



AUGUST 2019

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Summer Update

As the summer progresses, we would like to keep you informed about recent developments by means of this summer update newsletter. Our next meeting will be in September 9th, 2019

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE BANDSTAND
7:30-9:00 P.M.

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
30 Community Soul Project R&B/Soul/Pop	6 Epic Journey Journey Tribute	4 Simply Queen Queen Tribute	1 Jukebox Heroes Foreigner Tribute
13 Fresh Horses Garth Brooks Tribute	20 Sensation Eclectic Pop	11 Shania Twain Shania Twain Tribute	8 ABBA Revisited Abba Tribute
27 Hotel California Eagles Tribute		18 Night Fever Bee Gees Tribute	15 Johannes Linstead Spanish/Latin
		25 Elton Rohn Elton John Tribute	22 Dreamer The Supertramp Experience Supertramp Tribute
			29 Brass Transit Chicago Tribute

The 2019 Music series presented by unionvillepresents.com and its sponsors at the Millennium Bandstand on historic main Street Unionville



Event : Markham Unionville All Candidate Meeting - Federal Election 2019

Date : September 9th 2019 (Monday)

Time : 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Venue: Markham Pan Am Centre (community room 3-4)

Hosted By :
 Unionville Villagers Association (UVA)
 Unionville Residents Association (URA)
 South Unionville Residents Forum (SURF)

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Support for Unionville Presbyterian Church Open Process and Feasibility Study for Affordable Seniors Housing

As members know, URA has long been involved in the problem of housing affordability in Markham. For example, we convened a Housing Affordability Forum in 2017 attended by over 125 members, guests and experts. We've met with staff and attended a workshop by the City this June, where we learned that the cost of land is a huge problem in housing affordability. We are also aware of the "senior tsunami" that is hitting our country and city, and the long 10-year waiting list for affordable seniors housing such as at Cedarcrest Manor off Main Street Markham.

So when we learned that Unionville Presbyterian Church (600 Village Parkway) had an idea to redevelop their underutilized parking lot for affordable seniors housing, we paid attention. The church is proposing to conduct a feasibility study to look at issues like suitability of the location (transit, amenities etc.), building size, costs, funding, operations etc.

The URA Directors support such a study. There are some key principles:

- √ The development must conform to good planning, including building height, setbacks to neighbours and adequate parking and access to adjacent community uses like the tennis club and sports fields.
- √ The community outreach programs for neighbouring seniors currently run by the church should continue, so that both residents of the building and the community at large can benefit.

- √ The proponents must involve the community by posting regular information about the project and setting up a stakeholder advisory group.

This position was stated at an overflow public meeting held by the church on July 3, also attended by Markham Councillors McAlpine, Hamilton and Heath, MPP Billy Pang and MP Bob Saroya.

The public meeting was an unpleasant experience. To quote the Markham Review of July 5, "the proposal was met with a wall of anger at a recent overflow meeting with mostly local community members who wanted nothing of the sort. Most in the audience were in no mood for information and were intent on shutting down the church-sponsored plan, heckling supporters and assembled politicians with seniors and good intentions be damned. It was not pretty at times. Tempers flared and harsh words were spoken at the meeting, even by those who didn't live near the church."

The URA is very disappointed in the disrespectful and shameful behaviour of several of our neighbours at this meeting.

Subsequent events have proven more positive. A joint statement by Councillors McAlpine, Hamilton and Heath, MPP Pang and MP Saroya supported the setting up of a stakeholder group to explore redevelopment options for the church site. Within the next year, the church will be applying to the Federal Government for funding to conduct the feasibility study.

In conclusion, the URA is open to views from all sides in a calm debate, and strongly supports an open, transparent and collaborative evaluation process, including the feasibility study.

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Age-Friendly Community

In 2015 when baby boomers started to retire, York Region Council approved a corporate strategy to adapt to the change in seniors' demographics. The senior strategy defined the role of regional government, established a collaborative strategy with member cities and responded to the change with senior services such as property tax deferral, long term care, public health programs, transit and paramedic service.

