

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: and maybe this too - Deputation- 03-57673-35584

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Robert Ede**
Date: Sun, Dec 16, 2012 at 10:52 AM
Subject: After reading your Interim Report 2012 Ward Boundary Review
To: rwilliam@uwaterloo.ca
Cc: mayor&councillors@markham.ca

Sir,
cc Mayor & Council,

You and your report are to be congratulated for consistency, diligence, caution, prudence and precision.

- 1) Question: where are the population # for industrial areas derived? (voters lists?) and how are these (potentially) non-resident, but legally-qualified voters included in the calculations.
- 2) I see why you are not venturing into the "9 ward" area of discussion (outside mandate, separate decision preferably decided at outset etc), and will cc Council to see if they might give you the express authority to considered more than shuffling "pieces of eight"
- 3) On the 25%, I am delighted to see you create a "better" population variance benchmark, your 6%-25% as an "above/below optimal" standard, in addition to the 1991, ConFederal Boundary-Readjustment Act guideline for application within each province ie not Canada-wide.

Since "Carter" is the overriding principle, and in the absence of precise direction from Markham Council, is sad that a more "on point" guideline is not available our current municipal application ie The ConFeds representation system is based on an almost-Ptolemaic model of pandering to provincial historic interest rather than current and future considerations in ss 51A, 52 and the sublime 51 (1)-6

As you say, the +/-25% rule (variance of 50% min to max) should be considered the maximum - especially considering the wide urban/rural disparities in population density across a huge land masses like Saskatchewan or Ontario or BC or Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec.

If we remember this is a rule for boundary adjustments in a "junior" jurisdiction to be applied on a "senior" electoral map, then maybe it's applicability as "our" standard for "us" is limited or really not too useful.

To be ridiculous to make a point, applying the justifications of the 1991, provincial rule for Confederal seat allocation to ward boundaries in a fast-growing municipality such as Markham, is almost like using one judge's phraseology in a divorce/ polygamy case from 1866 as the only (and ?therefore? best) "definition of marriage" and then blithely using that phrase, due to the absence of any other rule, judgement, legislation or convention in all common law jurisprudence, as the definitive guideline for a monumental decision on family life in Canada - instead of just asking a 7yr old child for "the" definition.

If effective representation includes the "ombudsman role between elections" then would more councillors be a better or worse condition?

WHY is the 50% variance in rep by pop deemed acceptable in a municipality? as you say it's not sacrosanct, by why consider it at all? ... because there is no other written guideline?

In the absence of any other rule, I think we should be striving for more like +/-10% (a 20% variance min to max) - surely greater representation has much MORE value than the incremental cost of adding council members - if cost is THE priority ... then reduce the number of councillors

I know it's a lot of work, with no guarantee of it being considered, but instead of the broad +/-6-25% category used in your preliminary overview, plug +/- 10% into your D,C,B.A and existing ward spreadsheets and see how poorly the 50% min to max variance rule serves everyone.

4) if the population of Markham is predicted to grow by 9% in 2016 (and has exceeded past growth projections) is there not merit in increasing the 13 member council by 9% in anticipation?

I for one would agree to the "soon to be built" perimeter areas being relatively OVER-represented at the present time, rather than see any area be doomed to certain under-representation in the future.

Great Work (on a colossal task of visioning AND preserving)

rce

Robert Ede,

Outline

I would like to recommend that Council free the hands of Dr Williams by:

- Allowing the number of possible wards to exceed the current 8 but not exceed 12;
- Allowing the 'Carter' rule on voter variance ($\pm 25\%$ equal to 50% variation min-to-max) to be replaced with a "for Markham by Markham" guideline of $\pm 10\%$ (min-to-max of 20%)
- Allow the concept of "effective representation in Markham" to be considered to mean "More hands make lighter Work", in addition to the new $\pm 10\%$ rule
- Allowing the over-riding principle to be "Growth cannot flourish on neglected Roots", since the gnarled and subterranean Roots that have supported and sustained the Growth, must be just as well-nurtured in their old age as are the flowers, leaves and buds.

