

News & Views

Vol. XVI

Monday, December 1, 2025

\$0.00



MERRY

CHRISTMAS

TO

MEMBERS



This is a special Christmas edition of the OAIA News & Views Monthly Newsletter.

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DATE	REASON FOR CLOSURE
Monday, February 17 th	Family Day
Friday, April 18 th	Good Friday
Monday, April 21 st	Easter Monday
Monday, May 19 th	Victoria Day
Tuesday, July 1 st	Canada Day
Monday, August 4 th	Civic Holiday
Friday, August 22 nd 5:00pm to Sunday August 31 st	Annual Building Maintenance
Monday, September 1 st	Labour Day
Monday, October 13 th	Thanksgiving
Tuesday, December 23 rd 5:00pm to Monday, January 5 th , 2026	Closed For The Holidays

MEMORIAL POSTINGS

The board has approved the posting of a memorial for recently deceased members in the club newsletter. When a member requests that a card be sent in the event of another member's death, they can also request a newsletter memorial posting.

No Memorial Postings This Month

Hours

Building Hours:

Mon, Tue, Wed 8:30am – 10:00pm
 Thu, Fri 8:30am – 5:00pm

Front Desk Hours:

Mon to Thu 9:00am – 3:30pm
 Fri 9:00am – 1:00pm

Newsletter Contact- newsandviewsmarkham@gmail.com
 Please visit our website at: www.markhamseniorcentre.com

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President's Report

Hello Everyone,

The festive season will soon be upon us. It seems to arrive earlier each year. The club will be closed for the holidays from 5:00 p.m. Dec. 23rd until re-opening Jan. 5th, 2026. The auditorium floor is again scheduled to be replaced during the shut down and the work completed by Jan. 5th. The auditorium will be out of service for this period.

It was my honour to again participate in the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph on Nov. 8th and to lay a wreath there on behalf of the OAIA. It made me mindful of the many rights and freedoms we all enjoy because of the sacrifices made by those who served and fought for us in the past.

The draft minutes from the Annual General Meeting held Oct. 21st are now available in the library for your review. Along with the other members of the Board, I look forward to our annual meeting as it provides us an opportunity to share information with you and to also recognize and thank the many member volunteers who run our programs and help at the club in a variety of ways.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract the necessary quorum to our AGM. The AGM is a constitutional requirement and one of the most important club events of the year. Please plan to attend our next AGM in October 2026.



Remember that Covid-19 and seasonal flu variations are still with us. If you do not feel well, stay at home, test yourself and only return to the club when you are sure it is safe for you and others to do so. Wearing a mask is an individual choice but it is still strongly encouraged indoors by health professionals.

On behalf of your Board, I wish you and your loved ones, peace, good will and all the very best over the festive season and coming New Year. Stay well and stay safe.

Les



Letter from the Editor

Imagine you are in the living room listening to **The Stage Series** on CBC, or **CBC Wednesday Night**, maybe even **Jake and the Kid**. Makes for good memories.

In the 1920s, 30s, 40s, and 50s families gathered around the radio to listen to the long-awaited Christmas editions of their favourite shows.

I listen to "Old Time" radio, almost every night while I'm reading in bed. In fact, I've never owned a television! So, to say radio is a big part of my life is an understatement if ever there was one. I start my day with CBC and end it with one of the classic radio shows. Send us your story about listening to the wireless, when you were younger. You never know we may just publish it. Merry Christmas!

Peter Robinson
Editor



A spirit of giving felt grand,
As folks shared their time, hand in hand.
With laughter and cheer,
They spread love far and near,
Creating a bond that's well planned!

Knitting!



The Members of the Wednesday Knitting Group have enjoyed knitting for everyone this year and would like to thank the members for showing interest in our projects. Knitted and crocheted items are available from the glass cabinet in the main hall.

If you or your friends have yarn you no longer want, please leave it at the front desk. Thank you in advance and have a Merry Christmas!

