

## Markham Village Music Festival '06

June 16 & 17, Markham Main Street - Story Page 2



©Keith Thirgood & Helen Walter, Capstone Communications Group



**A Grand opening Markham YMCA...**  
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**Showing Canada our Community Pride...**  
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## Heavy truck ban lifts weight from Main Street

by Elizabeth Plashkes  
Main Street Markham Committee

They're huge, they're scary and...they're gone! Those big gravel trucks thundering down Main Street will be a thing of the past on June 1st as the bylaw to ban heavy trucks from Main Street Markham goes into effect. Trucks traveling through town that weigh over three tonnes empty or five tonnes loaded will be required to avoid the Town's historic Main Street Markham Village between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue. The regulation is intended to restore some peace and quiet to the sensitive area, where residents and merchants have shared Markham Village's central avenue for 150 years.

The street will remain a busy thoroughfare as Markhamites move about their community. But now, pedestrians will feel safe and comfortable as they stroll the street. The pretty sidewalks, gardens and parkettes will welcome citizens and visitors to sit a while, to enjoy the beauty of the historic village with its Victorian era shops, offices and homes. It will be possible to converse in normal tones when you meet your neighbour at Robinson and Main. And you may consider



Photo by: Steve Molloy

once again the pleasure of a summer evening dinner on a Main Street patio.

Getting trucks off Main Street will raise cheers on the side streets, too. Resident Donna Wigmore, a Peter Street resi-

dent, anticipates the changes happily. "The sound of a big truck slamming into a manhole cover at 3 am is something we can do without. Combined with the screech of the retarder brakes, sometimes it sounds like

a war zone." says Ms. Wigmore. "One of my Main Street neighbours reports that the heavy trucks cause vibrations in the plumbing and foundation of her heritage home."

Continued on page 8

## Markham Rodeo: a crowd pleaser!



Photo by: Roger Carlsen Photography



Photo by: Roger Carlsen Photography

# Music Festival returns to Main Street



by Keith Thirgood

On June 16th and 17th, Main Street Markham is the place to be if you enjoy music, dance and food. It's the place to be for the global village experience, complete with the undeniable appeal of the classic rock we all love, the haunting melodies of South American flute, the jamming rhythms of the Caribbean, jazz riffs and latest urban sounds and dance moves - and much, much more. And that's just the music. Then there's the serious festival bargain shopping (hey, as some of us know, shopping can be very entertaining) and tons of entertainment for the kids at Morgan Park.

Mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, June 16th and 17th, when the 28th annual, Markham Village Music Festival hits Main Street Markham Village. (Markham Road north of Hwy #7)

As usual, Main Street Markham will be closed to auto traffic and open for fun and shopping on Friday evening and all day Saturday (9 am - 6 pm).

Taste of Markham returns to the Festival on Friday evening, from 6 until 10 pm. Complete with fabulous food and entertainment from the diverse ethnic communities that make up Markham. Join your neighbours and come for dinner and sample cuisine from around the world. Be entertained by our many diverse cultural communities including Chinese, Indian, Caribbean, Macedonian, Filipino and many more. Relax for a while at one of the pubs or restaurants on Main Street. Shop till you drop at the international craft booths or visit one of the retail businesses that have Festival Specials for the weekend. Be sure to bring your camera for some colourful shots!

On Saturday, from 9 am until 6 pm, six stages of entertainment bring you

the best of local and regional entertainers. You'll enjoy Rock & Roll, Celtic, Jazz, Big Band, Alternative, HipHop, Folk, Children's and more. And if you want to do more than watch and listen, you can learn to move your body to salsa music Friday night and Saturday morning. A number of performers have already been confirmed and you can find a complete schedule on our web site [www.markham-festival.org](http://www.markham-festival.org).

A few of the acts on Saturday include award-winning guitarist Jamie Bonk, the dynamic Jeanine Mackie & the Bluetones, Eighty Eight and straight from Niagara

Falls via New York, The Anti-Q's, The Rob Christian Jazz Trio, Phil & Debbie Howes, Markham Concert Band, What About Bob, Gypsygrass and the Not Affiliated Big Band are among the local groups returning to our stages.