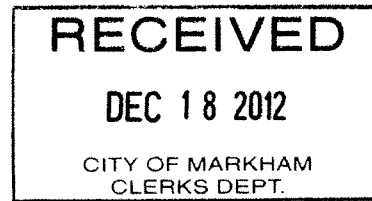
Interim Nov 2012		Population Projections - (always exceeded in the past)			
		<u>2021</u>			
Option	D			Largest as % of Smallest	
	Low	5	35965		
	High	7	58226	161.90%	
					Average
					166.56%
Option	C				
	Low	2	34905		
	High	6	58258	166.90%	
					Min
					158.86%
Option	B				
	Low	1	36673		
	High	8	58258	158.86%	
					Max
					178.56%
Option	A	&7	36783	174.59%	Large as % of Small
	Low	6	35965		112.40%
	High	8	64220	178.56%	

Interim Nov 2012		Population Projections - (always exceeded in the past)			
		<u>2016</u>			
Option	D			Largest as % of Smallest	
	Low	5	36379		
	High	7	49534	136.16%	
					Average
					171.08%
Option	C				
	Low	7	29398		
	High	6	55345	188.26%	
					Min
					136.16%
Option	B				
	Low	6	34903		
	High	8	55345	158.57%	
					Max
					201.34%
Option	A	&6&4	36400	162.61%	Large as % of Small
	Low	7	29398		147.87%
	High	8	59191	201.34%	

Interim Nov 2012		Population			
		<u>2011</u>			
Option	D			Largest as % of Smallest	
	Low	6	32943		
	High	1	47123	143.04%	
					Average
					199.35%
Option	C				
	Low	7	22493		
	High	6	50373	223.95%	
					Min
					143.04%
Option	B				
	Low	6	26428		
	High	8	50373	190.60%	
					Max
					239.79%
Option	A	&4	32693	164.98%	Large as % of Small
	Low	7	22493		167.64%
	High	1	53937	239.79%	

December 18, 2012

Elected Officials, City of Markham



Mayor Frank Scarpitti,

We have been reading articles, in the *Markham Economic and Sun*, suggesting realignment of City Wards. In very quick order, a) Mr. Williams hired; b) two weeks later it seems Council has decided to move forward with one of Mr. William's four choices.

It seems the public will have insufficient time and opportunity to comment, or present alternate plans before the March 31st 2013 deadline. Also some feedback from people copied below.

Final decision will effect our City for generations. It would seem critical that changes not be left to minimum debate, and allow the opportunity for public input. Perhaps a new vision of governance may better serve all the citizens of Markham!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. Pullen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Lawrence Pullen

cc: Mr. John McCallum, MP, Markham/Unionville (hand delivered)
Ombudsman – André Marin
Mr. Bob Chiarilli, MPP, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mr. Bernie O'Neill, Markham Economist and Sun

Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012

CITY HALL

1 councillor likely in future for Thornhill

*Ward redraw would
change representation*

BY AMANDA PERSICO
apersico@yrmg.com

The ward you are voting in could change in the next election and it also appears residents of Markham's Thornhill wards are destined to be represented by one councillor instead of the current two as the city continues to grow.

Earlier this week, municipal government expert Robert Williams — a consultant hired by the city — presented a collection of new ward boundary maps to general committee.

The new maps take into consideration five key aspects:

- Representation by population;
- Keeping communities of interest together;
- Future growth trends;
- Using physical features, such as natural boundaries; and
- Maintaining effective representation.

One option was selected by council for further review.

"No one plan is perfect," Mr. Williams said. "There is no set pattern on how to shape wards in a municipality. But the current system will not work."

See **NEW**, page 18.

New ward map takes into account population shift

From page 1.

Mr. Williams presented four options, none of which show Thornhill split in two wards.

"Thornhill is a smaller part of a larger entity," Mr. Williams said.

"We're drawing these lines for a reason. But that doesn't change what goes on on the ground or how services are delivered."

