

MARKHAM NEWS

NEWS FROM YOUR
MARKHAM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

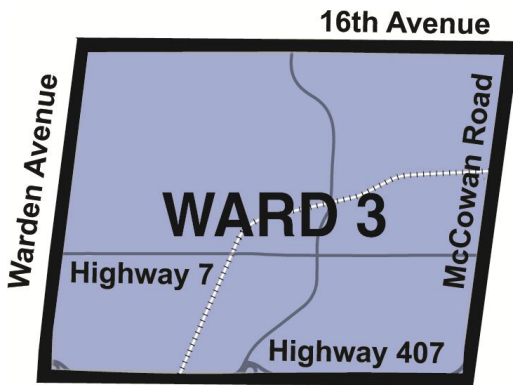
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Don Hamilton

Working with our community
for our community.



Fred Varley Drive Plaza Redevelopment

As we continue down the road to a decision on how this property should be redeveloped, we have been forced to enter the realm of the Ontario Municipal Board.

The OMB is under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. It's decisions are final and binding on all parties to the hearing. Only if there is an error in law can the OMB decision be appealed to the Courts.

The City has been very good in trying to work with the developer, Tribute Homes. There have been several meetings to try and broker a compromise deal that would satisfy the economic requirements of Tribute, while at the same time respecting the wishes of the community and City interests. Mediation was attempted but failed.

The parties in the process are the developer Tribute, the City of Markham, Unionville Ratepayers

Association, Unionville Villagers Association and the UBIA (representing the Main Street merchants).

There continues to be dedicated leadership and support from our community residents, from your Markham Council and from the Mayor. They all have persevered long after many would have given up.

I continue to hope for a positive outcome for our community.

Don't forget Marina!

Marina is my full time Executive Assistant and your first contact source here at the City.

She is always pleasant and helpful. Call or email her anytime for help with municipal matters.

905 415-7528

mantonoglou@markham.ca

Upcoming Events

- Unionville Olde Tyme Christmas Parade Friday December 7th at 7 pm on Main Street Unionville
- Breakfast with SANTA Saturday December 8th at 8:30 am
- December 8th & 9th Free Carriage rides on Main Street Unionville

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Sports Entertainment and Cultural Centre

THE hot topic in Markham these days is the **Arena** proposal.

The Mayor clearly feels that this is a project worth pursuing even if it means that the City becomes responsible for \$325 million in debt.

While **no final decision has been made by Council**, the project continues down the track toward possible approval.

I have been listening to what the residents of Ward 3 are saying and to date, **there is a clear lack of support for this proposal**. I am keeping an open mind!

The cost is forecast to be \$325 million with GTASE (Graeme Rouston) backed by Remington (Rudy Bratty) repaying \$162.5 million of debt and the City of Markham being responsible for \$162.5 million of debt.

Since the City will be borrowing the full amount, it is imperative, should this deal go forward, to have the \$162.5 million of GTASE debt fully secured in case of default. We have been assured by the City of Markham CAO that it will be.

The City half of the debt will be paid for through a voluntary development levy on every new home, condominium and townhome in Markham. Other sources of debt repayment funding are: section-37, tax



Artist rendering of the new proposed Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre

incremental financing, a ticket surcharge and event parking revenue.

The building and land will be owned by the City and will be leased to GTASE. The contract to build will be given to PCL Construction and will be at a **fixed price**. Any change costs will be borne by GTASE. Maintenance and repair costs over the life of the lease are to be paid by GTASE.

Even though the building will be leased by a private company, there will be **no municipal taxes paid**. That's because it will be classed as a Municipal Capital Facility much like a library or community centre. There will be community uses scheduled into the building timetable.

NHL team coming to Markham?

That's a big question! Most potential business franchises follow the steps (i) seek approval

from the franchisor (ii) purchase the land to build the building (iii) construct the building (iv) open for business. Apparently NHL's Mr. Bettman would like the City to purchase the land and build the building then perhaps he **MIGHT** give a franchise to Markham. **No guarantee**. Many say this is a backwards way to do business.

