



MARKHAM NEWS

NEWS FROM YOUR
MARKHAM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

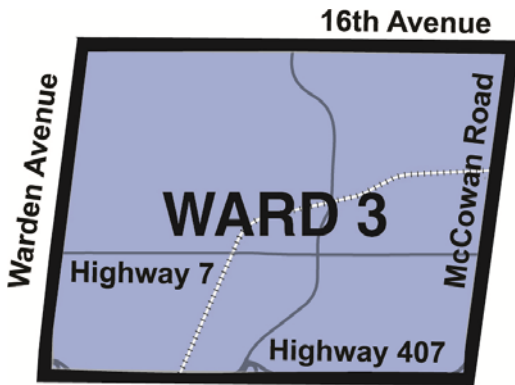
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Don Hamilton Unionville Ward 3 News

Working with our community
for our community



Spring will definitely come to Unionville!

It's a mid March day as I write this newsletter. I am peering out my office window and can see the snow swirling as it continues to accumulate on the ground. My red plastic container of gasoline for my snowblower is empty, so either I get a refill or start shoveling by hand. Where is my son when I need him?

This has been one of the roughest winters in recent and long term memory. The snow started early and just kept coming. Mixed with the December ice storm, it has also put our City's **snow budget under extreme pressure**. At the moment many municipalities are very low on their supply of road salt and sand.

Fortunately for the Municipality, we have a knowledgeable and fiscally responsible budget staff. They made sure that our City of Markham **reserves were at a healthy level** so we will be able to cope with the extra expenses associated with this winter's snow removal cost.

The City will rebuild those reserves to previous benchmark levels so that we will be ready for any future emergency.

Casino for Unionville?

Although twice rejected by Markham Council, the idea of a **Casino** in Markham continues to resurface.

Three Markham Councillors, working with members of the public, have designed a **survey which will be sent to over 100,000 households** at the beginning of April. It requests input into whether or not the City of Markham should consider hosting a casino as part of a world class business and entertainment complex.

There could be between **\$20 and \$50 million** in annual revenue for the City, in the form of annual hosting fees and municipal property taxes. There could also be significant employment benefits that accrue to the City.

I need to hear from **YOU** whether you are **in support of or opposed to** a casino. **Please complete the survey.**

As in the past, I will vote according to the wishes of the majority of Unionville residents.

Upcoming Events

- **Unionville Festival weekend of June 7th on Main Street Unionville**
- **Markham Jazz Festival August 14th to 17th on Main Street Unionville**
- **Thursday Nights at the Unionville Bandstand**
- **Canada Day Seniors luncheon July 1st**

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Remington to build new office tower in Markham Centre for the AVIVA INSURANCE COMPANY.

There is plenty of excitement in the Enterprise and Birchmount Road area.

First to be completed will be a beautiful new 2,400 seat Cineplex theatre complex being built with 100,000 square feet of restaurant and retail and 80,000 square feet of office space. This building will feature the standard cinema viewing experience along with smaller more intimate mini-theatres with full dining service as you watch the movie. It is currently under construction on the south east corner of the intersection.

Second there will be a new high end full service Marriott hotel with condominium residences, located on the north east corner of Birchmount and Enterprise. Have a look at the design on the next page of this newsletter.

Also, there will be a new 12 storey office tower built, opening in 2017, adding more commercial activity to the area around the existing Motorola and Worley Parsons buildings. This 350,000 square foot tower will employ more than 1500 people. The tenant is Aviva Insurance, one of the premiere insurance companies in Canada.

This will be a LEED quality building containing bird friendly and dark sky friendly features, as mandated by the City of Markham's building policies.

We welcome Aviva to Markham and look forward to the increased economic stimulation that it will bring. Watch for a **new carousel** too!



The new Aviva Insurance Company building to be built in the Enterprise and Birchmount Road area.

Pan Am Building ready by summer 2014

Located at the corner of Enterprise and Main Street Unionville, the new Pan Am Games building is taking shape.

It must be completed by summer of 2014 as there is a one year test period for the facilities.

The Pan Am Games occur between July 10-26 and the Para Pan Games from August 7-14 in 2015.

When the games are over the City obtains ownership of the Olympic size ten lane 50 metre pool and multiple badminton courts of international competition size.

So be ready to see lots of activity as Unionville welcomes the world.

Tree Debris

Waste Management & Operations staff will be around to collect the remaining tree debris from the December ice storm once the snow has melted.

Look for details in the local newspaper on the City page or at www.markham.ca

Did you receive a Parking Ticket from the City of Markham?

If you would like to plead your case in front of the ticket adjudicator, you may bring your ticket to the Civic Centre any weekday from 12 noon to 4 pm or Thursday from 5 pm to 7 pm and plead your case. While the adjudicator cannot cancel the ticket, he does have discretionary power to reduce the fine if he feels that it is warranted. Call Marina if you have questions about this process.

Municipal Matters

Marina and I are often asked questions that are Provincial or Federal in nature. That's okay. If we cannot help you we have Provincial and Federal colleagues that we can refer you to.

New Soccer Dome coming to Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy

Watch for the new dome. I am working to make things better for all sport communities.



New bus shelter coming to Bullock Drive and GO Stn Lane

Bus shelter coming to the corner of Bullock Drive and the GO Station lane!

I am pleased to be able to report the good news that those who wait for the GO bus at the corner of Bullock Drive and the entry road to the GO station will soon have their very own glass shelter.