And that caused some area for concern.

"There is a feeling

that Thornhill is that area," Ward 2 Councillor Howard Shore said. "It is somewhat separate. It is a mature community."

The lines on the map were drawn with the idea of representation by population as the main priority, where the population is divided to create eight almost equal wards.

There is no guidance from the province on how to draw lines, Mr. Williams said.

But there is a federal

standard that calls for a 25 per cent variance, either above or below, for an electoral area, he added.

Based on that formula, the two current Thornhill wards would be under the 25 per cent belt that would see an optimal ward population of about 42,000 in 2016 and 46,000 in 2021.

Mayor Frank Scarpitti argued a Thornhill model of one councillor for about 25,000 residents

is not realistic, especially since many areas of the city are poised for growth. Not to mention, the city has four regional councillors and one mayor to speak for Thornhill as well.

The only way to keep two councillors dedicated for Thornhill and to maintain a balance across all wards is to add two more councillors and go to a 10-ward system, the city's acting deputy clerk Stephen Huycke said.

But there is a cost associated with adding councillors.

Adding two councillors could cost taxpayers more than \$868,000, which includes a one-time capital cost of about \$543,000 for officespace, computers and IT support and about \$324,000 in annual costs, including salary, support staff salary and expenses, Mr. Huycke said.

This is a cost Ward 4 Councillor Carolina Moretti said she can't justify.

While the numbers were based on a mathematical formula, Ward 1 Councillor Valerie Burke also wants to see workload included in the formula, citing some wards are faced with future growth and a number of development projects that add to a councillor's workload.

Ms Burke also argued heritage districts, such as Thornhill, add to workload.

If ward populations are to change and increase, she also wants council to look at increasing councillor staff support.

Mr. Williams argued adding workload considerations is highly subjective. "Workload is a highly individualized lens," he said. "I have yet to discover a municipality that captures that."

He also reminded council, the process does not look at today's politicians, but rather wards are looked at separate from political duties.

The lines on Markham's map are not drawn in stone. There is wiggle room.

"I know we want to avoid jogs," Ms Moretti said. "But in this case it might make sense. Rejigging it gives better."

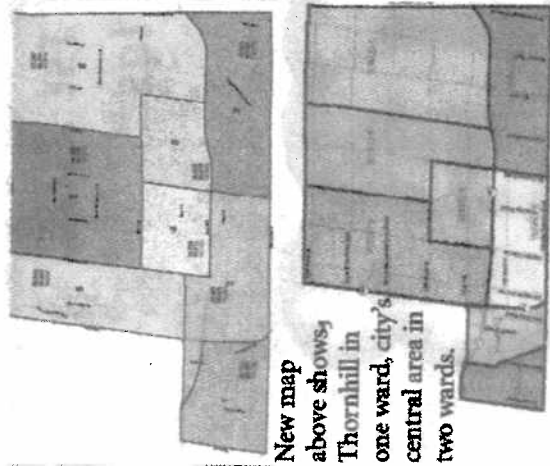
Ward boundaries do not have to be straight lines, Mr. Williams added.

"We can create irregular shapes to accommodate population," he said. "What we don't want is lines that go through neighbourhoods. We don't want to slice up the city in artificial ways and divide neighbours."

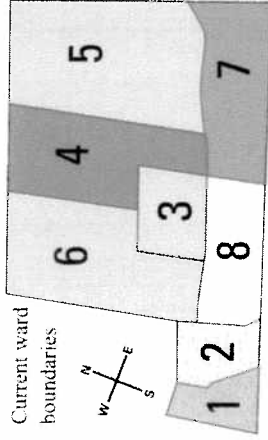
Markham's rejigged ward boundary alignment would put each of the new wards within the 25 per cent range for 2016 and just one outside the range by 2021.

For changes to apply to the 2014 municipal election, the city needs to agree on ward boundaries by March 31, 2013, so a bylaw can be enacted by the end of the year.

The city will host a second round of public consultation meetings and further tweak boundary lines.



