

# ABRH Newsletter - May 17, 2022

## 1. Clean Up Green Up

Our Clean Up Green Up event on April 30, 2022 was very successful. Mayor David West, Regional and Local Councillor Joe DiPaola and Ward 4 Councillor Raika Sheppard attended and helped us clean up. Thank you to Raika for the refreshments. We also had about 25 others attend. We filled 19 bags of garbage and Rumble Pond Park looks a lot nicer. Thanks to all those who participated and thanks to the waste management team for picking up our garbage bags.

## 2. Provincial versus Municipal Mandates

After the budget was announced on Thursday April 28, 2022 (which will not be discussed nor passed until after the election), the writ was dropped for the election. We will keep you informed about the issues to watch (see below for a list of various issues), but already we need to remember the issue about the High Tech Transit Oriented Community (TOC) which allows for very high density and heights as well as much fewer jobs, less parkland and trails, and no allocation for Affordable Housing, contrary to what the Richmond Hill Centre Secondary Plan had envisioned.

The EMZO (Enhanced Ministers Zoning Order) is a Provincial government strategy that eliminates public input and, in this case limits municipal input, thus deteriorating our democratic process. Even after a meeting with our MPP Daisy Wai, we did not receive any further input from the key players in this government.

The AIP (Agreement-In-Principle) formulated by the Ontario government binds the municipality to financial and other criteria that limit the input of municipalities in the future. The municipalities have lost control over their community benefits and their determination of Affordable Housing in these developments. In regards to the AIP, Markham has outrightly said they will not approve it. Richmond Hill determined their stand on April 29, 2022 with the passing of the following motion:

### [SRCM.22.05 - Inter-governmental Agreement in Principle for Yonge North Subway Extension TOC Sites Update](#)

- a) That staff report SRCM.22.05 dated April 29, 2022, titled Inter-governmental Agreement in Principle for Yonge North Subway Extension Transit Oriented Community Sites Update, and the explicitly confidential Inter-governmental Agreement-in-Principle for the Yonge North Subway Extension Transit Oriented Communities sites - Term Sheet (supplied to Members of Council under separate confidential cover as required by the Government of Ontario and protected under Section 9(1)(b) of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*), be received;
- b) That Council authorize the City Manager or designate to further negotiate and execute a final Inter-governmental Agreement in Principle for the Yonge North Subway Extension Transit Oriented Community sites based on the terms outlined in staff report SRCM.22.05; and,
- c) That Council authorize the City Manager or designate to negotiate the Site Specific Memorandum of Understanding for the High Tech TOC site and report back for Council direction.

### 3. May 26, 2022 Markham council meeting re TOCs

Markham council rejected the Agreement in Principle (AIP), asked the minister to revoke the MZO, and called for a public meeting to talk about the TOC and invite all parties in York Region to attend.

The structure of the meeting will include

- an initial presentation on the TOC, then
- responses by politicians and
- delegations from the public.

This will be a joint in-person and online meeting. A number of speakers from the public are needed to express the residents' concerns with this issue and the way it has been handled by the Ontario government.

This meeting will be held in- person on May 26, 2022 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Markham Council Chambers and will also be online. Delegations and submissions will be accepted at [Electronic Council Meeting \(markham.ca\)](#) until 12:00 noon, Wednesday May 25, 2022.

### 4. Important news articles

The following are important news articles, the impact of which should be considered when you vote both in the Ontario (June) and Municipal (October) elections:

a) Ontario

[Ontario issues orders to fast-track developments in Richmond Hill, Markham amid rising criticism | The Star](#)

[Livability questioned as large-scale transit hub project green-lit in Markham, Richmond Hill | The Star](#)

[Opinion Ontario Premier Doug Ford should not be given another term - The Washington Post \(1\).pdf](#)

[2022 Ontario general election - Wikipedia](#) (this is an interesting article giving lots of information about ALL parties)

[Where the Ontario election race will be run — and won | CBC News](#)

[Policy Announcements – Ontario Liberal Party](#)

[Where the Major Political Parties Stand on the Environment - Ontario Nature](#)

**Please also consider options for strategic voting:**

<https://www.blogto.com/city/2022/05/strategic-voting-ontario-2022/Vote Them All Out>

b) Municipal

[Mystery surrounds a Richmond Hill chief of staff's post as Sunshine List reports a salary of \\$230,000 in 2021 \(yorkregion.com\)](#)

[Follow the Money! Proposed development at Major Mac/404 \(cagrichmondhill.com\)](#)

[Richmond Hill votes not to enter into agreement in principle on High Tech TOC by province's deadline \(yorkregion.com\)](#)

## **5. Meet the Candidates for the Ontario Election**

See the following links so you can be informed about issues related to the Ontario election:

[Provincial Election Debate - with an Environmental Focus | OnRichmondHill](#) (online only)

[All Candidates Meeting for the Richmond Hill Riding | OnRichmondHill](#) (in-person only)

**The Ontario Provincial Election is on Thursday June 2, 2022.**

**In the next few weeks, let's become informed voters.**