

# INFORMATION SHEET

“STANDING UP FOR UNIONVILLE”

[www.unionvilleratepayers.com](http://www.unionvilleratepayers.com)

**TOPIC:**

## MARKHAM CENTRE

**LAST UPDATE:** January 19, 2011

**URA CONTACTS:**

Harry Eaglesham ([hieagle@aol.com](mailto:hieagle@aol.com)) Committee Chair & URA rep on Town M.C. Advisory

Peter Miasek ([dmiasek@rogers.com](mailto:dmiasek@rogers.com)) Committee Vice-Chair

Gord Mah, URA rep on Town M.C. Advisory

10 other URA members

**BACKGROUND:**

**Where is it?**

The area bounded roughly by Roddick Road in the west, 407 in the south, Kennedy road in the east, and Highway 7 in the north. For detailed boundaries refer to the map in the Status of Development document with a link in the How to Learn More section below.

**What is different about it?**

A plan was developed in the mid-1990s to make this area a planned community where people could live, work, shop and play that would be a smart departure from urban sprawl. It would be a vibrant centre, pedestrian friendly and supported by a high performance accessible transit system. It would be environmentally sustainable and protect and enhance the natural environment. New urbanism pioneer, Andres Duany, planned a role in the creation of the original vision for Markham Centre.

**What was the planned scale?**

The original plan called for 25,000 people and 17,000 jobs. The developments would be a mix of medium and high rise buildings with heights up to 8 stories in most places with 13 storey maximums at strategic locations.

**CURRENT ISSUES:**

Changing the plan:

Provincial legislation (Greenbelt Plan and Places to Grow), transit plans (Metrolinx: The Big Move), and developer applications have necessitated an update to the plan. This has created concern that the original vision will be compromised and that existing problems in the community (such as traffic congestion and overcrowding of community facilities) will be exacerbated.

The Times Group have proposed a large development on their property south of Highway 7 between Warden and the Sheridan Nurseries property. The density and building heights exceed that originally planned. They have appealed their application to the Ontario Municipal Board. The URA is one of the parties opposing their application.

## HOW TO LEARN MORE:

- Read 'Suburban Nation' by Andres Duany (available in Markham Libraries)
- Go to the Town website:  
[http://www.markham.ca/markham/aspc/markhamcentre/AboutMarkham\\_Site/home.asp](http://www.markham.ca/markham/aspc/markhamcentre/AboutMarkham_Site/home.asp)
- The Eleven Guiding Principles:  
[http://www.markham.ca/markham/aspc/markhamcentre/AboutMarkham\\_Site/guiding.asp](http://www.markham.ca/markham/aspc/markhamcentre/AboutMarkham_Site/guiding.asp)
- Presentation from November 24, 2008 Open House (background and reasons for changes to original plan)  
[http://www.markham.ca/markham/aspc/markhamcentre/PDF/mc\\_presentation\\_081124.pdf?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=600992](http://www.markham.ca/markham/aspc/markhamcentre/PDF/mc_presentation_081124.pdf?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=600992)
- Presentation from March 5, 2009 Open House (Highway 7 Precinct Plan and Times Group application)  
[http://www.markham.ca/markham/aspc/markhamcentre/PDF/mc\\_presentation\\_090305.pdf](http://www.markham.ca/markham/aspc/markhamcentre/PDF/mc_presentation_090305.pdf)
- Status of development (Summer 2010):  
[http://www.markham.ca/markham/aspc/markhamcentre/PDF/MC\\_DevStatus\\_2010.pdf](http://www.markham.ca/markham/aspc/markhamcentre/PDF/MC_DevStatus_2010.pdf)

## URA OFFICIAL POSITIONS and ACTIVITIES:

### A. Changing the original Markham Centre Plan:

*Feb. 2, 2009 Position: "The URA supports the original Markham Centre Plan and its Guiding Principles. However, we are very concerned that changes to it may seriously compromise the Guiding Principles"*

Current status: the Town is preparing a new townwide Official Plan (OP) in 2011 and will be updating the secondary plan (OPA#21) for Markham Centre. URA will monitor these carefully.

**B. TIMES GROUP:** the Times Group is developing the property on the south side of Highway 7 between Warden and Sheriden Nurseries. Their application was appealed to the OMB and the URA was a party to the appeal. A negotiated settlement was reached in May 2009. See the URA Times Group Information Sheet.

**C. REMINGTON GROUP:** Remington is the largest landowner in Markham Centre. Refer to the status of Development link above for maps and specific projects. The next phase will focus on the area near the intersection of Birchmount and Enterprise Drive and will include a retail/entertainment component as well as additional residential. URA has had meetings with both Remington and the Town to stay abreast and provide input to these plans.

**D. MOBILITY HUB:** the area around the Unionville GO Station has been designated as a major transportation hub for the future with VIVA, GO, YRT and 407 Transitway services eventually converging here. The redesign of the station, alignment of the transit lines and form/density of surrounding area are major elements for which planning is ongoing.

**E. "MARKHAM LIVE":** Regional Councilor Jim Jones has been the principal promotor of creating a major centre of entertainment, business and sports in the area surrounding the Mobility Hub. He also envisions densities in the area that would triple that which was originally anticipated.