

CALLING ALL SENIORS

The Water Street Seniors Centre in the village of Markham has more than 1,000 members; age for membership is about 50 and up. It has full-time Markham staff, and space permanently allocated for continuous use. Organized programs are offered by staff, by volunteers, and by specific contract. Such programs are offered Monday to Friday, from 10am through about 9pm. Members pay \$20 annually for access to the centre and its programs, and from 50 cents to \$2 per event to participate in some. And there is lots of space for spontaneous activities as well, offering a convenient meeting place. While supported by Markham staff, the program is driven by a committee of members.

We are hard at work on plans for a permanent seniors centre within a 20,000 square foot expansion of the Thornhill Community Centre. By our numbers, this permanent centre should have a membership of 1,200 in a similar program. But it will not happen unless our seniors community organizes itself.

Once a draft plan has been completed for a seniors centre, a youth centre, a relocated fitness centre, additional meeting rooms, etc, a public meeting will be held for final input and adjustments. Construction will begin in 2003.

We have several seniors organizations operating in Thornhill – at the Thornhill Community Centre, in condominium buildings, on bowling alleys, and in many other places. A permanent centre offers additional opportunities, and can reduce the work required to keep existing programs in operation. But in order to justify a ‘Club’ program similar to that operating in Markham village, we need to begin preparing the list of those who would use the drop-in facilities, meeting rooms, bowling, badminton, bridge, and euchre programs, etc. We must demonstrate that Thornhill needs and wants such facilities and programs too.

Join the list; E-mail me, or call my assistant Joanne at (905) 415-7528. Please provide your name, address, and telephone number, a contact telephone number, activities you think we should provide, and whether you would like to help organize any of them, or serve on the centre committee.

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