



MARKHAM NEWS

NEWS FROM YOUR
MARKHAM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

in this issue

1. Fred Varley Plaza & Town or City?
2. New GO train bridges in Unionville
3. Water quality at Toogood ... too bad?
4. Sports Entertainment Cultural Centre



Don Hamilton

Your Unionville Ward 3 Councillor

Working with our community for our community.

Spring 2012 Newsletter

16th Avenue



Fred Varley Drive Plaza Redevelopment

The proposal from the developer, Tribute Communities, has proceeded to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

Tribute has returned to it's original 5 storey, 113 unit design **which Council previously turned down**. As part of the OMB process, **mediation** was requested by all parties. This allows for less formal negotiations to take place to see if any or all contentious parts of the proposal such as height, density, massing and architectural style can be resolved. If not, then a full OMB hearing will occur with the final decision resting with the OMB adjudicator.

Participating in the process are Tribute, the Town of Markham, Unionville Ratepayers Association, Unionville Villagers Association and UBIA representing the Main Street merchants. **Let's remain positive for a good outcome for our community.**

Town or City? Have your say!

Council will be considering whether the Town of Markham should become the City of Markham. **Let me know what you think!**

Will the Emerald Ash Borer be a \$15 million pest?

New infestations of the Emerald Ash Borer continue to be found throughout Unionville, Markham, York Region and the GTA.

This invasive insect, which can kill any type of ash tree, moves from one tree to the next, laying eggs for future generations. The insects feed on the tree, eventually killing it. If residents suspect an ash tree may be infested, an arborist or tree care company should be contacted for assessment. Boulevard trees will be assessed by the Town.

I have been in touch with our local gardening expert **Mark Cullen**, who has suggested that "TreeAzin", a pesticide, could be used to help treat infected trees. Mark, along with many residents, is worried about the beautiful tree canopy that would disappear if these trees are cut down.

The Town's forestry department is currently completing a tree inventory of affected trees and will be bringing a report to Council on options to deal with this insect and the destruction it is causing.

Coming Events:

- Sedan Chair Race:** May 20,21
- Unionville Festival:** June 1,2,3
- Stiver Mill Farmers Market:** June 24-Oct 7
- Crohn's & Colitis Walk:** June 10
- Varley Art Gallery Gala:** June 22
- Canada Day at Milne:** July 1
- Rotary Ribfest:** July 6,7,8
- Night It Up:** July 13,14,15
- Rotary Car Show:** August 12
- Applefest:** September 22,23
- Halloween on Main:** October

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What's all the banging about?

So what was all that banging that many residents of Unionville heard on and off for the last year or so?

With the increase in GO train ridership and the poor condition of the train bridges in Unionville and Markham, GO transit decided it was time to replace the wooden structures with modern concrete ones. I was invited to inspect the condition of the 100 year old wooden timbers. Many of them were rotten inside, posing a danger for future GO train travellers.

So the two bridges in Unionville, one behind the former Bluestone Bistro plaza and the other south of Victoria Avenue between Main Street and Kennedy Road, were replaced.

The banging was due to many steel reinforcing "piles" being driven into the ground to support the bridges. I received many calls and emails about the shaking and shimmering due to the pile driving. I apologize for the inconvenience that this necessary construction caused neighbouring residents. The projects are now done except for area restoration work.

Take a look at your new bridge on this page and next!

Multi Use Pathway System

A new multi use pathway system to start at Toogood Pond in the north and travel throughout Markham to end in Bob Hunter park in the south-east, has received initial approval from Markham Council.

It will start at 16th Avenue, follow the Toogood Pond pathway to Carlton Road and Main Street, go behind Main Street lane on the existing pathway system then



Sliding the new GO train bridge (between Main Street & Kennedy Road) into place.

travel under the new GO train bridge referenced above, over to Oakcrest and Highway 7 making its way to Milne Dam Conservation Area and then through MDCA and down into Bob Hunter park. Eventually, when the Rouge National Park becomes a reality, it should be possible to travel all the way from Toogood Pond to lake Ontario!

While there remain many more hours of discussion about design, materials and other details, the pathway is moving forward!

Name That Lane!

I have been asked to find a suitable name for the lane that runs from Main Street to Carlton Road behind all the stores and restaurants on the east side. At various times it has been referred to as the 'lane', the 'concession road', 'that little street behind Main Street'. So what do **you** think? A couple of suggestions that have been made are Kathleen McKay Lane, the doner that established the Varley Art Gallery and Robert Harrington Lane, the builder and operator of the original Unionville Planing Mill. Do you have any other suggestions? **Let me know what you think.**

Gutsy Walk for Crohn's and Colitis

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada's mission is to find a cure for inflammatory bowel disease. The 'Gutsy Walk' formerly the 'Heel n Wheel-a-thon' is being held again this year at Toogood Pond Park in Unionville on Sunday June 10th from 9:30 am to 2 pm. I will be there to meet, greet and walk. Please join me for this great cause. www.gutsywalk.ca

Markhams Senior Hall of Fame Awards

If you know of a deserving resident, age 60 or older, who has lived in Markham for at least 10 years and made a worthwhile contribution to our community, show your appreciation by nominating him/her for this prestigious award. For more information and a nomination form visit www.markham.ca or call Laura Gold 905 477-7000 Ext 4930 lgold@markham.ca Deadline is May 25th.



