Standing Up for Thornhill

Thornhill is a remarkable community, and protecting what makes it special has always been one of my highest priorities.

As our community grows, I have consistently advocated for thoughtful, well-planned development that respects existing neighbourhoods, protects our quality of life, and ensures residents have a meaningful voice. I have stood up against inappropriate intensification, pressed for improvements to development proposals, and fought for the roads, parks, community facilities, and infrastructure needed to support growth.

I have also worked tirelessly to ensure the Yonge North Subway Extension is planned and built in a way that protects Thornhill. Working together with residents, **I successfully persuaded Metrolinx to change its tunnel alignment, reducing the number of affected homes from 40 to 20 and other impacted properties from 23 to 15**. I also advocated for subway stations at Clark Avenue and Royal Orchard Boulevard, ensuring Thornhill residents will benefit from convenient access to rapid transit for decades to come.

I also proposed an alternative to Metrolinx's original plan to expropriate three metres from the rear yards of four homes for **Emergency Exit Building #4** of the YNSE at Yonge and John Streets. The revised approach places the building and its underground infrastructure entirely on publicly owned land, **eliminating the need to expropriate private property**.

Whether at Markham Council, York Region, or with the Province and its agencies, I remain committed to standing up for Thornhill, protecting the character of our community, championing the interests of residents, and helping shape an even stronger future because Thornhill deserves trusted leadership, strong advocacy, and proven results.

Leading a community walk with Metrolinx to help protect Thornhill's interests

Helping Prepare Markham's Future

I have long believed that building a stronger community means planning for the future while delivering results today. That approach has guided my work as **Chair of the Board of Markham District Energy (MDE)**, a city-owned thermal energy utility providing efficient heating and cooling services to 15 million square feet of condominiums, businesses and institutions, including Markham Stouffville Hospital, York University and Bill Crothers Secondary School.

As Board Chair, I have helped guide MDE through a period of growth and transformation, including supporting a **$60 million investment to build the world's largest Wastewater Energy Transfer project** at MDE's Low Carbon Energy Centre. On track to be operational by year-end, the facility will reduce reliance on natural gas, lower greenhouse gas emissions and advance Markham's long-term net-zero goals.

I have also strengthened MDE's future by recruiting four new Board members and leading the search and appointment of a new President and CEO, ensuring strong leadership focused on reliable service, innovation and value for residents.

Breaking ground on the WET Project

"Keith is one of those rare, elected officials whose **leadership, integrity, and commitment** truly set him apart. I have been deeply impressed by his ability to navigate complex issues, listen thoughtfully to differing views, and make decisions genuinely in the best interests of Thornhill.

I am grateful that he has been our Councillor and that he is seeking re-election. **He has been our light in some very dark days.**"

— **Alice Young,** Senior public servant and long-time Thornhill resident, volunteer and community leader

Visit keithirish.ca
to see my Videos and Endorsements

How you can help

With your help I know we will continue accomplishing great things for Ward 1 and our city. There are lots of ways you can make a difference: volunteer, donate, host a lawn sign.

May we place a small sign on your lawn?

Please let us know at **www.keithirish.ca** or by email to **keith@keithirish.ca**

Markham Voting Days: October 16 - 26, 2026

Election Day is October 26. Online voting is available October 16-26.
More information: **markham.ca/elections**
Contact: **905-477-7000, ext. 8683** or by email to **vote@markham.ca**

RE-ELECT
KEITH
IRISH
COUNCILLOR WARD 1
MARKHAM
WWW.KEITHIRISH.CA

@KeithIrish1 **@keith.irish** **@keith.irish**

Get involved at
www.keithirish.ca

RE-ELECT
KEITH
IRISH
COUNCILLOR WARD 1

Dear Residents,

Serving as your Ward 1 Councillor has been one of the greatest honours of my life. Every decision I make at Markham Council is guided by respect for our community, a commitment to public service, and a belief that local government can make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Thornhill is more than where we live. It is a community built on strong neighbourhoods, beautiful parks and natural spaces, caring residents, and a shared sense of belonging. Protecting what makes our community special while preparing for the future has been central to my work.

Over the past term, I have advocated for responsible planning, safer streets, improved parks and recreational spaces, environmental stewardship, and investments that enhance our quality of life.

Public service requires more than attending meetings and casting votes. It requires listening, understanding complex issues, making difficult decisions with integrity, and having the experience, judgment and courage to stand up for our community's long-term interests.

The years ahead will bring important choices as we manage growth, renew infrastructure, strengthen neighbourhoods, and respond to changing needs. **I believe experience matters. Steady leadership matters. A proven record of delivering results matters.**

I am passionate about serving our community.

Thank you for your trust and confidence. With your support, I will continue protecting what we cherish, pursuing improvements, and ensuring Thornhill remains an exceptional place to call home for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Keith

Protecting a Thornhill Landmark: Shouldice Hospital Lands

Working with Mayor Scarpitti, I helped secure Council's approval in 2022 for the City of Markham to acquire the entire 22.4-acre Shouldice Hospital property at 7750 Bayview Avenue. This landmark achievement protected the lands from a proposed five-tower condominium redevelopment (comprising 1,287 units and 858 parking spaces), preserved their unique and historic character, and created an extraordinary opportunity to expand public parkland for generations of Thornhill residents to enjoy.

I remain committed to the construction of a safe pedestrian crossing from the Shouldice property to Pomona Mills Park, near the tennis courts.

While the hospital continues to operate on the property under a long-term lease, **the community now has the certainty that this remarkable site is permanently protected**.