Valerie McCune - Convenor



Cribbage!

Tuesday Afternoon - 1:00-3:30 - West Room

COST - \$2:00 (Covers Tea/Coffee and treats and \$.50 Facility Fee)

Thursday Afternoon - 1:00-3:30 - East Room

COST - \$2.00 (Covers Tea/Coffee and treats and \$.50 Facility Fee)

All are welcome to join us New and Experienced Players are welcome.

Jeanne Lafond - Convenor





CANASTA

We meet from 12:30pm - 4:00pm in the West activity room every Thursday, for a fun afternoon and camaraderie. If you are interested in learning a new card game or to renew your skills...

Contact the front desk.

Keith Shopman - Convenor

DJEMBE DRUMMING

Wednesdays Noon – 1:00am

In the Craft Room. Signup at the front desk. The cost depends on the number of participants.

Diana Baron - Convenor



BID EUCHRE

MONDAY EVENINGS - 6:30pm – 10:00pm
(Craft Room)

If Monday is a Holiday, then we will play on Tuesday, same time and place.

COST - \$2.00 (Covers Prize Money and \$.50 Facility Fee)

PRIZE MONEY - First \$8.00, Second \$6.00, Third \$5.00

Fourth \$4.00 (Depends on attendance)

If you have never played before, the following is a brief description:

The game is played in teams similar to regular euchre. Eight cards are dealt. Each player bids on how many tricks he or she thinks they can take.

It is a little more challenging than regular euchre. Two decks of cards are used (face cards only). If you are interested in learning, come out and watch for a night or two and then join in.

Ken and Bev. Budarick – Convenors
(905-294-5111 Front Desk)



Dear Members,

We love your style, your smile, and your sparkling personality... but your perfume? Your cologne? Not so much.

Let's keep our air as fresh as our jokes.

Why did the skunk get fired from the perfume factory?
He stank at his job.



Thursday Craft Group

We are very busy getting items ready for our next sale.

Any donations of material and thread you might have would be appreciated

Thank you, The Craft Group,



Did You Know...

Jingle Bells Was The First Ever Song Played In Space

On December 16th, 1965, the popular Christmas song 'Jingle Bells' was broadcast during NASA's Gemini 6A space flight making it the first song played in space.

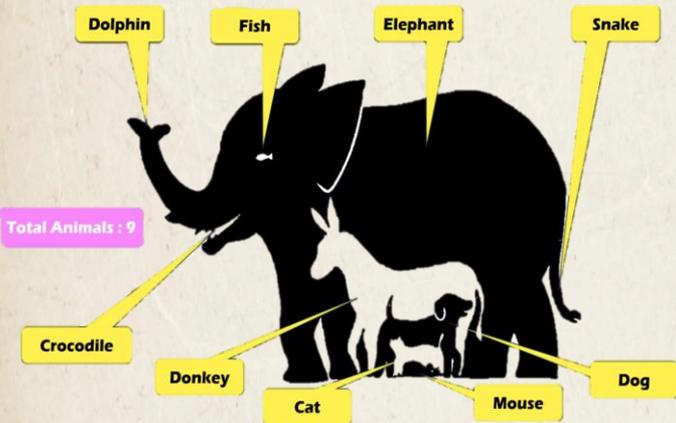
All of the presents in the 12 days of Christmas add up to 364.

Coca-Cola reinvented Santa in an ad campaign.

St. Nick had appeared in numerous illustrations and written descriptions previously wearing tan, green and even scarlet, but never the bright red we all know and love.



Last month we asked how many animals you saw in the picture and as promised here is the answer:



They strung up the lights with great care,
In colors so bright, no one would dare.
But one little bulb, With its glow slightly dulled,
Had the whole neighborhood stop and stare!

CHESS

Do you play Chess? Come out and have a game or two. Every Friday in the Craft Room 10:00am to noon. Teaching available.