More than 100 craft and food booths will line the street offering unique one-of-a-kind items from jewellery to painted mailboxes and much more. The pub patios will be open for you to enjoy a refreshing drink. The Markham Farmers' Market will be open all day on Robinson Street for you to stock up on fresh vegetables, fruit,

meat and baking. Enjoy breakfast at the Farmers' Market Grill.

At the top of Main Street, there will be a Game of S-K-A-T-E for your teenage skateboarders.

Not to be left out, there will be children's activities in Morgan Park. Organized by Grace Church, the park will be alive with carnival rides all weekend long from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. On Saturday, there will be a petting zoo where your little ones can feed the animals. Morgan Park Pool, one of the few outdoor pools in Markham, will offer free swimming all day



Saturday.

[www.markham-festival.org](http://www.markham-festival.org)

For more information, call 905-472-2022 or visit

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# What's New: In Markham Village



Photo by: Steve Molloy

See page 8 for story and celebration pic-

## The Markham Village Voice - Dog Photo Contest

Thanks to everyone who submitted a photo of your babies (contest deadline was June 1st). We have received a number of adorable dog photos and picking the winners will be tough, but fun. Our assistant judge, Sully (above) has already reported on the difficult choices!



in the July issue of the Village Voice.

### Farmers' Market Annual Dog Day:

Bring your dog to Robinson and Main Street and let her strut her stuff at the

Markham Farmers' Market Dog Day. There's fierce competition in categories such as longest ears, best talker, best trick, shortest legs, best dressed and many others. Every dog has his day. Let your dog's be June 10 at the Markham Farmers' Market. Competition will follow photo contest awards at 10:30 am.

We look forward to seeing you and your pooch on June 10th!

Winners of the first, second and third prizes, will be notified by phone before June 6th and be asked to attend the Market on Saturday June 10th at the Farmers' Market Dog Day to receive their prizes and be photographed. The winning photos will be published

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## Michelle's Corner..



## Village Activities for All

Markham Village is full of excitement this time of year.

The Music Festival Committee is busy pulling this 28th Annual event together for June 16 & 17.

The Farmers' Market kicked off Mother's Day weekend and will run each Saturday until October 7th.

To top off an already exciting season, the Town of Markham has passed a by-law that bans heavy trucks on Main Street Markham

between Highway 7 and 16th Ave. This anxiously anticipated truck ban took effect June 1st.

What an enormous achievement for Main Street! Businesses, residents and pedestrians can now enjoy their environment without the invasive noise created by trucks.

You will still see trucks on the street doing local deliveries and the like, but getting the majority of heavy ones off will make a tremendous improvement to the noise and

vibration levels.

Finally, the street will move towards a more pedestrian-friendly environment and the Main Street Vision (a plan created to beautify and improve Main St. Markham) will start to take shape.

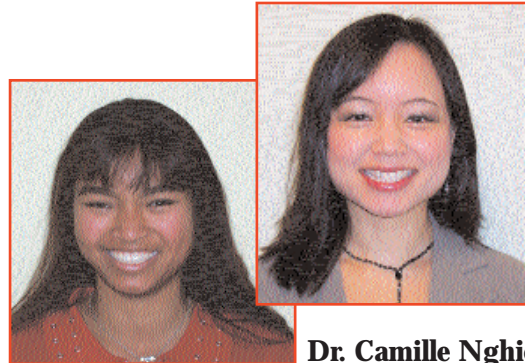
Thank you to the Main Street Markham Committee, the Markham Village BIA, the Town of Markham Staff and Markham Council for this accomplishment. Finally! We can open our doors!

## Welcome... New Owner for Focus on Flowers

The new owner of Focus on Flowers, Markham resident, Lynn Yuen has 28 years experience as a floral designer and is happy to be on Main Street. You can be sure to experience the same great quality and friendly service. 116 Main St. 905-471-7000



## Village Wellness Clinic Welcomes:

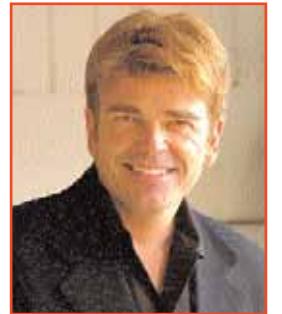


**Dr. Camille Nghiem-Phu, B.Sc., N.D.**, (above, right) is a registered and licensed naturopathic doctor and runs two naturopathic family practices in the GTA (Markham and North York). Her practices focus on women's health, pediatrics, and chronic illness.

