

## Next Members Meeting (March 2<sup>nd</sup>) Markham Pan Am Centre

Don't forget our next members meeting, to be held on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 7:00pm in Multipurpose Room 1/2 at the Markham Pan Am Centre, 16 Unionville Main Street.

In addition to discussing current hot topics, we welcome Valerie Shuttleworth, **York Region Chief Planner**, as the guest speaker to discuss the upcoming **Regional Official Plan Review** and regional infrastructure issues, including transportation. **Please join us.**

## Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan – Next Steps



URA, UVA and the Unionville BIA continue to press for advancing this vision plan. Following Council acceptance in January, the first stages of implementation have started. We are advised that Mayor Scarpitti is working on arranging a meeting with landowners in the study area to discuss implementation. Also, staff is developing a description of the roles and funding options for a development coordinator, and also the terms of reference for a reconstituted Main Street Unionville Committee.

## Times Group Development Plan At Village Parkway/Hwy 7 (NE corner)

Members will recall previous newsletter items discussing the application by this developer to reduce the number of units (“downzone”) at this location by replacing apartments with townhouses. Following meetings at Development Services Committee and the Unionville Subcommittee, where most Councillors expressed concerns, the developer has agreed to meet with staff to discuss alternate built form options that may be more supportive of the Region's and City's objectives for Highway 7. URA will continue to stay involved in this matter.

## GO Train Anti-Horn Program

This item was discussed at the February members meeting with Mayor Scarpitti. Considerable frustration was expressed by members as to the slow progress of City studies on horn elimination. The Mayor publically committed to having a definitive statement by December, 2015 on either a plan to resolve the issue or to conclude that horn elimination is not practical.



### **Rouge National Urban Park**

Rouge National Urban Park is a planned 50 sq. km. national park to be largely located in Markham east of Don Cousins Parkway/9<sup>th</sup> Line between Steeles Ave and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. On January 26, 2015, a significant milestone was reached – the Rouge National Urban Park Act to create this first Canadian national urban park passed third reading in the House of Commons. The Bill will now be sent to the Senate for further review.

### **Markham Multi-Use Pathway (16<sup>th</sup> Ave to Bob Hunter Park)**

Work is gearing up for the 2015 construction season on this continuing trail project. In 2014, the connection from Carleton Rd./Unionville Main Street, under the GO tracks, under Highway 7 and on to McCowan Road was completed. Work was also completed within the western portion of Milne Park. The work involved limestone pathways, boardwalks, bridges, signage and seating areas.

For 2015, a pedestrian signal crossing McCowan Road will be installed shortly, completing the access to Milne Park. The balance of the 2015 program (Milne Park and eastward) will be defined in March.

### **Markham Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre (“Arena”) – Release of Consultant Reports**

As discussed at our February meeting, URA supports the motion by Councillors Rea and Hamilton to release all consultant reports on the Arena that can legally be released. Mike Gannon made a deputation on behalf of URA at the Council meeting of February 10. As was broadly publicized in the media, the motion was ultimately ruled out of order until the outcome of two appeals to the Information and Privacy Commissioner are dealt with. No doubt this issue will return again.

### **Ice Skating at Toogood Pond**



In early February, we were surprised to learn that the City of Markham has stopped clearing the ice at Toogood Pond due to concerns for worker safety. We were unable to understand what had suddenly changed, as previously the City had cleared and flooded the ice, installed barricades and provided warning flags.

Skating on the pond is a long-standing tradition in Unionville, and a positive feature of our community. Although skating is available at the Civic Centre and various indoor arenas, the unique feature of Toogood is that both shinny hockey and pleasure skating can occur spontaneously and simultaneously, on a large ice surface.

At our February members meeting, we passed a resolution urging the City to explore with the community options that will allow for the maintenance of Toogood Pond for skating and hockey under safe conditions. With the help of Councillor Hamilton, we have scheduled a meeting with City staff to discuss the matter further.

**Join Us!!**

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Makes Our Voice Stronger**