

## May 2nd Members' Meeting

Our next members' meeting will be on **Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Markham Pan Am Centre.**

1. Councillor Karen Rae will share the status of her OMB reform efforts.
2. The URA Transportation and Traffic Management sub-committee will share their recent findings.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Markham Comprehensive Zoning By-law Strategic Direction May 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House

Markham is hosting an open house on Phase 2 – Strategic Direction of the Zoning By-law Update Project at the Council Chamber from 6:00 – 8:00 PM to solicit input on the development of an overall strategy to guide the drafting of the City's new comprehensive zoning by-laws.

## Markham Library Vision May 16<sup>th</sup>

The Markham Public Library has evolved from providing books to inspiring and helping citizens create change for a better life. Unionville Ratepayers Association has invited the Markham Public Library to share their vision and strategic direction. Please join us.

**Date:** Monday May 16<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM

**Venue:** Unionville Public Library

We look forward to seeing you there.

## Managing Growth in Markham 2041



As covered in our April newsletter, all Ontario municipalities are required to extend the timeline of their 2031 Official Plans by ten years to 2041. As part of the consultations, a public meeting was held on April 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the implications to the city.

Markham is required to plan for a population of about 540,000 by 2041. Various intensification scenarios are under discussion. City staff continue to support the last Official Plan that calls for a 60% intensification. This means that, up to 2031, 60% of the growth would be directed to Centres and Corridors, 20% to existing urban area communities and 20% to the Future Urban Area. If this rate of intensification continues to 2041, an additional expansion of the Future Urban Area would be required.

One uncertainty is the impact of the Crombie Panel Report (see the February, 2016 newsletter), that recommended, among other things, growing the Greenbelt and increasing intensification. The province is slated to present draft legislative amendments in the spring that could affect some of the key assumptions in the York Region and City of Markham plans.

## Proposed Name Change for the URA

Since inception in 1974, our association has been known as the "Unionville Ratepayers Association". However, the name is somewhat dated and misleading since many residents do not know what "ratepayer" means and maybe unaware that membership is open to all residents, regardless of their property tax paying status.

As a result, the URA Board recently voted to change our name to "**Unionville Residents Association**".

Since adoption requires constitutional change, the decision requires member endorsement. This item will be presented for a vote at our May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

If accepted, the new name will be implemented gradually in order to use up existing supplies of pre-printed material.

## Purchase a Rain Barrel to Support our Community's Health

Purchase a rain barrel online for \$55.00 ([www.rainbarrel.ca/mshf](http://www.rainbarrel.ca/mshf)) and \$10 from every sale will be donated to the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation.

The barrels are repurposed food grade barrels and are ideal for collecting rain water that can be used for taking care of gardens and lawns.

"Good way to save water and support MSH!"



## Markham Energy Corporation (MEC) Director's Compensation

At our April members' meeting, a last minute item was raised. This concerned a motion coming before Markham Council proposing to increase Councillors' compensation for attending Markham Energy Committee meetings. A briefing on the concerns with this motion was provided by Mike Gannon. Members then passed a motion opposing the compensation motion before Council and support for Mike Gannon's deputation (for further details, please see the minutes of our April 4 members meeting).

Unfortunately, URA's motion was not successful. In a recorded vote, Council was 10 to 2 in favour of the motion, with Councillor Hamilton and Regional Councillor Armstrong opposed. Our thanks to Nirmala and Don for supporting our position.

## Digital Markham

The City of Markham is developing a **Digital Strategy** that envisions:

- How emerging digital technologies can enhance how citizens interact with the City and the service it provides
- How city employees collaborate and communicate
- How digital infrastructure will make Markham a 'smarter' city, and
- How the City can support the digital economy

To join the conversation please go to:

<https://www.placespeak.com/en/topic/4483-digital-markham/#/overview>

## Hughes/Briarwood Farms (Normandale Road and 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. Redevelopment)



This redevelopment was discussed at the April members' meeting. While URA has not taken an official position on this particular development, the following motion was passed unanimously:

The City of Markham has received a proposal to redevelop the Hughes/Briarwood Farm on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Periodically other proposals are made to develop lands that affect Markham Ward 3. If and when the URA takes a position on these proposals, it will give due consideration to the following principles:

- *Mature trees should be preserved when possible.*
- *Preservation of the natural environment should be encouraged.*
- *Intensification in Special Policy Areas and floodplains should be avoided.*
- *Densities should follow the requirements of the Markham Intensification Strategy (2009-2010) as reflected in the Official Plan (2014).*
- *The scale and density of new development should be appropriate relative to existing neighbouring developments.*
- *Developments that encourage alternate forms of transportation such as public transit, cycling and walking, should be encouraged.*
- *Developments should be designed to mitigate the volume of vehicular traffic.*
- *Heritage structures on any development site should be preserved, restored and renovated.*
- *Heritage structures should remain in their original locations.*

Since our meeting, City staff issued a memo to the Heritage Markham Committee requesting that the applicant provide a compelling reason for relocating the heritage farmhouse. The applicant has contacted staff and received approval for Heritage Markham to defer consideration of this item to its May 11, 2016 meeting.

### 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 relevant topics
- ✓ Ensures that residents' views are known and communicated to local, regional and provincial government officials
- ✓ Maintains a website that contains information on active issues
- ✓ Organizes special events, such as candidates' meetings, during elections

### Join Us!!

Together Our Voice  
Is Stronger

Membership information can found at:

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