**Lienne Cole RMT** (above, left), is happy to join the Village Wellness Clinic. She specializes in myofascial release and sukoto. Lienne is also a certified personal trainer, and treats sports injuries." 11 Joseph St. 905-471-5311

## Welcome... Roger Carlsen Photo Studio

Roger Carlsen recently moved his photography studio back to 114B Main Street. From weddings and portraits to fashion and special events, Carlsen's lens has captured a generation of life in Markham. "I love being in the heart of the community," says Carlsen. His portfolio ([www.rogercarlsenphotography.com](http://www.rogercarlsenphotography.com)) also extends well beyond Markham, featuring various famous subjects such as Celine Dion, Frank Stronach and our current PM, Stephen Harper. "I actually got a huge smile from him." 114 B Main Street 905-294-2722



## Dr. Rory Hunter Welcomes:



**Dr. Kelly Sam Chu** is an associate general dentist joining the team of Dr. Rory Hunter. She is fluent in English, French, and Cantonese. Her goal is to provide high quality dental care in a stress free environment." 34A Main St. 905-294-3444

## Markham Village Voice

This publication is produced seven times a year by the Markham Village BIA, as a service to the community on behalf of the merchants of Markham Village. The views and opinions expressed in the Village Voice are not necessarily those of the publisher, editor, the Markham Village BIA or its members. All portions of The Markham Village Voice are protected by copyright. Ownership of photos is retained by the photographers, however, the Markham Village B.I.A. does retain the right to freely use such photos in other Markham Village B.I.A. promotional activities. Photo credits will be published with such pictures. Articles are copywritten to Markham Village B.I.A. except by prior arrangement or in the case of previously copywritren material published with permission.

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# New Banners for Markham Main Street

The merchants of Main Street, through the BIA, have again brightened downtown Markham Village. Take a walk down Main Street and you'll see that everything old is new again. The new series of banners on our street features five photographs from the village's past (1900 - 1930). The BIA approached local mar-

keting firm Capstone Communications Group to donate their design skills to come up with new banners. Markham Museum generously provided the historic village photos.

**From left to right:**

1. Laura and Clara Reesor posed on for this photo around 1900, with the Town Hall in the



background.

2. Mr. and Mrs. Ross Gowland and their little boy Donald are seen at the entrance to their Superior Store, circa 1930. The shop stood at 240 Main Street North.

3. John Wilson's Boot and Shoe Shop at the corner of Dublin and Main, once again sells boots and shoes.

## A Corner of Our History...



4. The owners and customers of Vanzant & Reesor Hardware, pictured at about 1873. The

building was eventually lost to a fire. It was replaced by the Wideman Building at 85

Main St. North.

5. The Markham Village Brass Band posing proudly, circa 1900.

## Markham Calendar of Events

**June 2006**

- 1 Heavy Truck Ban on Main Street Begins
- 3 Farmers' Market and Truck Ban Celebration
- 3-4 Unionville Village Festival
- 4-10 Canadian Environment Week
- 7 Clean Air Day
- 10 Farmer's Market Dog Day and Dog Photo Contest Awards
- 12 Philippines Independence Day
- 12 Mayor's Seniors Hall of Fame Awards

- 16-17 Markham Village Music Festival
- 18 Father's Day
- 21 First Day of Summer
- 21 National Aboriginal Day
- 24 Farmers' Market Tiny Talent Day

**July 2006**

- 1 Canada Day
- 1 Markham Canada Day Celebrations at Milne Park
- 1 Farmers' Market

- 1 Varley Gallery - Canada Day Art Activities
- 1 Markham Museum - Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 7-9 Rotary Ribfest - Markham Fairgrounds

- 8 Urban Fishing Festival (Toogood Pond)
- 8 Farmers' Market Baking Contest
- 15 Farmers' Market
- 15-16 Markham Museum - Art in the Park

- 25 Fall Recreation Guide delivery
- 31 Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament

For more information about what's going on in Markham visit the Town of Markham Website @ [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca)

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# Markham shows Canada its community pride in 2006

By Catherine Harrison

After winning the provincial Communities in Bloom title in 2005 - and the Ontario Award for Environmental Awareness - Markham is undertaking the national Communities in Bloom (CIB) challenge in 2006.



