



URA Nov. 2015 Newsletter

Notice of Annual General Meeting

URA's annual general meeting will be held Monday, November 2 at 7:00pm at the Markham Pan Am Centre. It will have the typical agenda – reports from the President, Treasurer and Membership Director, election of Directors for the upcoming year, and new business, if any. No constitutional amendments are proposed for this meeting.

The URA constitution allows up to 12 Directors (including Past President). Currently we have 8 Directors. As always, we welcome individuals who are interested in running for a Director position. This is a rewarding way to learn about your community and contribute to its success. Interested candidates should contact the URA Secretary at secretary@unionvilleratepayers.com. Nominations can also be made from the floor during the AGM.

Advance Notice of URA/UVA Christmas Party December 7 @ Stiver Mill



Please reserve this date for our third annual URA/UVA joint Christmas party. It will be held on December 7 at the Stiver Mill with drop in from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Details to follow.

Congratulations to Bob Saroya, newly elected MP for Markham-Unionville!



URA would like to congratulate Bob Saroya of the Conservative party, who was elected as Member of Parliament for our riding. We look forward to working together with Bob to support and advocate for the residents of Unionville.

Skating on TooGood Pond

Over the summer, local citizen groups, including URA, continued to meet with the City to discuss ploughing Toogood Pond for skating for this upcoming winter. (See URA Newsletters of February and March, 2015 for background). However, City staff is adamant that this is a dangerous, costly and legally risky practice. The City is preparing the space beside the Toogood Pond parking lot for two outdoor skating rinks (pleasure skating and shinny), however it is still uncertain as to who will maintain (flood, remove snow) this new facility. Stay tuned for more details



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Unionville Main Street Vision Plan/ Queen's Hotel



Progress on the Vision Plan has been slow over the past few months. Following the review of the implementation plan at Council in March, Council decided to proceed with consultations with property owners prior to hiring a Property Development Coordinator or setting up an Advisory Committee. Mayor Scarpitti subsequently held a meeting of property owners in May to discuss the extensive cooperation that would be required among the property owners to achieve the infill development concepts and coordinated parking solutions. Also discussed was the need for a Property Development Coordinator, at least partially funded by the owners, to work with the property owners.

As we understand it, the meeting with the property owners was successful and a follow-up meeting is planned. No further details are available at this time.

The need for this Property Development Coordinator became evident as options to redevelop the Queen's Hotel were screened. Following analysis, that owner decided to renovate and restore the existing floor space, rather than expand consistent with the Vision Plan. The expansion would have simply been too complex and costly without coordinated development partners. The owners have applied for a building permit and hope to reopen the building in the spring of 2016.

URA will continue to push for progress on this important file.

4th International Festival of Authors Markham, October 30

The Markham Arts Council invites the public to the 4th International Festival of Authors Markham, to be held on October 30 at 6:30 pm at Markham Village Library, 6031 Highway 7. Three award-winning authors will be present. Join the Arts Council for an evening of readings, book signings, music, wine, international cuisine, curated photography show, cash bar and more.



For further details, check www.markhamartscouncil.com.

Comprehensive Zoning-Bylaw Project

The City has initiated a comprehensive zoning by-law review. Essentially this ZBL adds important detail to the broad policy directions provided in the new Official Plan. Important topics to Unionville residents include: residential infill housing, interface between resident and non-residential uses, residential accessory structures and amenity space, home occupations, parking standards, places of worship, drive-throughs, affordable and shared housing, student housing and addiction and recovery centres.

Open houses are scheduled on these various topics on November 5, 12 and 19. Different topics will be discussed at each session. For further details, consult the city website www.markham.ca.

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