This is especially meaningful to me. As a young boy, my father was a patient at Shouldice. I never could have imagined then that I would one day play such a pivotal role in the future of this special place.

Keith at the time his father was a Shouldice patient

Safer Streets. Stronger Infrastructure. A Better Thornhill.

- **Made crossing Steeles Avenue safer** by championing new traffic control signals at Waggoners Wells Lane, improving safety for pedestrians crossing five lanes of traffic and for motorists travelling east and west on Steeles Avenue.
- **Reduced congestion on John Street** by securing dedicated left-turn lanes at Steelcase Road, improving traffic flow for motorists and public transit while helping reduce gridlock in and out of Thornhill.
- **Improved safety at Laureleaf Road and Steeles Avenue** by overseeing the installation of eight permanent safety bollards to prevent dangerous corner-cutting and illegal turning movements that placed pedestrians at risk.
- **Successfully advocated for ending Markham's moratorium on speed bumps/cushions,** allowing these proven traffic-calming measures to be installed on Thornhill streets where they are needed.
- **Delivered new sidewalks on Grandview Avenue and one soon to be constructed on Jewell Street,** providing safer walking routes in neighbourhoods where pedestrian infrastructure had long been lacking.
- **Worked with St. Robert Catholic High School and the York Region Catholic District School Board** to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety at the school's Leslie Street entrance and exit.
- **Secured seven new pedestrian crossovers across Thornhill,** enhancing pedestrian safety while helping reduce vehicle speeds on neighbourhood streets.
- **Improved safety on Royal Orchard Boulevard** through redesign of the cycling lanes and narrowing vehicle lanes to help calm traffic and reduce speeding.
- **Expanded 40 km/h community safety zones** with new signage on Henderson Avenue, Romfield Circuit, Baymark Road, Steele Valley Road and Sprucewood Drive, creating safer neighbourhood streets.
- **Helped residents promote road safety** by personally delivering 150 free "Slow Down" lawn signs throughout Thornhill.

The new dedicated left turn lanes at John and Steelcase

Keeping You Informed & Engaged

One of the commitments I made when first elected was to keep residents informed about issues affecting their daily lives. That is why I launched **Ward 1 News**, providing timely updates on local issues, community events, traffic and road improvements, development proposals, parks, environmental initiatives, provincial legislation and important decisions at Markham Council.

Residents often tell me they regard my newsletter as "news they can use" and eagerly anticipate each edition. It provides clear, practical information about the issues and decisions shaping our community.

Since being elected, I have published **14 editions of Ward 1 News**, delivered to every Thornhill household and distributed by email to subscribing residents. I also launched markhamward1.ca as an additional source of community information.

I remain committed to open, accessible communication, ensuring residents stay informed, engaged and connected to the decisions affecting the community we proudly call home.

Looking Ahead: What I will Champion for Thornhill

Protecting Neighbourhoods
Moderating development and preserving what makes Thornhill special.

Improving Parks and Public Spaces
Expanding greenspace and enhancing community amenities.

Delivering Safer Streets
Improving pedestrian safety, traffic flow and road infrastructure.

Sound Fiscal Management
Keeping property taxes low while investing in essential services and infrastructure.

Around Ward 1

With Mayor Scarpitti at the opening of William Cox Park

At the installation of the new Huntington Park pedestrian bridge

Placing the first of 150 free "Slow Down" lawn signs

Accepting plaques from Pomona Valley residents following the purchase of the Shouldice property

A Strong Voice Representing You

These are my 2022 – 2026 committee assignments:

Standing Committees

- Markham Council
- General Committee (the first Ward Councillor appointed Chair)
- Development Services Committee
- Land, Building & Parks Committee (Vice Chair)
- Development Services Policy Sub-Committee

Markham District Energy Inc.

- Board Chair
- Finance & Audit Committee
- Human Resources & Governance Committee

Advisory and Statutory Boards and Committees

- German Mills Community Centre
- German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat Liaison Committee (Chair)
- Heintzman House
- Heritage Markham (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee)
- Markham Enterprises Corporation
- Thornhill Sub-Committee

Delivering **5 New Thornhill Parks and Playgrounds**

25+ Acres
of new public parks and green space added in just 8 years

- **Shouldice lands** (at 7750 Bayview Avenue): 22.4 acres
- **William Cox Park** (15 Harold Lawrie Lane): 0.79 acres
- **Barney Danson Park** (11 Grandview Avenue): 0.73 acres
- **Kerry Stratton Commons** (328 John Street): 0.65 acres
- **George McCullagh Park** (345 Royal Orchard Blvd.): 0.49 acres

New features and playground refurbishments in **20 parks across Thornhill**

Growing Sustainability

$37.5M in flood control program work completed in West Thornhill in 8 years

4 electric vehicle charging stations at Thornhill Community Centre

$2.3M renovation of Thornlea Pool

2 "Little Free Libraries" established in Thornhill (at Cakebread Park and near Stately Way)

22 m pedestrian span bridge installed over German Mills Creek in Huntington Park

1200+ new trees planted across Thornhill in 8 years

$6.4M in Energy Efficient Upgrades

- Thornhill Community Centre consumption reduced **25.9%**
- RJ Clatworthy Arena consumption reduced **28.7%**
- Overall reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, annually:

405 tonnes CO_2 at Thornhill Community Centre

56.4 tonnes CO_2 at RJ Clatworthy Arena

Volunteering at McDonald's in support of McHappy Day and Ronald McDonald House Charities

@KeithIrish1 **@keith.irish** **@keith.irish**

Get involved at
www.keithirish.ca