

April 2015 Newsletter



Next Members Meeting (May 4th) Markham Pan Am Centre



Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 4, at 7:00pm at the Markham Pan Am Centre. We have invited Bob Saroya, federal Conservative Party candidate for Markham-Unionville to attend and participate in a “meet and greet” for 15 minutes at the start of the meeting.

Following our regular business meeting, we will welcome Bruce Ander, CEO of Markham District Energy Inc. (MDEI). MDEI is an innovative municipally-owned corporation providing heating, cooling and electricity to Markham Centre and Cornell. Several members have raised questions about governance and financial transparency. Bruce will provide an overview of MDEI and respond to these questions and others raised by the audience.

GO Train Anti-Horn Program

Citizens continue to bombard elected officials and URA with complaints about the GO horn. City staff advises that the engineering study by AECOM (consultant) is on schedule and that a Working Group meeting will be held in late May, followed by a presentation to Council in June. URA has two representatives on the Working Group. The Working Group meeting is open to the public. We will advise as details come forth.

Queen’s Hotel – Main Street Unionville

Unionville residents were shocked to see the Queen’s Hotel on Main Street experience a major fire on March 18. This heritage building is about 150 years old and is a prominent anchor on the street. Over 30 firefighters with 10 trucks were used to combat the blaze. The cause of the fire is still unknown and is being investigated by the Office of the Fire Marshall. Structural damage was reported on the interior of the building on the South and East sides (all floors), with most of the remainder suffering smoke damage.

Discussions with the owner indicate that he appreciates how special the building is to Main Street, and that the existing building – both exterior and interior - will be retained, stabilized and restored. It is hoped that the non-fire damaged areas can be back in operation in 2-3 months, with the front section taking somewhat longer.

Volunteers Needed for Unionville Festival



The Unionville Festival is slated for June 6 and 7. The organizing committee is looking for volunteers to contribute an hour or two over this weekend. Volunteers can email the committee at volunteers@unionvillefestival.com, or can contact URA and we will forward the information on.

Significant Provincial Transportation Announcement

On April 16, the Province of Ontario indicated that proceeds from various asset sales (Hydro One IPO, General Motors) would be put into the Trillium Trust used to fund public infrastructure. Specifically, an additional \$2.7 Billion was added to the Moving Ontario Forward transportation commitment, raising the GTHA commitment to \$16 Billion over 10 years. A number of transit projects were cited for implementation, including GO Regional Express Rail (RER) and rapid transit projects in Mississauga and Hamilton. Ongoing planning and design work will continue on a number of other projects including the Toronto Relief Line Subway and the Yonge North Subway extension.

Subsequently, on April 17, GO announced more details on the RER implementation. The Stouffville GO corridor was identified for 15-minute electrified two-way service running on weekdays, evenings and weekends between Unionville Station and Union Station. Service north of Unionville to Mount Joy would be two-way, 60-minute or better on weekdays, evenings and weekends, with 20 minute peak period peak direction service. The announcement is silent on timing, although it is known that the Province wants most of RER implemented within 10 years.

Physical work is already slated to start on the Stouffville corridor. In February 2015, Metrolinx issued a tender to build a second track on a five-kilometer section from Kennedy Road to Marilyn Avenue (between Sheppard and Finch). This is the first part of a multi-year project that will expand and improve 17 kilometers of corridor from Scarborough Junction to Unionville GO Station.

Electrification



Markham Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre ("Arena") --- Release of Consultant Reports



On March 30, 2015, the Ontario Privacy Commissioner issued a ruling ordering the City to promptly release portions of one report and ordering the City to "reconsider" its exemption claims for 12 other reports. This matter will be coming to Council again to discuss next steps. To be continued!

"Friends of Markham Museum" Lecture Series



The first in this year's afternoon lecture series by the "Friends" will be held on Thursday, April 23 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the Markham Museum, 9350 Markham Road. The guest speaker will be Professor Marti Latta, renowned Ontario archaeologist. She will speak on "The Ashbridge Estate: Early Settlers in Toronto". Tickets are \$30.00 each, \$50.00 for two. Light refreshments will be served. All proceeds go to the Markham Museum.

Regional Road Construction Projects in Markham

Following our March meeting with a presentation from York Region Planning staff, we requested a summary of upcoming regional road construction projects in Markham. The table below is the summary that was provided.



Project	Project Limits
Road Project – Under Construction	Ninth Line - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Major Mackenzie Drive to GO Rail Crossing 2. GO Rail Crossing to Hoover Park 3. Hoover Park to Rupert Avenue, including Main Street jog elimination
Construction Road Project – 2015	Highway 404 Mid-Block Crossing - North of Highway 7
Construction Road Project – 2015	Highway 7 - Town Centre Boulevard to Sciberras Road
Resurfacing – future	Woodbine Avenue - Highway 7 to 16 th Avenue
Resurfacing – future	16 th Avenue - Warden Avenue to Kennedy Road
Resurfacing – future	16 th Avenue - Highway 48 to York/Durham Line
Resurfacing - future	14 th Avenue - Ninth Line to York/Durham Line
2015 Misc. Intersection Improvements	Eglin Mills Road East and Duke of York/Prince Regent
2015 Misc. Intersection Improvements	Village Parkway/Country Estate Drive and 16 th Avenue
2015 Misc. Intersection Improvements	Mc Cowan Road South and Southdale Drive
2015 Misc. Intersection Improvements	Kennedy Road and Milliken Mills HS South Access

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>