



Town of Markham Information



**VISION 2000 REPORTS  
MARKHAM COUNCIL ACTS**

To meet the challenges of our vibrant and growing community, Markham Mayor Don Cousens and Council formed the Vision 2000 Task Force, a joint Council/Community committee, in October 1999.

"People want to live and work here. However, they were telling us that with growth and prosperity come challenges of development management, infrastructure planning and service delivery," says Mayor Cousens. "That's why we made this bold move."

As part of the nine-month process, the Task Force studied what was done in the past, and looked at current market initiatives. Council held information meetings, conducted interviews and ran focus groups before the polling firm Environics conducted a telephone survey.

**SUMMARY OF POLLING RESULTS**

- Eight in ten residents say Markham is a better place to live than most areas in the Greater Toronto Area. Those who were surveyed told Environics, who did the telephone poll, they like Markham's 'small town' feeling and our services.
- Residents believe the environment and a feeling of safety and belonging are the most important factors in creating a good community.
- Three-quarters of residents are confident Markham has a plan in place to manage growth; six in ten agree the Town pays adequate attention to the needs of established neighbourhoods and business districts, however opinion is divided on whether there is sufficient public information on new developments and whether residents have sufficient opportunities for input into the planning of the new developments.
- Seven in ten residents are satisfied with the quality and appearance of new residential developments in Markham.
- More than five in ten residents think Markham is growing too quickly; four in ten are comfortable with the rate of growth.
- Overdevelopment and traffic lead the list of top-of-mind concerns according to the poll. They are far ahead of such issues as roads, public transit, crime, pollution, taxes and education.
- Things that residents say should have a major impact on planning decisions include: easing traffic congestion; protecting the environment and having first-rate health care facilities.
- A majority of 63 percent of residents support the idea of a new downtown-type city centre at Warden and Highway 7.

**MARKHAM COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS**

As part of actions following receipt of the Vision 2000 task force report, Markham Council, at its July 11 meeting, passed recommendations which call for:

- The survey results to be considered in the ongoing review of Town work programs and budget and in particular to the planing and development of Markham Centre (Warden Ave. & Hwy. 7).
- The Town to organize a symposium for early 2001 to further engage the Markham public and community development experts in a broadly-based discussion on the key result areas of the survey
- Development of a series of recommendations out of the symposium which will be part of Council's and the Town's corporate strategic plans
- The monitoring of key quality of life indicators at regular intervals (about 18 months).

Members of the Vision 2000 Task Force were: Mayor Don Cousens; Deputy Mayor Frank Scarpitti; Planning Chair Councillor Bill O'Donnell; Mary Anne Macdonald, a local realtor and resident; Bob Baird, a professional engineer and ratepayer president; Alfred Szeto, a local architect; Dalo Keliar, former Town Commissioner of Community Services and resident; Mary Frances Turner, Commissioner of Development Services and Jim Baird, Director of Planning for the Town.

**THE WAY AHEAD**

The Vision 2000 report and results allows Council to confirm with the Markham public a clear understanding of the forces affecting our growth, gain public input on the character and pace of growth and make recommendations to ensure that future growth in Markham will occur only in a manner consistent with shared community values and objectives, notes Mayor Cousens.

Copies of the survey summary are available by calling the Town at (905) 479-7754.

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Markham Theatre



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- JULY 27 - MEDIEVAL FAIR
- AUGUST 8 - THE 3RS
- AUGUST 10 - SHEEP TO SHAWL



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