



MEMORANDUM



TO: Heritage Markham Committee

FROM: Regan Hutcheson

DATE: April 8, 2026

SUBJECT: Special Event
Doors Open Markham 2026

Project: Doors Open Markham 2026
Date: Saturday, September 26, 2026, 10am – 4:00pm

Background:

- Beginning in 2003, Doors Open Markham has brought together thousands of people from near and far to celebrate and experience Markham's rich history and unique sites.
- Markham is again hosting Doors Open Markham and we have between 10 and 15 great sites as part of this amazing event (some require final confirmation).
- The Doors Open concept, it is a free, annual community-wide event that showcases places of historical and cultural interest. Most locations are not generally open to the public at-large thus providing residents and visitors with an opportunity to explore the City's unique and sometimes hidden treasures. The event is organized under the direction of a Council-appointed committee of City staff, municipal councillors and community volunteers. Our local event is one of a series of Doors Open events held across the province under the organizational umbrella of the Ontario Heritage Trust (Doors Open Ontario).
- Sites interested in opening their doors can open only areas they wish to showcase to the public and can animate their sites with event programming or activities if they wish.
- Event organizers will provide identification and directional signage to be used on the property plus archival photo display boards if available and a site handout highlighting key features about the site.
- The DOM committee is responsible for providing volunteers (if needed).
- Focus has primarily been on sites owned by public bodies such as the municipality and private sites in commercial, industrial and institutional use. Attracting owner-occupied, residential sites has been challenging given insurance/liability requirements and the apprehension of allowing the public into personal dwellings (security and robbery fears).
- DOO also requires sites to be insured for public liability and property damage which can limit site participation.

Staff Comment

- Regan Hutcheson and Peter Wokral are the Heritage Planning staff liaison to the Doors Open Markham 2026 Organizing Committee.
- Heritage Markham is represented on the DOM Committee by Tejinder Sidhu, Diane Ross (by virtue of being both a HM member and a DOM Committee member) and Councillor Reid McAlpine (Council Liaison).
- The purpose of this memo is to bring members up to date regarding the event and to seek individuals who may be willing to volunteer for the event (or for part of the day).
- There is a volunteer training session on the Wednesday evening before the event.
- The Heritage Markham Display will likely be installed in the historic Unionville Train Station again this year.
- See Appendix 'A' for the sites.

Suggested Recommendation for Heritage Markham

THAT the memo on Doors Open Markham 2026 be received as information.

File: Q:\Development\Heritage\SUBJECT\DOORS OPEN MARKHAM\2026\HM Updates & Volunteers\HM April 8 2026 update on event.doc

Appendix 'A'
Doors Open Markham 2026
Sites- Confirmed and Pending

	Sites	Status
	Markham Village Cluster	
1	Markham Historic Train Station	Confirmed
2	Markham Fire Station #97	Confirmed
3	Markham Museum	Confirmed
	Unionville Cluster	
1	Varley Gallery	Confirmed
2	McKay Art Centre (Salem Eckardt House)	Confirmed
	Unionville Curling Club	Pending
	Central United Church	Pending
	Stiver Mill	Pending
3	Unionville Historic Train Station	Confirmed
	Thornhill Cluster	
1	Heintzman House	Confirmed
	Thornhill Walking Tour	Pending
	Thornhill Village Library	Pending
2	Wong Dai Sin Temple, 378 Steeles Ave. E., Thornhill, Place of Worship	Confirmed
	Central Markham	
1	York University, Markham Campus	Confirmed
	York District School Board Museum and Archives *Buttonville	Pending

