+100% from last year (2)	4
Break and Enter - Residential	193	+14.2% from last year (169)	193
Break and Enter - Commercial	85	+18.1% from last year (72)	85
Drug Violations	91	+2.2% from last year (93)	91
Robbery	65	+11% from last year (73)	65
Sexual Violations	47	+1.7% from last year (60)	47
Theft of Motor Vehicle	344	+33.6% from last year (518)	344
Theft Over \$5000	69	+13.8% from last year (80)	69
Homicide	5	+150% from last year (2)	5
Weapons Violations - Firearm	18	+18.2% from last year (22)	18
Weapons Violations - Other	46	+36.1% from last year (72)	46



Learn More!
Access the Portal here

OAK RIDGES GREEN BEATS

INTERACTIVE, FAMILY FRIENDLY COMMUNITY EVENT
Sunday October 6, 2024 - 1pm to 3pm
Oak Ridges Community Centre

Enviro Drum Interactive Performance
(75 minutes long)

Used Electronic Drop off

Free Reusable Water Bottle
(while quantities last)

Free Ice Cream
(while quantities last)

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

Subscribe to the weekly Wrap Up!

Hosted by: Councillor Carol Davidson
905-780-2045 | carol.davidson@richmondhill.ca

Learn More!
Scan for event details

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

- SAY HELLO AND RESPECT EACH OTHER**
- PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS**
- KEEP THE NOISE DOWN**
- KEEP YOUR PROPERTY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CLEAN**
- DON'T SPEED**



OAK RIDGES NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Oak Ridges Neighbourhood Watch (ORNW) is a community-based network of volunteers who take pride in their neighbourhoods by providing “eyes” on the street to gather information about possible crime activity, suspicious individuals, and suspected damage to property.

Neighbourhood Watch is recognized as an important crime prevention program of our York Regional Police Service --- it will only continue to expand with citizen participation. Join us!



Learn More!
Oak Ridges
Neighbourhood
Watch

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ACCESS Richmond Hill

- 905-771-8800
- Access@RichmondHill.ca

City services, snow clearing, streetlight maintenance, noise

Animal Services

- 905-832-2281

Animal control and shelter services contracted through City of Vaughan

By-law and Licensing Enforcement

- 905-771-0198
- bylaw@richmondhill.ca

If you have an urgent concern that requires immediate attention after business hours, call after-hours By-law Enforcement Line at 905-771-5458.

Alectra Utilities

- 1-833-253-2872

Hydro outage information, downed power lines

Inclement Weather Hotline

- 905-771-5487

City facility closures and recreation program cancellations

York Region Roads

- 1-877-464-9675, ext. 75200

Snow removal on regional roads

York Region Transit/Viva

- 905-762-2100

Snow removal at bus stops

Operations Centre

- 1200 Elgin Mills Road East

HOW TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY

If you've been the victim of a crime, or witnessed a crime, YRP needs to know about it right away
[Online Reporting - York Regional Police \(yrp.ca\)](https://www.yrp.ca)

For non-emergencies

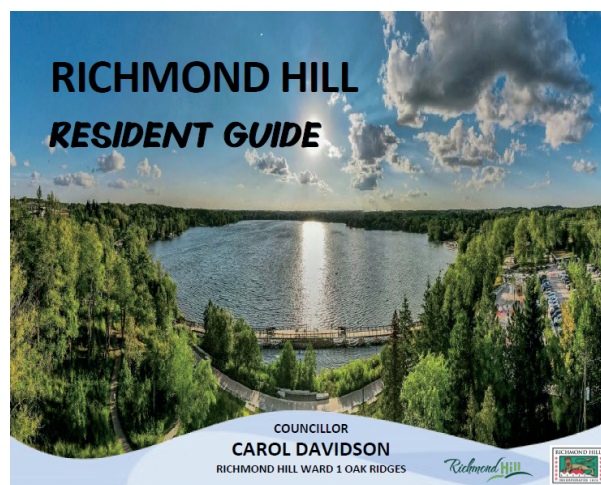
dial 1-866-876-5423 to request an officer attend your location

For non-emergent public inquiries

contact a #2 District front desk operator by dialing 1-866-876-5423 ext. 7200

Report In-Person Open 24/7

YRP 2 District 171 Major Mackenzie Drive West Richmond Hill, ON L4C 5J1



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your
Resident
Guide?



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Weekly email
Wrap Up
every Friday.
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Know.



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