



**MARCH 2019**

**Inside This Issue**

Ward 3 crime prevention townhall .....1

York Downs Settlement .....2

Ontario Government Regional Government Review .....2

Ending Hallway Medicine .....3

Your Voice Markham .....4

**March URA Meeting**

We hope to see you all at our March meeting.

**Date:** March 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 (Monday)  
**Time :** 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
**Venue:** Pan Am Centre  
**Address:** 16 Main Street Unionville  
**Event:** Meet York Region Chair Wayne Emerson

**Topics:**

- York Budget 2019
- York University Update
- Road Widening Status
- Yonge Subway Expansion
- Regional Government Review
- Update on current issues



York Region Chair Wayne Emerson

**Ward 3 crime prevention townhall**

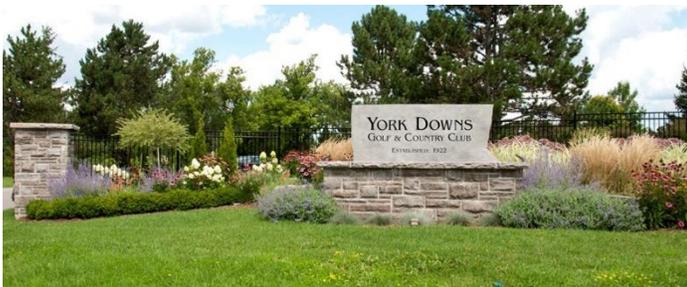
Please come and join us on **Wednesday March 20** in the Markham Council Chamber from 7 to 9 pm the URA together with Councillor Reid McAlpine will host a special meeting dedicated to crime prevention in Unionville.



MARCH 2019

## York Downs Settlement

On the 14th February 2019 the URA and 16th Land Holdings Inc. (the York Downs developer) exchanged signed settlement agreements. On February 15th, all Parties to the LPAT hearing (revised version of the OMB) announced their own settlements, including the Normandale community association (NRCA), the City of Markham, the Region of York, the TRCA and all others. As previously reported under the settlement, the URA agrees to now support the development under the agreed conditions. These include development phasing tied to traffic and specific road improvements, a significantly improved look and feel along the north side of 16th Avenue, including no direct access to 16th from residential and/or retail blocks, height limits, treed buffers, restrictions on size of retail outlets, a residential window street, and the condo tower blocks about 100 metres north of 16th limited to 4 and 6 storeys.



The golf course itself is expected to cease operations around June 2021. While we will be sorry to see it go, it was clear from early on in this process that there was little support from Council to prevent this development, so our focus has been on mitigation. It has of course been a long and arduous project but the resulting agreement we hope makes it worthwhile for our members. In fact this agreement was only possible with the support of all the membership, in contributing to the work of the subcommittee, in turning out in great numbers for all the meetings, not just our own, but also in Council, in Development

Services Committee, at the many public meetings etc etc etc. When so many members get engaged in an issue, Council and developers take notice. On behalf of the Board a big thank you to all our members, and especially the Normandale Community Association for all their hard work.

## Ontario Government Regional Government Review

The Ontario Government announced on January 15th a review of Regional Governments, including York Region and hence Markham. The current structure has been in place for almost 50 years. Public transit, water supply, ambulance services, policing and arterial roads (except the 400 series) are handled by York Region. Local roads, water distribution, fire services, garbage collection, community centres, parks and libraries are the responsibility of each municipality. The announced goal of the review is to help ensure that the 82 municipalities under review are working effectively and efficiently, and continue to provide vital services communities depend upon. The review includes consultations with councilors, stakeholder organizations, and the public, in the spring of 2019.

On behalf of our membership, the URA has submitted a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, requesting that the URA be consulted as part of the review. We also ask that if any municipal amalgamation is to be considered, there must be an impact assessment and any option must undergo public consultation. We suggest that any changes should be consistent with certain principles relating to, for example, impact on property taxes and service levels, fairness, implementation funding, ward sizes, and community cohesion.

MARCH 2019



## Ending Hallway Medicine

Led by Dr. Rueben Devlin, Special Advisor and Chair, 11 visionary health system leaders have come together to form the Premier's Council on Improving Healthcare and Ending Hallway Medicine. On January 31st, the Council published an interim report advocating that Ontario Health Care is difficult to navigate, people take too long to receive health care, and often in the wrong place such as hospital hallways.

The term "Hallway Medicine" is used to describe patients waiting longer than they should be in overcrowded hospitals. Every day there is an average of 1,000 patients waiting for a hospital bed in hallways or emergency rooms. Out of the 5.9 million emergency room visits in 2018;

- 41% could be dealt with by family doctor
- 39% needed internal medicine
- 20% had to go ALR (alternate level recovery) waiting to be served
- 12% waiting for long term care with current wait time 146 days
- 1% waiting for mental health service

The key issue of hallway medicine is that too many patients are waiting for assessment or treatment and have to go to emergency rooms to be involuntarily accepted by a hospital for treatment. The question is do we have a specialist or surgeon shortage? Ontario has a population of 12.8 million for whom there are 14,747 family doctors, 11,634 medical specialists, 11,046 clinical specialists, and 3,790 surgeons. 36% of Canadian physicians in total.

The Fraser Institute average wait time report shows Ontario performing relatively well;

- Ontario 2018 wait time for specialist is 7.4 weeks with shortest Saskatchewan 6.3 weeks and longest New Brunswick 28.5 weeks
- Ontario 2018 wait time for treatment is 8.3 weeks, lowest in Canada, and longest is Manitoba 19.7 weeks

In 2017, the population of older adults in Ontario was 2.4 million, or 18%, with that number expected to grow to 25% or 4.6 million by 2041. Currently there are 78,910 long term care beds in 627 Ontario Long Term Care Homes with 98% occupancy and average wait time 146 days. To match the aging population, the interim report has identified that there will be 41,000 new long term care beds required by 2041. The Ontario government has announced 6,000 additional long term care beds at this moment in addition to the original 5,000 committed by previous governments.

The report also touched on efficiency improvements through technology and integrated health care. Dr. Rueben Devlin was instrumental in promoting Humber River Hospital as the first digital hospital in North America with an electronic command centre, robot medication mixing, touch screen health

MARCH 2019

records, on line face to face remote health professionals, RFID wrist bands for patients in danger of wandering etc. Could this be the prototype for future Ontario hospitals?



Ernst and Young did a line by line review of government expenditure last September and reported that there are 20 health agencies across 11 priority areas operating independently where administrative costs might be reduced by cutting the number of agencies. Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliot announced on February 26th that "a super agency" will be formed which will incorporate Cancer Care Ontario, Trillium Gift of Life Network, eHealth Ontario, Health Shared Services, Health Quality Ontario, HealthForceOntario Marketing & Recruitment Agency and the 14 local health integration networks (or LHINs).

LHIN's main function is to coordinate local medical services by linking care across hospitals, community & home care, and long term care. These will be replaced by 30-50 local medical teams each supporting a population of about 300,000.

Another main function of LHIN is community and home care. Patients First Action Plan for Healthcare was launched in 2015 to increase the personal support worker wage to \$16.5 per hour, and added an additional \$750 million of community and home

care over 3 years to help the elderly to be more self-sufficient at home.

It is unclear if the super agency will continue health care services without disruption but the "super agency" concept is in line with the conservative philosophy of reducing red tape and smaller government. Stay tuned.

## Your Voice Markham

Markham has a new community engagement website where residents can get information about important projects as well as giving feedback on the projects.

Please visit the site and provide your feedback on the plans for the Main Street Unionville Streetscape.

<https://yourvoicemarkham.ca/>

