

October 18, 2005

For Immediate Release

Designers chosen to launch Downtown Markham

Quadrangle Architects Limited has been selected to design the initial phase of Downtown Markham, the decisive first step in a 20-year journey toward the Greater Toronto Area's first truly mixed-use downtown in the suburbs.

The Remington Group, developer of the \$3 billion, 10-million square foot city centre, chose Quadrangle after 11 leading GTA architectural firms bid to put their mark on the unique 98-hectare project.

“Quadrangle clearly understands our passion to create a European-inspired downtown that offers an intense and vibrant mix of living, working, shopping and entertainment opportunities,” said Remington president Rudolph P. Bratty.

“They responded to our desire to create a place that has vitality, charm and character, with everything close at hand that people need to live productive and fulfilling lives.”

Construction is slated to begin by fall 2006 on about 600 mid-rise condominium units and about 25,000 sq. ft. of street-level shops and 25,000 sq. ft. of office space above. Phase 1 also includes 175 townhomes designed by Young + Wright Architects Inc.

Based on Smart Growth principles, Downtown Markham satisfies new provincial growth management rules, makes efficient use of existing infrastructure, is designed to ease traffic congestion and to support rapid transit, and will reduce encroachment into the countryside.

Calling the challenge both “fantastic” and “daunting,” Quadrangle principal Sheldon Levitt said his firm aims to design buildings that will not only provide the first occupants with a great place to live and work, but that will inspire and guide future architects as the community evolves.

“Downtown Markham is an ideal project for an architect because the area is large, the project is comprehensive, and the developer is visionary – so there's no need to compromise on principles,” Levitt said. “But because this is vacant land, we'll have to draw on successful urban models from around the world for inspiration as we create the context that will set the tone and the standard for many years to come.”

Quadrangle is one of Canada's most dynamic architectural firms. With a multi-disciplinary staff of more than 55 architects, interior designers and architectural technologists, it has won local, national and international awards and plaudits.

The firm's deft Art Deco design for The Morgan condominium in the heart of Toronto's fashion district won a 2005 Ontario Association of Association award of excellence and was noted for "good neighbourliness." The 16-storey building employs polished stone and decorative sculptural relief to reflect the commercial history of lower Spadina while paying homage to a style of New York apartments popular in the twenties.

Quadrangle also transformed a neglected industrial building into the popular Citytv headquarters in a way that sparked the revival of Queen Street West over the past 20 years. Their design won awards from the Architectural Conservancy of Toronto and the Toronto Historical Board.

Large streetfront windows invite passersby to watch live television news and entertainment shows and can be opened to allow events to spill out into the street. The building has become an icon for the station's relationship to the city – open, inclusive and accessible.

The firm is also known for the design of the striking BMW dealership on the Don Valley Parkway just north of the Gardiner Expressway, the largest auto retail facility in Canada. The prominent glass and steel structure features showroom space that offers panoramic views of downtown Toronto while serving as a bold five-storey display case for the company's products. This project won the 2004 OAA award of excellence.

Downtown Markham is the heart of Markham Centre, an area slated for intense development, following more than a decade of planning and public consultation on how to achieve a sustainable future. To be built in phases over the next couple of decades, Downtown Markham will be home to more than 9,500 residents living in 3,900 condominiums and townhouses within walking distance of jobs for more than 16,000 people.

– 30 –

For Further Information:

Serena Quaglia, The Remington Group, 905-761-8200
Sheldon Levitt, Quadrangle Architects Limited, 416-598-1240

For Media Assistance:

Bob Strupat, Blue Sky Public Relations, 416-421-0290
Additional information is available at www.downtownmarkham.ca