

March 2015 Newsletter

URA UNIONVILLE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

No Members Meeting in April Next Meeting will be on May 4th At Pan Am Centre

There will be no URA members meeting in April, due to the Easter Monday holiday. Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 4, 2015 at the Markham Pan Am Centre. More details to follow later.

Minutes from March 2nd Meeting Posted on URA web site

Minutes from our last members meeting on March 2, 2015 have been posted on the URA website for your review. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Main Street Unionville Community Vision Plan – next steps

URA, UVA and the Unionville BIA continue to closely monitor and participate in advancing this vision plan. We are pleased that Markham Council and staff appear to be moving quickly on some of the recommendations. On March 24, 2015, Development Services Committee reviewed a staff report on creation of an advisory committee and establishing a property development coordinator.



URA made a deputation supporting these recommendations and providing practical suggestions for more property owner engagement and how to fund the coordinator role. Our deputation is available on the URA website under the "Issues" tab under "Main Street Unionville Vision".

Monitoring Population Growth in the City of Markham



In Spring, 2014, URA completed a population forecast for Markham Centre and Ward 3 showing that development in the local area is trending significantly ahead of forecast while transportation is lagging. See our newsletter for April 2014 for more details. A staff report on this matter was presented to Development Services Committee on March 24, 2015 and will be discussed in April. URA has provided comments for staff and council, stating that the new report was a good first start but that a number of questions remain. Our position is available on the URA website under the "Issues" tab under "Markham Centre".

Pan Am Games Transportation Plan

The Pan Am Games organizing committee recently held an information session in Markham about the transportation plan for the games. The Province is targeting a 20% reduction in traffic, using a combination of more transit and carpooling. Some of the key findings specific to Markham residents were:

- All games tickets anywhere in the GTHA include a transit pass valid for the day of the event
- Existing lanes on the Don Valley Parkway, Gardiner Expressway and Highway 401 will be converted to HOV lanes (3+ people) from June 29 to August 15
- There will be no road closures in Markham. The exception is Unionville Main Street S. near the Pan Am venue, which will be closed for street festivals.
- A new parking lot will be created on the north side of Enterprise Drive just west of the GO tracks, with space for 900 vehicles. After the games, this lot will revert to Markham which will maintain it for public use. URA will be seeing whether this lot could be used as an overflow lot for GO parking.

Ice Skating at Toogood Pond - update

As follow up from February, URA, UVA and BIA representatives met with Councillor Hamilton and City staff to discuss the surprising decision by the City to stop clearing Toogood Pond for ice skating. We learned that this arose from a "Working Around Water" safety evaluation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. There have been some historical incidents where the plow has broken through weak ice. We pointed out that risks can be managed – this happens every day in thousands of work places across Canada. With regards to risks to the public, we noted that all City recreational programs involve a trade-off between liability and economic and social well-being. City staff agreed to study work practices in cities such as Richmond Hill and Ottawa, where ice skating on natural water bodies is encouraged and celebrated. These could lead to development of a improved procedure for Markham staff to use. A follow up meeting has been scheduled for June.

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.html>

