

Don't Forget Our Christmas Party December 8 (Monday), Stiver Mill



By now, all members will have received an invitation to our 2nd annual Unionville Community Christmas Party, hosted by URA and UVA. It will be at the Stiver Mill with drop in between 7:00 and 9:00pm. We have also invited numerous elected officials, key municipal staff and the presidents of other Markham ratepayer associations. We remind you that we are accepting donations – non-perishable food for the Markham Food bank or new unwrapped toys for the Markham Fire toy drive. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Pan Am Centre Now Open

The Markham Pan Am Centre, 16 Main Street, Unionville is now officially open and available for community use. Facilities include a 50 m swimming pool, triple gymnasium, fitness centre and meeting rooms. Details are on the City's website markham.ca.

The Pan Am and Parapan games will be held from July 10-26, 2015 and August 7-15, 2015 respectively. They promise to be exciting and eventful, with world-class athletics as well as local cultural and street events to engage the community up to and during the games. There will also be changes to local transportation patterns. URA will continue to monitor these upcoming plans and keep members informed.

URA Board of Directors and Officers

At our Annual General Meeting on November 3, 2014 the following Directors were elected: Donna Day, Gene Genin, Keing Ly, Reid McAlpine, Peter Miasek, Adam Poon and Alick Siu.

At a subsequent Directors' meeting, the following Table Officers were elected: President - Peter Miasek, Vice President – Alick Siu, Treasurer – Keing Ly, Secretary – Gene Genin. With the continuance of Peter as President, Jeff Morris also continues to be on the board as Past President.

The Board and members at the AGM thanked departing board members Brian Brewer and Dave Wilson for their many years of hard work on behalf of URA. Happily, both Brian and Dave have indicated that they are willing to continue to assist URA on an ad-hoc basis as necessary.

As continuing President, I would personally like to thank Brian and Dave and extend a special welcome to Adam, who is new to this board, and to Gene and Keing for election as Officers. We continue to have a strong board that will lead our Association forward.

Peter Miasek

Unionville GO Station Parking Capacity Problem

URA has written a letter to Metrolinx regarding the immediate need to deal with parking capacity problems at Unionville GO station. We suggested several short-term strategies. The letter is posted on the URA website under "Issues". We expect a response from Metrolinx shortly.

Unionville Main Street Vision Plan



Our November 3 regular members meeting focused on obtaining input on the Main Street Vision Plan. We broke into groups and divided the study area into 5 sub-areas. For each, we discussed what we liked, what needed improvement and what needed more clarification. Over 100 points were identified. Our thanks to Dave Wilson for facilitating this excellent process.

The URA board is now reviewing these points to determine common themes in preparation for draft letter or position paper to be submitted to City Council in early January. We expect this draft letter to be circulated to all members in early-mid December. The letter will be discussed at our January 5, 2015 meeting for final input, and then finalized.

Say “Yes to York” University

The process to establish a branch campus of York University in Markham Centre continues. As readers know, both Markham and York made financial/land contributions to the project. In late September, the official bid proposal was submitted to the provincial government, to meet the deadline of September 26. We are advised that 13 proposals were submitted to the government, and that 3 proposals will be accepted. A provincial decision is expected in early 2015.

A campus with impact

6,000+ full-time students within 6 years

400+ new on-campus jobs

\$500 million in economic benefits from construction

\$37 million annual impact when fully operational

A new website “yestoyork.ca” has been set up to provide citizens with information and allow them to contact elected officials with their support. Check it out.

Times Group Development at Village Parkway/Hwy 7 (NE Corner)

In a surprising development, Times has applied to the City for a major change to their approved proposal. The approved proposal involves 393 condo units in an 8-story building on Highway 7, with 72 townhouses immediately to the north and single family dwellings further north. Members will recall that URA was a party at the OMB opposing this proposal. We argued for about 230 condo units and about 50 townhouses, feeling that this represented a reasonable balance between necessary intensification on a transit corridor and neighbourhood infrastructure needs.

Times has now applied to replace the 393 condo units with 43 townhouses. City staff opposes this application, as it is inconsistent with development objectives and policies for this area. The URA directors also oppose this application and continue to support the position given at the OMB hearing as representing a reasonable balance, as stated above.

A public meeting on this application is planned, but not yet scheduled.

Emergency Preparedness

Have you prepared your family in case another ice storm is coming like last Christmas? We should all have an emergency plan with emergency kits for 3 days support.

Step 1 – Make a plan

- ✓ A Two safe locations in case you have to leave your home
- ✓ A family communication plan with phone contact and 1 or 2 out of town contacts just in case the local phone network is not working
- ✓ A list of personal support contacts including family members, neighbour, health care and personal support workers

Step 2 – Building a survival kit

Essentials	Special Considerations
Food (good for 3 days)	Medical supplies and equipment (cane, walker, hearing aid, battery, breathing device)
Can opener	Prescription eyewear and footwear
Water (12 litres / person)	Dentures & supplies
Medication(s)	Pet food & supplies
Flashlight	Clothing & shoes
Radio (crank or battery)	Sleeping bag, blanket
Extra batteries	Soap, toothpaste and other toiletries
First-aid kit	
Hand sanitizer	
ID, contact list	
Copies of prescriptions	
Extra car keys & cash	
Whistle	

For more details on emergency planning, please go to <http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/stellent/groups/public/@mcscs/@www/@emo/documents/abstract/ec163021.pdf>

Markham Emergency Inquiry: 905-477-5530 (day time)
905-477-7000 (after-hours)

Powerstream outage number: 1-877-777-3810

Powerstream outage incident map:

<http://weboutage.powerstream.ca/weboutage/>

York Region Public Emergency Medical Service: 1-800-361-5653

Markham Stouffville Hospital (emergency): 905-472-7111

Markham Fire & Emergency Services:

905-415-7521 (8:30 am – 4:30 PM Monday thru Friday)

905-477-2011 (after-hours, weekends, holidays)

For Traffic & Weather: York Region Radio **FM 105.9**

What is the URA?

A non-partisan association of the residents of Unionville

- ✓ Boundaries: Warden Ave. to McCowan Rd. and Sixteenth Ave. to Hwy 407
- ✓ Founded in 1974 to protect the interests of the community
- ✓ Registered with the Province of Ontario and the City of Markham

What does URA do?

- ✓ Stays current on events, activities and issues in Unionville
- ✓ Keeps our members informed through regular email broadcasts and monthly meetings (with guest speakers on hot topics)
- ✓ Ensures our residents' views are known and communicated to local, regional and provincial government officials and representatives
- ✓ Provides information on our website on active issues
- ✓ Organizes special events (e.g. All-Candidates meetings during elections, issue based meetings)

Join Us!!

Your Voice
Makes Our Voice Stronger

For more membership info, please go to our web site

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