Frank Dencshazi - Convenor

Contact Front Desk:
905-294-5111



Melody Makers

MELODY MAKERS perform at our club on the last Monday of every month.

Come out to support them and you will hear all your favourites. If you wish to get up and dance that would be awesome.



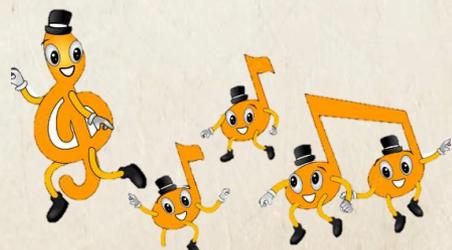
The December Christmas Concert will be held on December 15th

Bring your dance shoes, lets have fun!

\$2 entry. \$1. Coffee/tea cookies

Norma Matus – Convenor

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



TAI CHI



Tai chi can have significant benefits for older adults. This is at least partly due to the way it focuses on muscle control, stability, balance, and flexibility.

It has certainly been a huge help for me, and I've been practicing for less than two months!

Donna Jacobs - Convenor



Monday Morning Bridge

9:00am to 11:30am

In the Craft Room. Come out and enjoy a game with friends and neighbours.

Margaret Crowley - Convenor

The light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman behind him was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window, and she looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door.

She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, giving the guy in front of you the finger and cursing at him.

I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally.....I assumed you had stolen the car."

Anonymous...



2025 Monster Bash

The Monster Bash Luncheon was held on Friday, October 31, 2025. Jeanne Colvin, the convenor, would like to thank all of the volunteers for their help. Without volunteers, the luncheon would not have been such a success. Thanks go out to:

Wendy Wise, MC, Brian Webb – Piano Player, Muriel Thompson – Hallowe'en themed centerpieces, Mary Lou Busato, Donna McGraw, Jean Evelyn, Margaret Crowley, Gloria Smith, Heather LaMacchia, Esther Morresi, Janet Anderson, and Gladys Hamilton.

Melanie Cramp -Amica Unionville, Unionville
 Pamela Nitert – Amica Swan Lake, Markham
 Sarah Zie – Chartwell Rouge Valley, Markham
 Paul Cicchini – Duchess of Markham, Markham
 Anne & Mario – Falco's Ristorante, Markham
 Mike Wong – Food Basics, Markham
 Derek McDonald – Loblaws, Markham
 Karen Rea – Ward 4 Councillor, Markham
 Sebastian – T & T Bakery & Deli, Markham
 Sean VanSpall – VanSpall's No Frills, Markham
 Cathy MacDonald – Village Grocer, Unionville
 Mike Lazenby – Metro, Stouffville
 Mark & Jacob Turney – M & M Food Market, Markham
 Thanya Phat – Little Bangkok, Markham
 Raja – Uncle Joe's Family Restaurant, Main Street, Markham
 Matthew & Thomas – Markham Guardian Pharmacy, Main St., Markham
 Sangretta Prem – Stouffville Creek, Stouffville
 Kayla - Colonel Mustard's Sports Bar & Lounge – Markham

The OAIA Board of Directors would also like to extend their sincere thanks to Jeanne Colvin, Convenor, for organizing another wonderful event. We realize that it takes a tremendous effort to organize events for the membership. Thank you, Jeanne.

Did you know...

Members Donna and Mary Lou do their annual charitable donation at this time every year by collecting full size personal items, throughout the year, for battered ladies. They fill a purse plus a decorative bag that becomes useful for shopping later. They give 25+ items. It is their way of donating to a worthy cause.

Good job guys!

Peter Robinson



A woman was in No Frills looking at the frozen turkeys but could not find one large enough. She spotted a stock boy and said, "excuse me, do these turkeys get any bigger"? The stock boy thought for a moment and said, "No ma'am, they're dead".

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day marks the moment the First World War armistice took effect on 11 November 1918. Canada's national observance honours all who served and those who died in the service of Canada in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, recent operations, and peace support missions.