While millennials have started to overtake baby boomers as the largest generation in 2019, there are 400,000 baby boomers retiring each year in Canada, making the retired sector 10.8 million or 27.1% of 40 million Canadians by 2031. Markham currently has 50,000 or 15.1% of its residents as retired and by 2031, the number will be increased to 95,000 or 22.4% of 423,000 Markham residents. An age-friendly community and services are much needed.



In October 2017, the City of Markham augmented its Older Adult Strategy to provide:

- (1) Affordable and convenient services to keep older adults healthy;
- (2) Activities in community Centre, park & trail;
- (3) Ways to engage in local community volunteering or work.

In March 2019, the Committee for an Age-Friendly Community recommended the following to the City of Markham:

- All future developments shall contain "Always" Homes with wheelchair accessibility, better kitchen washroom design, shower on main floor, no step at front door;
- Home elevators or chair lifts in new builds or retrofits;
- Senior housing close to transit, medical & dental services, grocery & pharmacy;
- Increase the land supply for affordable senior homes using parking lots of schools, utility companies, hospitals, government buildings, places of worship;
- Locate living space close to transit or amenities hubs such as medical & dental services, pharmacy, grocery & retail;
- Enact inclusionary zoning with affordable housing for all future developments;
- Improve current service of window snow cleaning for seniors, if not a city-wide window program;
- City target to finish sidewalk completion program for arterial & collector roads by 2026;

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- Increase live/work allotment in developments so seniors can walk to neighborhood services;
- An organization to oversee the implementation of the above recommendations;
- Markham Future Urban Area be developed with the above recommendation.

The recommendations were adopted by Council with the following items NOT to be considered at the moment:

- 2 to 4 residential hospices to be built over next 12 years;
- Ramp up nursing and personal support service as a regional or provincial responsibility;
- Permit city-wide secondary suites;
- Permit current and future urban areas to allow coach houses for more affordable rental;
- Increase live/work allotment does not include small business;
- Markham parking authority with off hour permit to alleviate parking lot used for senior housing.

Council has also added that any new developments shall have 10% "Always" Homes. Staff will report back in November 2019 and URA will provide new development updates and relevant advocacy as it happens.



Age-Friendly Communities
in Canada:
Community Implementation Guide

York Downs Update

Some of you may have seen the signs below. They are posted all around the perimeter of York Downs along Kennedy Rd and 16th Ave. They are too small to read from a moving car, so as a service to our members and being of a curious nature, we naturally wondered what's going on here, so hoofed it on foot to take the pictures. They are informing the public of a Markham City COA (Committee of Adjustment) hearing scheduled for Wednesday August 7th. We contacted City staff, 16th Land Holdings Inc., and the LPAT to find out more.

The last we reported on this development was to report that the URA had settled with 16th Land Inc. in exchange for certain commitments that we reported earlier. This settlement, as well as other settlements, was reported to the LPAT in a teleconference on February 15th this year. LPAT reports that the board has not yet issued its written judgement confirming the result of the February 15th teleconference, and the COA application is not a matter for the board. Based on email traffic we have seen; the developers are asking for this report to be issued.

The COA application itself appears purely technical. You may recall there were 2 draft plans of subdivision (East and West) approved with a long list of conditions. The COA application requests permission to sever the YD property along the lines of the 2 draft plans to enable each section to be acquired by different owners. Our expectation is that different members of the 16th Land Inc. consortium will now take sole charge of their respective subdivisions. Kylesmore will likely be taking the West section and Minto and Metropia the East. A relating matter is that the severance line passes through an existing outbuilding on the golf course and as a result would be in default of setback regulations in the event of

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different owners. City staff confirm that all the conditions of the development approval will flow through to the new owners.

Your Voice Markham

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

Please visit the site and provide your feedback on plans for Winter Maintenance, Markham Centre, Active Transportation, and other important projects.

New topics are added regularly!

<https://yourvoicemarkham.ca/>