I have had several requests from residents this winter who have complained about having to stand in the snow and rain while they wait for the GO bus.

There have been students on their way to school that have waited inside the Centennial Community Centre and watched for the bus to come, then had to make a mad dash for the bus across the busy parking lot.

Also several people wait in cars until the bus arrives and then make their way across the busy street to the waiting GO bus.

Thanks to Ken Armstrong and his staff from GO transit for helping make this happen!

If you know of a location that needs a bus shelter, let me know and I will try to have one located there.



The new Marriott Hotel and Condominium Residence building to be built on the NE corner of Enterprise and Birchmount Road.

Project Updates

Stiver Mill Restoration

By the time you read this, the Stiver Mill restoration project will be complete. This was a federally and municipally funded project costing \$1.9 million. It includes the renewed building, a public campus with seating area, as well as a boardwalk from Main Street to the Mill that will eventually extend to Eureka Street. Come by and see the results of this fabulous project. It's the big red building on Station Lane opposite the recycling depot.

Fred Varley Drive Condo

The City is still looking at final site plan approval for this building. There was a water table issue that necessitated a change in parking level and building design.

Ray Street Park

This park is located in South Unionville. It is set to be finished and opened this spring/summer depending on how cooperative the weather is.

South Unionville Parkland

Parks staff and residents met with me to discuss what they would like to have in the new South Unionville park. Tennis courts seemed popular and lots of play space. This park will be a welcome addition to South Unionville. We still need to complete the Caboto Trail road connection but that is in the works.

Kennedy Road and Austin Drive

Chunneling and loud pile driving continues in this area as the watermain project continues. Nearby residents have been very patient and forgiving. Thank you.

Main St. and Hwy 7 traffic lights

I am pleased to report that we now have an advanced green signal activated in both north and south directions to try and assist traffic flow.

Warden Avenue north of 16th

Only two more lanes and some cosmetic work to be done this summer.

Multi use Pathway from 16th Avenue to Bob Hunter Park

The construction of the first phase of the multi-use pathway that will go from 16th Avenue and Kennedy Road in the north, to Bob Hunter Park in the south-east corner of Markham is underway.

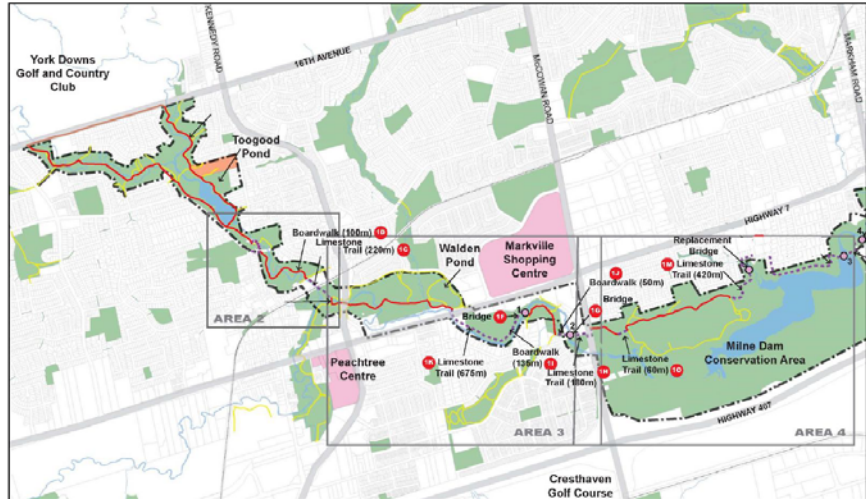
The first phase covers from the Toogood Pond area to the Milne Dam Conservation area.

Erosion and sediment control measures have been put in place and anchored. The preliminary trail construction work including excavation and placing of base material is currently being completed. Structural posts are being installed within Campbell Meadows and in the valley behind Annina Crescent for two boardwalks in these areas. This is the field area behind the strip plaza opposite Markville Mall. The installation of the substructure (abutments) for two steel truss bridges in the same area is scheduled to commence shortly.

The bridges, as well as the boardwalk decking, including the lime stone surfacing, are scheduled to be completed in summer 2014.

In addition, the design of the Phase 2 work is underway. The Phase 2 work includes upgrading the existing pathway from 16th Avenue and Kennedy Road to Toogood Pond. The construction work is planned to start late this summer and should be done by summer of 2015, weather permitting.

Eventually, it will be possible for cyclists and pedestrians to go from 16th Avenue and Kennedy Road all the way to the shores of Lake Ontario.



Multi use pathway from 16th Avenue and Kennedy Road to Bob Hunter park in the south east corner of Markham

Arena Costs finally revealed ...

After several requests from Councillors Hamilton and Burke, and members of the public, the costs associated with the failed arena project have finally been revealed.

An astounding **\$726,270 not including staff time** was spent on the now comatose 20,000 seat arena. That's taxpayer money!

Resident after resident came out over two days to speak **against** building an NHL sized arena with no guarantee of an NHL team. Many watched the proceedings on television.

After several attempts over many months to stop the arena, the motion put forth by the Deputy Mayor to terminate this project finally passed 11-2 with **only Mayor Scarpitti and Councillor Ho** voting to continue the arena project.

Thanks to all residents who showed that democracy is alive and well in our City.

Don't forget Marina

Please don't forget my assistant Marina. She is always willing to help you with any municipal problem that you might have. Make her your first contact here at the City of Markham.

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Have your say! Contact Information

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