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For Immediate Release

A vibrant mixed-use downtown for Markham

Markham – The Remington Group today announced an ambitious 10.6 million square foot mixed-use development that over the next decade will deliver the town centre that Markham has always wanted.

Downtown Markham is a “smart growth” development that will also help York Region concentrate its future growth in key development centres served by rapid transit and where people can live and work without long daily commutes.

Downtown Markham will occupy 98 hectares (about 243 acres) in the central one-quarter of Markham Centre, the site designated by the town as its future urban core and focus for its many dispersed communities. The site lies generally between Warden Avenue and the railway tracks west of Kennedy Road between Highway 407 and the Rouge Valley.

The entire project is designed to be an environmentally sensitive, pedestrian-oriented, transit-supportive people place. The project’s scope and intensity will allow people to live, work, shop, dine and be entertained in close proximity – while still maintaining the small-town flavour that distinguishes Markham today.

“This is a very different and very challenging project for us,” noted Rudolph P. Bratty, president of Remington. “But it’s also a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us as landowners and developers, so we’ve accepted the challenge of the town and region.

“Downtown Markham will be different from anything seen in the suburban Greater Toronto Area because the community will be truly mixed use, where all of the daily needs of residents and employees can be met without driving to someplace else,” he added.

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Downtown Markham will be home to 8,120 residents living in 3,440 apartments and townhouses. It will provide employment for 18,850 people in 437,000 m² (about 4.7 million sq. ft.) of employment floor space.

At the heart of Downtown Markham, residents, workers and visitors will be attracted to Park Lake, a 2.4 ha (5.8 acre) man-made lake that will serve as centrepiece for the project. The lake, the development's many parks and open spaces, and its protective treatment of the Rouge Valley will welcome and serve residents from all of Markham and beyond.

Downtown Markham will feature an employment district adjacent to Highway 407 and other office, commercial and retail space mixed in with residences, restaurants and entertainment in a downtown core. Distinct neighbourhoods of townhouses and apartments surround the core. Buildings will range in height from three to 12 storeys with the highest being located in the centre of the project.

All of Downtown Markham is designed to be transit-supportive and friendly to pedestrians and cyclists. Buildings will be located close to the sidewalks, there will be on-street parking on most streets, driveways to commercial buildings will be located so as not to interfere with pedestrians, and all major destinations will be within short walking distances of homes and transit stops.

"It's a big project that will take many years to complete, but we're committed because it's exactly what the town and region have been calling for," Mr. Bratty said. "Over the past two years, we have revised this plan many times to accommodate the needs of the town and the region and to meet growing public demand for development that doesn't lead to more urban sprawl and more traffic congestion."

One of the most striking features of the development is the Civic Mall, a tree-lined promenade or *grand allée* that runs east-west through the entire development from Warden Avenue to the Unionville GO station. It connects all of the project's neighbourhoods and is designed so that any future regional transit system can operate within it.

The other defining feature of Downtown Markham is how the Rouge Valley is integrated. All of the parks ultimately lead to Park Lake, which connects to the Rouge River, and many streets and buildings are oriented to provide views and vistas into the valley. No development will take place in the valley.

“Much of the valley lies outside of our site,” Mr. Bratty noted, “but its preservation and enhancement has been our main concern right from the beginning because it is the link to the rest of Markham and York Region and is a unique and invaluable amenity for the community.”

Less than two-thirds of the development site will be built on, with the remainder given over to parks, open spaces and roads. A variety of parks will serve the needs of residents, workers and visitors, from active soccer fields to ornamental gardens to civic squares programmed with entertainment and exhibits.

Market Square, located along the west side of Park Lake will be a particularly vibrant destination with shops, cafes and promenade, where there will be animated street life and social activities day and night.

An internal road system and the extension of three existing major roads, including Birchmount Road from south of Highway 407 to Highway 7, will serve Downtown Markham and all of Markham Centre. Overall, the project is expected to significantly reduce traffic in Markham and York Region by supporting public transit, walking and cycling and by locating housing and jobs side-by-side.

The Remington Group has been active in residential, commercial and industrial development and construction throughout the GTA for more than 50 years. Its head office is located in York Region.

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Additional background information is available at www.DowntownMarkham.ca

Note that certain statistics in this document were revised in Sept. 2002 to reflect refined calculations.