

# \$1 billion in construction due for Markham

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Staff Writer

More than \$1 billion worth of construction will occur across the town of Markham in 2002, bringing with it almost 6,000 new residents in 2,500 units.

Construction in Markham Centre, between Warden Avenue and Kennedy Road on the south side of Hwy. 7 will begin next year, with the construction of 350 new residential units of a total approved 1,250.

"We're looking forward to the first residential phase in Markham Centre commencing," said Mary Frances Turner, Markham planning commissioner.

"It will be a combination of lowrise towns and medium to highrise units. Market forces will drive the office tenants within Markham Centre; it's too early to make that call."

As Markham Centre begins to unfold, the town will continue its dialogue with residents north of Hwy. 7 and around Unionville Main Street, who are worried about road connections leading to traffic infiltration in their neighbourhoods, Turner said.

Also look for new housing on the northwest corner of Hwy. 7 and Town Centre Boulevard, beginning in the

fall of 2002, Turner added, as well as the ongoing construction in Cornell, Angus Glen, Berczy, Wismer and Greensborough subdivisions north of 16th Avenue.

Infrastructure, sewers, roads, sidewalks, required to support construction this year is estimated at \$250 million.

On the retail side, a \$22 million urban Main Street has been planned for Milliken, at Hwy. 48 and old 14th Avenue, centred around such retailers as Canadian Tire, McDonald's, Home Depot and Kelsey's. Look for construction to begin in late spring.

"It's not just another place for big boxes, it will be an urban Main Street," Turner said.

"We are making sure there's excellence in the architecture and good, consistent frontages so it doesn't turn into a corporate free-for-all."

"Each building will be harmonized architecturally and the streetscape will include trees, benches, and flowers that will give a sense of entry into Markham."

There will be further retail and commercial revitalization behind the old Toys 'R Us site on Denison Street, west of Kennedy Road, Turner said.

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