

# Whereabouts of Rex a cause of concern in Stouffville

There's concern once again in our town as to the whereabouts and the overall welfare of a man who has become an institution in recent years.

Rex could hardly be called a favourite son of Stouffville, as he's never really done anything to distinguish himself. He hasn't sat on town council,

he never headed up the local chamber of commerce, and he's certainly never organized a fundraising drive for any of our local charities.

But he's become as much an essential part of the backdrop of this town as the clock tower, the old homes on Main St., and even the renowned

flea market.

For years now Rex - that's the only name he's ever given out - has been riding back and forth along Main St. on his clunky old bike, with a string of IGA shopping bags, thought to contain all his earthly possessions, dangling from the handle bars. His

unshaven face is slightly grizzled with age, he wears a black toque on his head summer and winter, and his old ski jacket is always zipped up.

His shoes don't match, his pants are about four inches too short, and his trusty broom, which rests across the



From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

handle bars, is worn out from sweeping the snow from the storefronts of the local businessmen who keep him in spending money.

He's probably in better shape than any of us working stiffs, as he has been seen riding his bike as far away as Agincourt as he does his daily rounds.

Rex is sure to show up whenever there's a pot luck supper in any of our local churches. Herb Gale, the former pastor at St. James Presbyterian Church, said Rex would sometimes stop by at midday for a cup of coffee.

Other times Rex would splurge and buy himself a coffee at the Country Club donut shop on Main St., then linger an hour or so to soak up the heat.

But wherever he goes, his first, and usually only words, upon entering a building are "Warm in here!", a phrase he has become famous for.

Rex has always refused offers of accommodation, choosing to live on his own in the bush, or wherever it was he bunks down at night. At one point, he had made an old shed beside a local welding shop his home, but had to eventually abandon that domicile. I've seen him in the bank, and it's pretty well accepted he has sufficient means to keep from starving.

He has been at the centre of many rumours concerning his past.

In fact I once heard he was a former bank executive who chose to chuck it all. He was rumoured to have perished in a frigid storm last winter, but soon resurfaced to dispel such fears. That little scare even caused him to be the subject of a sermon by a local minister.

But it would appear Rex has flown the coop again. It's been a couple of months since I last saw him cycling past my Main St. office, and with all the time I spend staring out the window in search of inspiration, I don't miss much.

A quick call around of his favourite haunts left me just as much in the dark as when I started.

Marie Adams, who operates the Country Club donut shop, said she hasn't seen him since August. Surely he hadn't met his demise, I wondered.

But Dennis Crittenden, who operates a carpet store on Main St., came to the rescue. Dennis said he saw Rex peddling across the 404 overpass on the Aurora Sideroad last week.

According to Dennis, the old timer frequents a hostel in Newmarket, and has probably been hanging out in that town of late.

It may well be that after five or six years Rex has tired of Stouffville. After all, every vagabond needs a change of scenery now and then.

## ELECTORAL WARD BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT REVIEW

On Tuesday, November 2, 1993 the Council of the Town of Markham will hold a Public Meeting for the purpose of reviewing existing Ward boundaries within the Town. Such a review must be undertaken by Council prior to the Town making application to the Ontario Municipal Board for an Order redefining existing Ward boundaries.

The purpose of the meeting is to obtain public input on a proposal for the realignment of existing Electoral Ward boundaries as shown on the attached map and to consider a staff report supporting this concept.

The Public Meeting will be held as a Special Meeting of the Town Council. All interested persons are invited to attend the Public Meeting to be held on:

Tuesday, November 2, 1993  
7:30 p.m.

