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Mayor's Message

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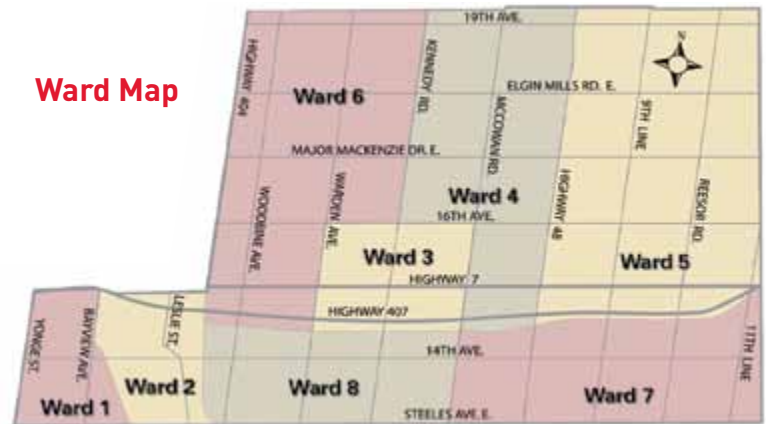
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The Markham Miracle – A Community United by Compassion, Hope and Generosity

I often speak about the uniqueness of Markham and the strength diversity brings to all aspects of our community – strength that is exhibited in our arts and entertainment offerings, our cultural activities, our business community, our neighborhoods and appreciation for our natural environment. While many municipalities may struggle to bring these diverse interests together, Markham enjoys a unique solidarity and celebration of these cultures, backgrounds and abilities. And, our Markham Miracle campaign in support of Haiti reconstruction efforts is an outstanding example.

Shortly after the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12 the Markham community came together instantly and in solidarity to plan how we could help. Over 250,000 people have been lost as a result of the earthquake – a staggering number considering this happened in less than 45 seconds and meant the loss of life almost equal to the population of Markham! As community groups, business, youth groups and cultural organizations stepped forward to ask what could be done, Councillor Alex Chiu saw the opportunity to bring their interests together as one. The Markham Miracle Fundraising Committee was born out of this spirit and an ambitious goal to raise \$250,000, and within days a series of events were organized and our partnership with the global charitable organization – Free The Children. Five great events were organized over six weeks including fundraising galas, community dinners and our closing event on March 4 at the Markham Theatre – the Markham Miracle Concert –An Evening of Unity and Hope. All these efforts were nothing less than miraculous and an inspiring message of global compassion and service to unknown faces in another county. It was my pleasure to share the stage on March 4 with the Consul General of Haiti –Dr. Eric Pierre, outstanding performers Michael Burgess, Ma- Ann Dionisio, Patricia O'Callaghan and the Filipino Taste of Broadway cast. But the true testament to our efforts was the announcement that evening we had raised over \$300,000 with more donations still to arrive – enough funds to adopt an entire village in Haiti including a new school and new homes. As Honourary Chair of the Markham Miracle Committee it represented one of my proudest moments. It confirmed again Markham's leadership and greatness, and the rich and unique legacy we will leave for future generations.

Ward Map



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