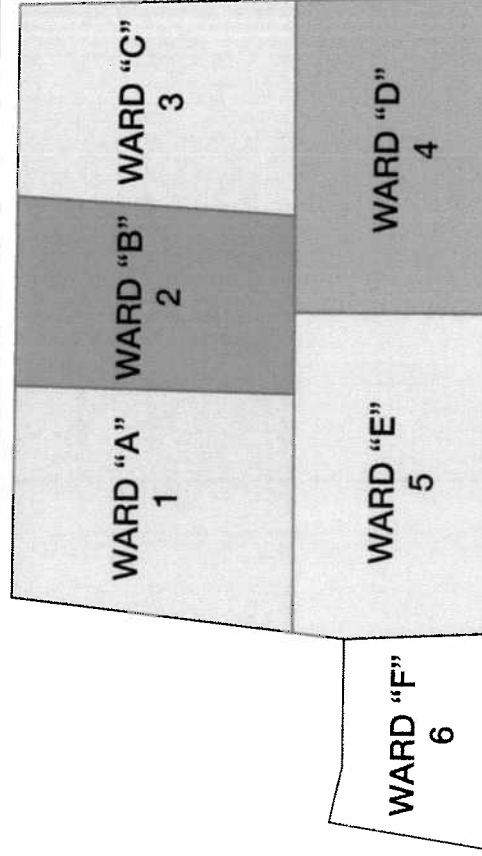
New map above shows, Thornhill in one ward, city's central area in two wards.



Subject of Mr. Williams Research?
 Followed by Staff Report?
 Followed by Hiring a Consultant?
 Followed by Council Discussion?
 Followed by Public Input?
 Followed by In Camera Discussion?
 Followed by In Camera Vote?

NEW WARD BOUNDARIES

CONCEPT "A"



6 Ward Councillors each to serve a maximum of 3 terms
 4 Regional Councillors each to serve a maximum of 2 terms
 Mayor may serve a maximum of 2 terms

"All above made retroactive"

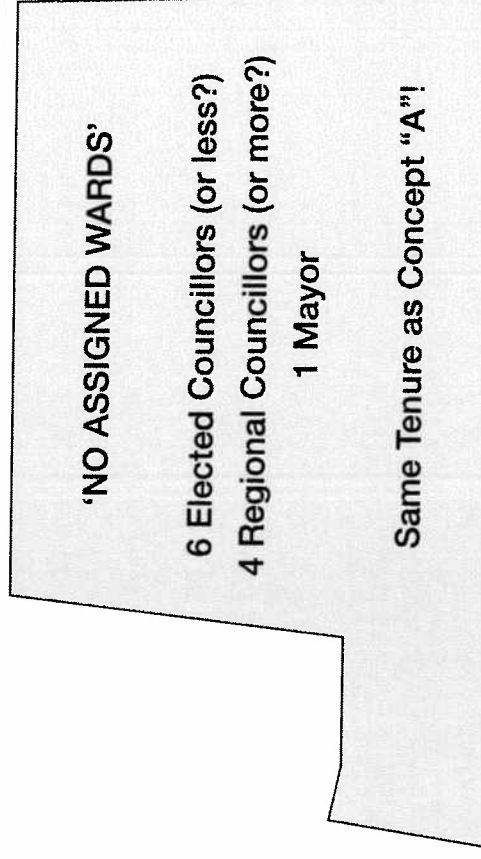
Regional Councillors could aspire to become Mayor sooner

In the interest of "Good Government"

New people - fresh ideas! Internal biases cease!

End commitments to personal groups, developers, contractors, bidders, favoritism with staff

CONCEPT "B"



This "no ward" system would be in the best interest of the entire City. Mayor, Regional Councillors and Councillors; all voting as individuals in the best interest of City residents.

Management, Staff, Employees, et al, would become more committed to working for the entire City!

Commercial special interest groups influence must end.

Less consultant reports - expensive plagiarism, double talk, better concise planning - all debates shortened.

"Find the best answers for everyone - move on" (new motto)