Councillor Alex Chiu and Regional Councillor Jack Heath, members of the CIB Volunteer Committee, pose with CIB Program Coordinator Shanon Elliott and summer students Jacqueline Ward and Julie Wilson at the Markham Communities in Bloom launch event in May.

Communities in Bloom is an international competition among municipalities, encouraging excellence and involvement in tidiness, beautification, heritage and cultural conservation, environmental stewardship and volunteerism. Participating communities report enhanced community pride, higher rates of volunteerism and increased tourism.

This summer Markham will be competing against a number of neighbours - Toronto, Mississauga and Brampton-as well as Greater Moncton, Kingston and Chatham Kent as we vie for the national title.

"I am a strong supporter of the Communities in Bloom program for the many benefits it brings to our community," says Mayor Don Cousens. "Furthermore, I see how Communities in Bloom promotes and recognizes the importance of responsibility, respect, inclusiveness, initiative and perseverance - the character traits we are committed to fostering in our businesses, schools and homes as a Character Community."

### How the Communities in Bloom program works:

National judges will visit from July 23 to 25 and spend two days touring our community and assessing the efforts of the municipality and the corporate and private citizens in eight areas: tidiness, heritage and cultural conservation, community involvement, environmental awareness, landscaped areas, turf and groundcover, tree management and floral displays.

During the Judges' Tour there will be a number of public events for our residents to take part in, including an evening tour of the Berczy Cemetery on Sunday, July 23 and a community celebration on Main Street Unionville on Monday, July 24.

### It's easy to get involved to help make Markham bloom:

Markham's Communities in Bloom initiative offers opportunities for everyone to get involved.

Take pride in your landscaping, pick up after your pet, don't litter - and what's more, if you see litter, pick it up and dispose of it-look after your boulevard tree, call the Town of Markham to report any community

vandalism, graffiti or inappropriate signage. These are the little things that everyone can do.

Those who want to get more involved are encouraged to organize a community cleanup or planting, adopt a park, plant a commemorative tree or participate in our Markham Communities in Bloom events from July 23 to 25 when the national judges visit our community. There are many more opportunities identified on the [www.markham.ca/blooms](http://www.markham.ca/blooms) site or telephone the program coordinator, Shanon Elliott at 905-415-7520.

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# Markham YMCA Grand Opening



The first is the Ribbon Cutting with (l-r) Jim Whitehead (General Manager, YMCA Facility Development), Bahadur Madhani (Vice-Chair YMCA Board of Directors), Sandy McIntyre (Chair YMCA Board of Directors, Cathy Ann White (General Manager, Markham YMCA), Mayor Don Cousens, Rudy Bratty, Khalid Usman (Markham councilman), Frank Luk (President Supercom, Major donor), Tom Horlor (YMCA Chief Development Officer), Steve Boone (Senior Vice President YMCA Health Fitness and Recreation.)

by **Catriona Girotti**

This long weekend may have been cold for some, but for the folks who stopped by the Markham YMCA Rudy Bratty Centre, the welcome couldn't have been warmer.

Everything started with the Ribbon Cutting on Friday, May 19th. If you ever wondered how many people it takes to cut a ribbon, you now have an answer!

Over the last 20 years the YMCA has opened eight health, fitness and recreation facilities in the Greater Toronto Area and has a 150 year history

of connecting with communities. In 2003, the YMCA joined with other agencies and community leaders to mount an awareness-building initiative called "Get Your Move on... Making Physical Activity a Toronto Thing!" We were also asked to participate in the Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force, a diverse group of 22 corporate, labour, community and government leaders convened by the United Way of Greater Toronto and the City of Toronto to wrestle with issues related to neighbourhood decline. In partnership with the

Town of Markham, the YMCA of Greater Toronto opens this new building in the hopes of being part of a new and better Markham City center.

