



Next Members Meeting January 5 (Monday) Pan Am Centre - Tour available at 6:30 PM

Don't forget our next members meeting, to be held on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Following our pattern of exploring new venues in our area, the meeting will be held at the new Markham Pan Am Centre, 16 Unionville Main Street, in Multipurpose Room 3, on the second floor.

Agenda topics include final endorsement of our position on the Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan, and discussion on other recent issues such as the Times Development (Village Parkway/Highway 7 – NE corner), GO parking lot capacity and rooming houses.

The building management has kindly offered to conduct a building tour for any interested member. Just show up at 6:30 pm in the front lobby.

Is the "Arena" Being Resurrected?

Sports fans will know that the National Hockey League has recently permitted a group in Las Vegas to test market the sale of season tickets for a potential new hockey team. There is speculation that this could open the door for other new franchises – including Markham. URA has it on good authority that Markham Council will be asking Remington (the owner of the land where the Markham Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre, i.e. the "arena" was slated to go) to extend the land swap agreement for a period of time to allow the City to acquire this land, if needed. Stay tuned!

Unionville Community Christmas Party – a great success

Our second annual URA/UVA was a great success. The warm ambience of the Stiver Mill, the great decorations, the delicious food and drink, the live music provided by Charles Deacon, Ed Mead and Claude Schmid and the great attendance by members and guests all resulted in a very memorable evening.

Our thanks to the following sponsors: Ambiyen Restaurant and the Village Pub, Asuka Sushi Fusion Restaurant, Blacksmith's Bistro, Cucina Locale Restaurant, Five Lamps Chophouse and Tavern, La Isla Home (Décor), Jakes on Main Pub and Grille, Muriel's Flowers, Old Country Inn Restaurant, Old Firehall Confectionary, Planeta Mexico Restaurant, Il Postino Ristorante, Starbucks Coffee Company, Unionville Arms Pub and Grill and The Village Grocer.

Please patronize these local businesses as they support our community.



Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan – Final Position

As members recall, URA's final position on this topic needs to be developed for submission to the City by mid-January. Following our November members feedback session, the URA Board submitted preliminary comments to the city in early December, with a copy by email to all members.

We will be finalizing this position and letter at our January 5 meeting. We welcome member comments on this submission, either by email prior to the meeting or at the meeting.

The URA preliminary comments can be found on the URA website, under "Issues/Main Street Unionville Vision". For reference, the final version of the consultant report is posted on the City website under "Major City Projects/Main Street Unionville".

Rooming Houses



Housing

Recently a URA member alerted us about a problem with a proposed rooming house in his neighbourhood. Although that problem was resolved, it has alerted the Board about an issue we should get ahead of.

While rooming houses can fill a legitimate housing need, there are also very legitimate neighbourhood concerns about fire safety, noise, traffic, condition of property and neighbouring property values. With a potential new university coming to Markham Centre, there will be increasing pressure for low-cost housing, such as rooming houses.

Rooming houses are just one component of the complex subject of Affordable Housing, which also includes secondary suites, rental accommodations and lower-cost owned homes. Affordable Housing, and its subsets, was studied by the City in 2010-2011 and URA provided commentary on the final reports and met with the study team at that time. Since then, the issue has become dormant, other than specific cases as above.

URA has been in contact with Council on this issue. As a first step, Council will be requesting a staff report/presentation on rooming houses – including official plan, current bylaws and potential future directions.

This is probably a good topic for a URA educational forum sometime in 2015.

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>

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