Council Chambers  
Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
(north west corner Warden Ave./Hwy. #7)

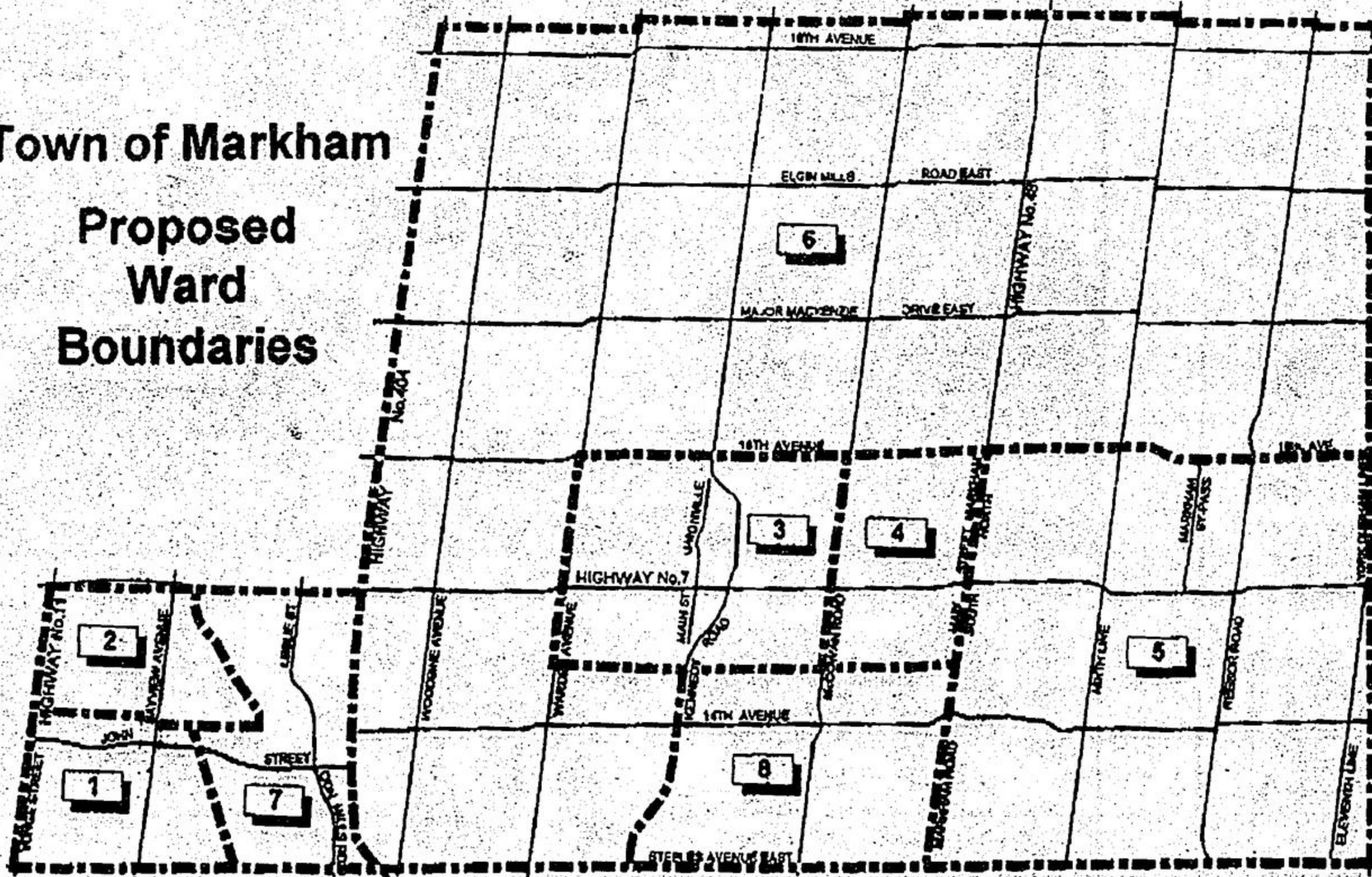
Members of the public will be given an opportunity to comment on the Ward Boundary Review, as well, written submissions may be delivered or mailed to the Town Clerk at the following address:

Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, Ontario  
L3R 9W3

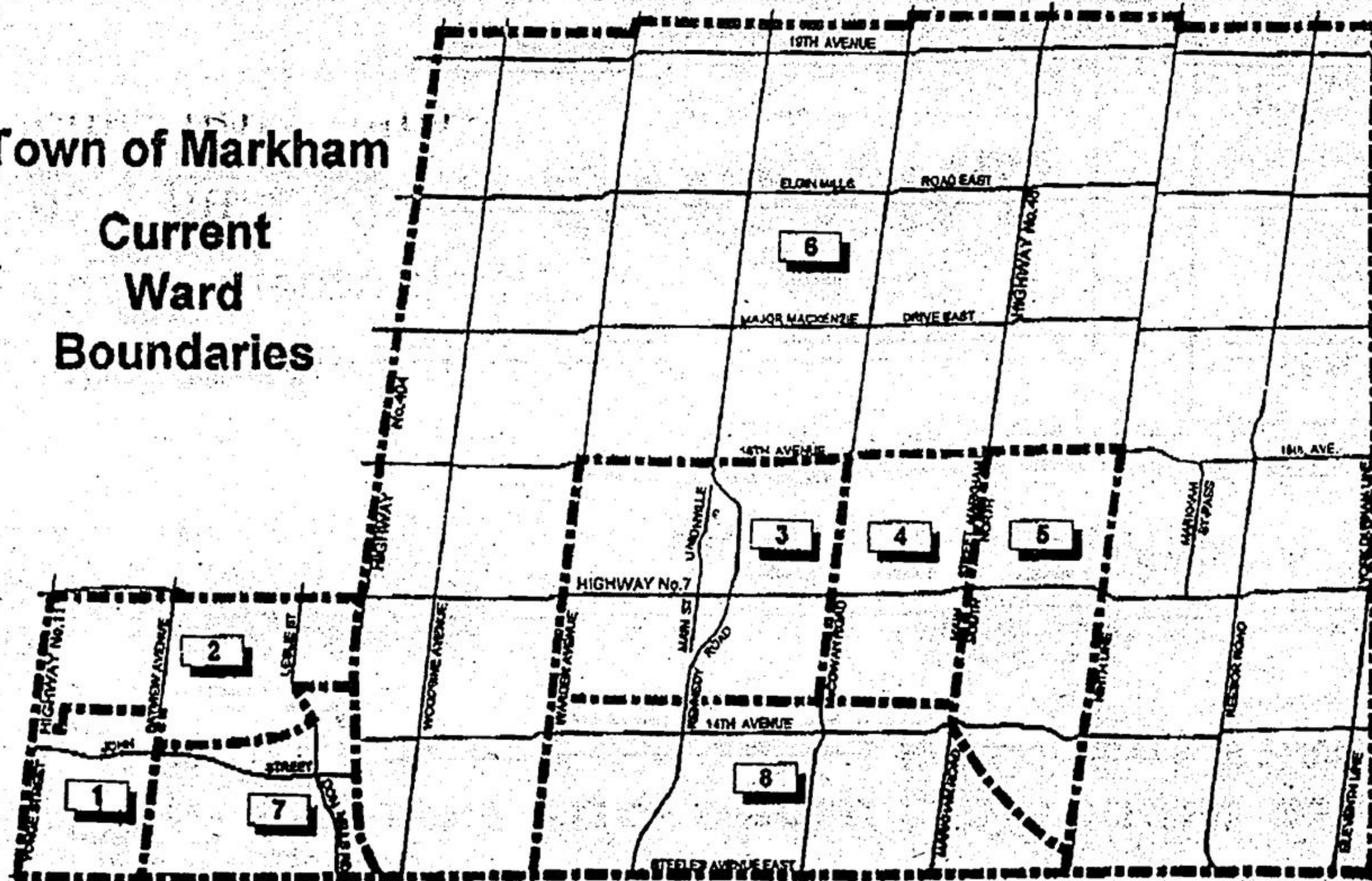
Copies of the staff report are available to the public at the Town Clerk's Office at the above-noted address or by calling (905) 475-4729.

R. Panizza  
Town Clerk

Town of Markham  
Proposed  
Ward  
Boundaries



Town of Markham  
Current  
Ward  
Boundaries



**MARKHAM**