Our club President Les Miscampbell laying a wreath on behalf of Older Adults in Action at the Remembrance day ceremony.

The Red Poppy

The red poppy—rooted in John McCrae's 1915 poem *In Flanders Fields*—is Canada's best-known symbol of remembrance. The **Royal Canadian Legion** leads the annual Poppy Campaign; Canadians typically wear the poppy **from the last Friday in October until November 11**. Voluntary donations support the Legion's **Poppy Fund** for veterans and their families.



The Group Gathers Every Wednesday in the West Activity Room from: 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

The programme consists of members getting to know each other through sharing humour, discussing current local and world events, plus other subjects of interest. Pictures, videos and PowerPoint information related to the subject of the day will be presented by a member and viewed on a large movie screen

Last month, besides current news, some topics were hydroponics, debt and deficit, slavery and the brain. Next month we may cover "What's under Toronto?", "Life is Just a Game" and we may sing some Christmas carols too!

On entering, please sign in and deposit your \$0.50 in the "Room Fee" basket. A short break is at 2:00pm at which time coffee, tea, and treats may be purchased.

New members are always welcome.

Convenor – Jan Jang
Co-Convenor – Steve Hircock



BOOK CLUB # 2

We meet every **second Wednesday of the month from 1:00PM-3:00PM**

It's always fun to get together and discuss the books we have read each month. We usually have quite a variety of opinions to share. Last month we read **"The hate U Give"** by Angie Thomas

We are now reading **"Hum If You Don't Know The Words"** by Bianca Marais.

Donna Jacobs - Convenor

Books are chosen from the Markham or Stouffville Library which provides copies for everyone. We have a few books with large print for those who want it. Often there are e-copies or audio copies in the library which you can access on your own.

Our discussions are always lively and provide interesting perspectives from a variety of members.

New Book club members always welcome

The sign-up page is in our large activity binder at the front desk.



BOOK CLUB # 1

Book Club #1 is held on the **first Wednesday of the month beginning Sept. 3, 10:15am-12:00pm.**

Susan Flatt - Convenor



I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.



I made it some pajamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first - it wet the bed!

So how do you say Merry Christmas in Canada? Depending on what part of Canada you are in, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Seasons Greetings, and Joyeux Noël are all popular choices.

This is important!

We need articles, jokes, recipes, comments, anything that can go in a newsletter and we need it from you. This is your newsletter. So please if you have anything to contribute, email us at:

newsandviewsmarkham@gmail.com

Travel Desk

The Holiday Season and year end is fast approaching. By the time you read this, we will have finished our trips for 2025, and after a short break, the travel team will meet and decide on the trips for 2026. I am sure there will be several to choose from. Some of the theatre shows such as Funny Girl at the Shaw Festival, Guys and Dolls at the Stratford Festival Theatre, 42nd Street at one of the Drayton Theatres, plus last year we were interested in The Power Station at Niagara Falls and venturing in behind the falls. Unfortunately, we could not fit it into our scheduling. We shall try again this year. We also looked at a visit to the Kingston Penitentiary but was told it is so popular that you must book a year ahead. The tour guides are retired prison guards, so I am sure the stories would be very interesting. A suggestion to go to the Distillery District and see A Christmas Carol sounds good. I investigated it for next year, but A Christmas Carol is playing this year and not again until 2027. It does give us something to look forward to.

Our last trip was on October 30th to see Witness for the Prosecution. The News and Views deadline had long passed by the time we went to see the show. It was a rainy day, but Andrea was our driver. She was amazing. We felt we were in good hands. As usual, the Golf's Steakhouse and Seafood Restaurant was excellent. There is such a choice, and their employees were so helpful. The show was very good, and the ending was quite a surprise. We had good feedback on the day, including the play, and several voiced that he got what he deserved.