For more information on the Markham YMCA Rudy Bratty Centre, please call 905-513-YMCA or visit [www.ymcatoronto.org/markham](http://www.ymcatoronto.org/markham).

## Markham Rodeo 2006



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# It's a Wrap! and a Celebration!

## The Trucks are Gone!

Continued from page 1

The bylaw to ban heavy trucks comes swiftly on the heels of the recent transfer of ownership of this section of roadway back to the Town of Markham from the Province of Ontario. The transfer of jurisdiction and the truck ban are key to the implementation of the Town's Main Street Markham Vision. Unanimously endorsed by Markham Council in 1999, the Vision is a planning document that will guide the evolution of Main Street.

The recent changes are welcome news to the Main Street Markham Committee. A collaborative of residents, ratepayer associations, community organizations and the Markham Village BIA, the Committee is charged with the task of shepherding the Vision forward through the development and planning process. With the will of all of Council through the leadership of representatives Jack Heath, George McKelvey and John Webster, and with the determination of Town staff, the pieces of the Vision are finally beginning to fall into place.



Unveiling the sign for "No Trucks!" on Main St. Markham (from left to right): Deputy Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Ward 5 Councillor John Webster, Mayor Don Cousens and Ward 4 Councillor George McKelvey.



SS

### Some Main Street comments:

"A long standing promise is now official - how grateful the merchants and our customers are!"

Frankie Rose,  
Cornercopia

"I'm looking forward to it. I will be able to keep my door open to invite customers in without worrying about the dust and noise."

Mona -  
Valentines Furniture

"We are ecstatic about the trucks coming off Main Street. No more heavy rumblings, no more fumes, no more windows shaking. What a lovely peaceful street we will become."

Cynthia Clements,  
Old Curiosity Tea Shop

"The end of the trucks on Main Street means the end of the rattle of glass in my store. We look forward to seeing the changes begin to beautify the street and then watch the walking traffic increase while the public enjoy a more peaceful setting."

Barb Tayler,  
The Glass Store and more!

"It'll be nice to be able to have a conversation on the street with somebody and actually hear what they are saying."

Harry James,  
Harry James Financial

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**Photos:**  
Top Right: Michelle Sukul-Chan  
Above: Stephanie Lake

**Celebrate!**  
It's official  
June 1<sup>st</sup>  
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# Canada Day Celebrations

## Make July 1st a day to remember

### Milne Park Party & Fireworks

Join us in Milne Park at 4:30 p.m. for the singing of O'Canada and the flag raising ceremony, followed by live entertainment, children's activities, food and displays. **Milne Park is off McCowan Road, between Highways 7 & 407.**

Celebrate Canada's birthday with a dazzling display of light, colour and sound! Be sure to arrive by at least 9:30 p.m., allowing for traffic and parking delays.

### People's Parade

Enjoy colourful floats, dancers, entertainers and much more. Children, paint your faces, decorate your bikes, dress up and join in the parade.

Those who wish to participate in the parade are asked to meet at 3:30 p.m. in the south/west corner of the Markville Shopping Centre.

Parade begins at 4:00 p.m. sharp.

### Senior's Luncheon (65+)

The Mayor and Members of Council invite you to a FREE luncheon on CANADA DAY.

**July 1, 2006, 12:15 p.m. at Milliken Mills C.C.**

Free Shuttle bus leaves at 11:30 a.m.  
To register, call: 905-477-7000 ext. 2065.  
You must register between June 1 and June 27, 2006 in order to attend.

For more information please contact:  
Joanne Olson at 905-415-7528 or Wendy Lucas at 905-475-4892.  
This Celebrate Markham event is funded by the Town of Markham.

### Shuttle bus pick ups:

Thornhill C.C. (Senior Centre)  
Armadale C.C.  
34 Swansea Drive  
Thompson Court  
Heritage Centre Unionville  
Water Street Seniors Centre  
Times to be determined



# Our Town: Markham

**Our Town is a video scrapbook** of the people, places and happenings of Markham, Ontario as seen through the eyes of its residents premiering on WNET-TV in September 2006!

**Volunteers Needed**  
No experience necessary

Production begins in June  
Call David Rotterman, Executive Producer  
(716) 845-7003  
drotterman@wned.pbs.org