Is the viability of the Arena dependent upon an NHL franchise coming to Markham?

That depends on who you ask. The Mayor said **NO**, the Chairman of event agency 'Live Nation' said **YES**. I say let's have a **proper fulsome peer review of all aspects** of this proposal by an arms length independent professional with expertise in this field before any final decision is made.

Council needs to hear from you!



Meeting Jack Lee Founder of T&T supermarket



Working with people with challenges.

What have I been working on?

I can honestly say that there is never a dull moment here at the City Civic Centre.

Certainly the Arena has occupied a large part of my time but I have been working on other projects as well.

For example, the Ray Street Park that has long been promised to South Unionville residents has finally begun. This \$1.5 million park located behind the **new T&T** plaza, is bordered by South Unionville Avenue, Ray Street, Ian Baron Avenue and Unity Gardens Drive North and will offer a large open family area, mini-skate feature, water play area for the kids, Junior and Senior play equipment, exercise stations, a pergola, a basketball feature, a covered shelter, bird boxes, a small wetland area and lots of trees.

While this park will be welcomed by area residents, we are not stopping there. The City is currently expropriating more land in South Unionville to allow for larger playing fields and possibly a small community use building.

Pan Am and Para Pan Games in 2015

The City of Markham will be hosting swimming, diving and badminton events at the new Pan Am facility at the corner of Unionville Main Street and Enterprise Drive.

The old factory building has been taken down and recycled (yes recycled!) and we recently had the ground breaking for the new Pan Am facility. The new building will be completed by the end of 2014 and then subjected to a one year test period prior to hosting the Pan American and Para Pan American events. This will be an exciting time for Markham.

The best part is that, once the games are over, we will then hold ownership of the buildings and be able to use them for all enjoyment of all residents.

Volunteers

One of the most rewarding things you can do is to become a volunteer.

There are many volunteer opportunities available at the City, from working with seniors to assisting at one of our cultural venues.

If you have the time we have a place for you. Call Marina!

Remembrance day 2012

On November 11 we honoured those who fought to keep our wonderful country free.

It was a solemn ceremony starting with with a parade on Main Street Unionville from the bandstand to the cenotaph located in front of Crosby Memorial Arena.

Many dignitaries were there to lay wreaths and lots of Unionville residents attended to show respect for those who gave their lives in service of their country.

Unionville Olde Tyme Candlelight Christmas Parade

One of the highlights of the year is the candlelight parade on Main Street Unionville.

This year it is on Friday December 7th starting at 7 pm. There have been huge preparations made to make it better than ever. I hope that you will come out as we celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Staff and Council continue to work to try and save as many public realm Ash trees as possible from the EAB. We have earmarked funds for treatment of salvageable trees. This could be a very costly pest for the City to deal with.

Even Greater Recycling Percentage Sought

The City will be introducing a plan to increase the percentage of recycling beyond what residents currently do. Going green is easy so why not participate?

CIBC Celebration of Hope Breast Cancer Luncheon at the Hilton

My niece and I have had the pleasure of volunteering at this wonderful event for the past 2 years. We look forward to helping again next year! Check out our picture above.



Uncle Don and niece Briar volunteering at the CIBC Celebration of Hope Luncheon at the Hilton Hotel

Did MPAC Impact your home value?

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for assessing all properties across the Province for taxation purposes.

MPAC will be mailing nearly five million property assessment notices to owners across the Province this fall.

Property assessment is updated every 4 years. The next 4 year cycle begins in 2013 and ends in 2016. The values for these 4 years will be based on values established by MPAC as of January 1st 2012.

The assessment notices being sent by MPAC contain updated assessments as of January 1st 2012 for the 2013 taxation year.

By now, you should have received your Municipal Property

Assessment Corporation MPAC notice. Don't panic yet! Just because your assessment went up, does not mean that your taxes will rise. That depends on Markham's budget needs. The last 4 years have produced three zero percent and one 1.5% tax increase. My best guess for this year is a 1.5% increase.

Contact MPAC at 1-866-296-6722 or visit www.mpac.ca if you have assessment questions.

Have your say! Contact Information

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