

Provincial Candidates Meeting prior to URA member meeting 2 June 2014



In view of the upcoming provincial election on June 12, URA and co-sponsors UVA and SURF will be hosting a provincial candidates meeting at Varley Art Gallery on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The start time is earlier than typical. All 5 registered candidates for Markham-Unionville riding will attend. The format will largely be based on questions from the audience. We welcome questions submitted ahead of time. If you have any questions for the candidates, feel free to send to us prior to the meeting, and we will endeavour to use them. Written questions may also be submitted during the meeting.

Following the candidates meeting, we will conduct a brief regular members meeting on other issues affecting our community.

Unionville Festival (June 6-8)

The 45th annual Unionville Festival will be held on June 6 -8. URA will have a booth on Carleton Rd near the Curling Club. Come by for a visit, or to renew your membership!

Multi-Venue Business Entertainment Complex (“casino”)

As members know, a survey about this complex was initiated by Council Councillors Jones, Hamilton and Campbell in April. The Economist and Sun reported on May 8 that the survey results showed that there was only lukewarm support for a casino among respondents. We have asked Councillor Jones to speak and take questions on this topic at our June 2 meeting.

Population Forecasts and Implications

URA continues to raise the issue of rapid population growth in Markham Centre and Ward 3 at every opportunity. On May 6, we presented to Development Services Committee, which directed staff to study our presentation and report back within 6 months.

We have also intervened at meetings on two large developments – Markham Centre Development Corp, and Global Unionville, both of which are proposing unit counts higher than forecast for Markham Centre. In each case, we urged that structured holds be instituted to phase development consistent with overall planning and with completion of transportation infrastructure.



Designation of Markham for Provincial French Services

“L’Association des francophones de la region de York” (AFRY) is a non-government organization (like URA) established to promote French language/culture in York Region. They run French summer camps, produce a directory of French products and services, work with French immersion schools etc. There are 5,000 francophones in Markham, and growing.

AFRY has a project to request the province to designate Markham as an area where provincial services would be available in French – for example the Service Ontario offices in Markham would have one French speaking staff, and the signs on the 404 would be French and English. There is no cost to Markham or York Region and very little cost to the province. They have the support of the local MPP’s. They would like a letter of support from a leading community organization, eg URA.

The URA Directors are very supportive of the concept of enhancing francophone culture in Canada and Markham. It aligns with our diversity strategy and adds to business attractiveness. We are recommending that URA support this initiative, but will review with our members at the June 2 meeting prior to making a final decision.

Multi-Use Path (MUP) from 16th Avenue to Bob Hunter Park

Construction of this new and improved MUP is well underway. Phase 1, from Unionville Main Street to Drakefield Avenue near Milne Conservation Area, will be completed by July. You can see the new construction behind Main Street, and south of Highway 7 near Bullock. Phase 2, from 16th Avenue to Unionville Main Street, and from Drakefield to Markham Road, is to be tendered in July.

Storm Spotting Training Workshop, Thursday May 29, 6:30 pm

Markham is partnering with Environment Canada (EC) to host a training workshop for residents interested in “storm-spotting”. Volunteers become part of the EC Severe Weather Watch and Warning program. New volunteers will learn how thunderstorms form, what differentiates a severe from a non-severe storm, the types of damage these storms can do, what to watch for in the sky, what to report to EC and a number of safety tips.

Registration is through City of Markham Contact Centre 905-477-5530 quoting course barcode 250633. There is no cost to this 2.5 hour course. The course location is Cornell Community Centre.

Markham Food Security Programs

Markham’s sustainability office offers a variety of supportive programs for home gardeners:

- Organic Home Gardens program – includes workshops, newsletters, tools
- Seed Library
- Community and allotment garden plots

For further information, see the City’s website under “Markham Organic Home Gardens”.

Join Us!!

Your Voice Makes Our Voice Stronger

<http://www.unionvilleratepayers.com/membership.htm>

Contact Information