New Unionville GO train bridge completed

Toogood Pond Water Quality

For those of us who walk, bike or sit by Toogood Pond, the quality of the water in the pond and the condition of the grassy areas surrounding the pond may be questionable.

Town staff have initiated several water quality improvement activities for 2012.

The the number of Canada Geese and the waste they generate (1kilogram = 2.2 pounds per day per bird) affects both the water and surrounding parkland. This spring, the Town has engaged certified wildlife control specialists to try and deter geese from settling in and making the park their home. Trained dogs are running off leash twice a day to deter the geese from nesting. The specialists may also use special ultra-violet light beams to coax geese off open water areas. These measures are approved through Canadian Wildlife Service's migratory bird regulations permit programme.

We can all do our part to deter the geese. Please do not feed them. This elevates the goose population to the detriment of pond water quality and your visitor experience. Improved 'no feeding' signs will be installed near the parking lots and beach areas by this June.

Staff will monitor the effectiveness of these activities and identify further improvement measures going forward.



The Pan Am Aquatic and Badminton Centre in Ward 3 Unionville

Varley Village Infill Bylaw

After many meetings, with much passionate discussion, the Varley Village Infill Bylaw working group approved the resident survey.

It was mailed in late April with a May 14th return date. The survey is attempting to gather data as to whether residents would support an infill bylaw that would limit the maximum size of new homes and additions in Varley Village.

Once the Town analyzes the returned survey forms it will present the aggregate survey results to the working group for discussion.

The Unionville sub-committee (made up of Regional Councillor Jones and Councillors Hamilton and Ho) will then make recommendations to Development Services Committee, which will give the working group further direction.

No final decision to proceed or not to proceed with a bylaw will be made without further discussion and a public meeting.

Varley Art Gallery Expansion Gala

Join the Mayor, Council, friends and neighbours, Friday June 22nd for a gala evening of fun and revelry at our own **newly expanded** Varley Art Gallery. It will be a night of fabulous food, wonderful wines and exciting entertainment. **Tickets are \$150 each** and can be reserved by contacting fdauphinais@markham.ca

Pan Am 2015

The Markham Pan Am Aquatic and Badminton Centre will be a welcome addition to our Unionville community. After the Pan Am Games are finished in 2015 this Centre will become a Town asset for all to enjoy. The 50 metre pool offers 10 lanes with a vertically movable floor. The Badminton facility offers about 36,000 square feet of flexible gymnasium area for training, competition and community use. It will serve a variety of sports such as badminton, volleyball, basketball, table tennis and pickle ball. **Check out the picture above!**



Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre

The proposal for a 19,200 seat Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre (SECC) has caused a great deal of discussion in Markham, across the GTA and beyond.

Markham Council approved the partnership and financial framework for the building of the SECC on April 26th at a special Council meeting by an 11-2 vote.

The cost is forecast to be \$325 million with GTASE (Graeme Roustan) backed by the Remington Group (Rudy Bratty) paying \$162.5 million and the Town of Markham being responsible for \$162.5 million. The building and land will be owned by the Town and be leased to GTASE at an as yet undisclosed rate. The contract to build will be through PCL Construction and will be at a fixed price. Any costs for maintenance and repair will be borne by GTASE. Any costs beyond the \$162.5 million on the Towns side will be borne by GTASE. The Town will pay for it's share through a special development levy on new single family homes, condominium apartments and townhouses, as well as through a ticket surcharge, TIF (tax incremental financing), parking revenue and Section 37 funds.

The venue can house concerts, performances and shows of all sizes as well as civic and cultural celebrations such as Canada Day, Diwali, Chinese New Year, Taste of Asia and Markham Winter Festival.

International sports competitions such as the International Ice Hockey Federation, Hockey Canada, Skate Canada Competitions and World Junior Hockey can be accommodated.



*Artist rendering of the new proposed Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre
Location : West of Unionville GO station*

Community uses include minor league, high school, youth and adult recreation as well as large scale theatrical performances.

There have also been rumours of an NHL hockey team locating here in Markham!

This project has a way to go before obtaining **final** approval, so feel free to email the Mayor and Council with your thoughts on, support of, or opposition to, this proposal. **They need to hear from you!**
mayor&councillors@markham.ca

Stiver Mill Farmers Market

Once again this year the Stiver Mill Farmer's Market will be operating each Sunday from 10am until 4pm beside the Stiver Mill on Station Lane in Unionville. Just follow the signs to fresh veggies, kettle corn, pies, meats and other treats. It's a great way to spend a few hours. The market runs from June 24th to October 7th. See you there!

South Unionville Parkland

While negotiations are not yet complete, progress is being made to acquire a large section of parkland for South Unionville.

Construction of the new Ray Street Park will be starting this summer and be completed by Fall 2013. Watch for it!

Don't Forget Marina!

Marina is my Executive Assistant. She is always pleasant and helpful and is your first contact when getting in touch with me regarding streetlights, sidewalks, recycling, waste, roads, property taxes and any other municipal issues. 905 415-7528

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Have your say!

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