I just want to say a special "thank you" to all the travel team volunteers, Lyn Bryan, Darlene Marcellus, Noreen Foh, Gloria Smith, Janet Anderson, and Helena Miscampbell---our floaters, Heather LaMacchia, Doreen Drimmel, and Steve Hircock. This year has presented some challenges for the travel team, but, without hesitation, each and everyone of you stepped up and were there for each other. I cannot tell you how lucky I am to be part of our team. When I say you are the best--- you really are.

Since this is the last edition until February 2026, the travel team would like to thank all those who travelled with us this past year. We hope you enjoyed your day(s) with us as much as we enjoyed having you. This was a year that we "sold out" all our trips but one and in record time. The Christmas trip sold out in two hours. Thank you very much for your interest. We look forward to travelling with you in 2026.

Finally, the travel team would like to wish each and everyone a Very Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings, Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, no matter what your plans are for celebrating the holiday season, and all the very best for the New Year. May it bring much happiness, good health, and peace.

Mary Lou



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at our house
 — IS JUST LIKE A
FRUIT CAKE
Kinda sweet
a little nutty
 — and soaked in —
LIQUOR



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MONDAY NOVEMBER 10th, 2025

Helena Miscampbell
Convenor

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year

*May your holidays bring you the gifts of
 love, peace and good health*



Karen Rea

Ward 4 Councillor
krea@markham.ca
 905.479.7751

To keep informed on Markham and Ward 4 issues, visit
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2026

NEW YEAR'S EVE *Party*

31 DECEMBER 2025

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TICKETS \$70

Dinner: Prime Rib, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Peas&Carrots, Garden Salad, Rolls&Butter, Dessert

CHAMPAGNE/SPARKLING WINE FOR TOASTING

Tickets may be purchased at the Markham District Veterans Association or online at MDVA.CA

7 Washington St Markham



PRESENTS

A Festive Evening

DINNER & FESTIVITIES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH
5:30PM

TICKETS \$28

DINNER

Garden Salad
Chicken Scallopini With Mushroom Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Dessert

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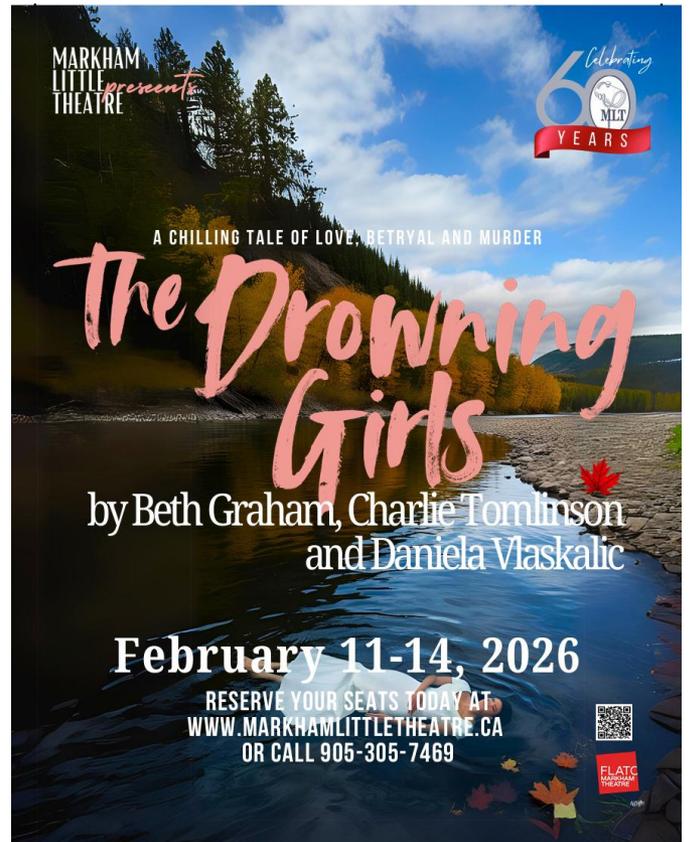
by Beth Graham, Charlie Tomlinson and Daniela Vlaskalic

February 11-14, 2026

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