

WARD SEVEN ANNUAL REPORT

Proposed Glenway Development

One of the single biggest issues facing Ward Seven and the Town of Newmarket is the proposed development of the Glenway Country Club lands. I have argued from day one, that this issue is not just of importance to residents of the Glenway Subdivision, rather, the proposal to develop lands designated as Parks and Open Space can have a significant community impact.



At the heart of this issue in my opinion, is the ability for the municipality to plan its growth through its Official Plan. Municipalities are often criticized for lack of vision and planning, so I would hope that when we have gone to great lengths to adopt provincially mandated growth requirements that those decisions, made in conjunction with the community, will be respected. Our Official Plan is clear that all future growth in Newmarket should be directed to the Yonge/Davis Corridor (supported by public transit) and select areas where we have determined emerging residential development should take place. We did this to protect the character of our established neighbourhoods.

“My commitment to protect and preserve the neighbourhood by standing by our community’s official plan remains steadfast” -Chris Emanuel, Newmarket Era January 5th, 2012

I also wanted to provide a brief update with respect to the status of the proposal for development. The owners have had a ‘pre-consultation’ with Newmarket Planning staff and planning consultants we have hired to support the handling of this file. As part of that meeting the owners were given a list of the required studies that are necessary to accompany a complete application. I suspect we will receive a full application in the coming months. That process will be a public one, with various public meetings for residents to share their opinions on the proposal. I have asked that all public meetings related to this application be handled at a venue to maximize resident participation – it is important your voice is heard.

2012 Municipal Budget

Prior to end of 2011 Newmarket Council approved the Operating and Capital Budget for 2012. Councillors are acutely aware of the economic situation for many of our residents and businesses. It was for this reason that when we started the budget process Council set a clear goal that we wanted to contain any possible increase to a level at or below the increased cost of living.

After thorough public engagement and debate at Council we approved a budget that sees your ‘all-in’ tax increase to be approximately 1.8%. This includes your Town, Region and School Board taxes. While a tax increase is never ideal, it is related to growing demands on our recreations facilities, fire service, and broader investment in our infrastructure including roads and sewers.

Newmarket Riverwalk Commons

This fall, I was proud to participate in the official opening of our Newmarket Riverwalk Commons, our newest park and gathering place for all residents to enjoy located adjacent to Fairy Lake and behind the wonderful shops of our Main Street.



Many of you may have already enjoyed the new FREE outdoor skating rink, it has been tremendously popular in the few short weeks since it has opened. This is a project I was personally very excited to support last term and I am so proud to see it completed. In the summer, our skating rink converts into a stunning water feature. Throughout the year there will be live performances on the stage.

Trail Expansion in Woodland Hills



One of the things I hear most about from residents is the wonderful trail system we have introduced throughout our community. Whether it’s the Tom Taylor Trail that runs through Newmarket from Aurora to East Gwillimbury or the Dave Kerwin Trail in the Woodland Hills Subdivision is their clear agreement that residents enjoy our trails!

I am pleased to let everyone know that the construction of the next phase of our Trail System in Woodland Hills (NW Newmarket) will commence this Winter. If you visit www.chrisemanuel.com you can see a link to the planned trail system. While the spine will be paved and fully accessible, we have also committed to natural trails for most of the system so that we don’t damage the natural environment and residents can fully appreciate the significant woodlot we have managed to preserve and protect—what will surely become a legacy for generations to enjoy.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

This past year I was selected by Mayors and Councillors from throughout Ontario to represent Ontario on the National Board of Directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). FCM is an organization that advocates for municipalities on the national stage.

FCM is responsible for helping Newmarket alone receive nearly **\$12 Million** in funding from the Federal Government since 2005. I am honoured to participate on this board of directors and will continue to fight to ensure Newmarket gets its fair share of Federal Infrastructure dollars.

