



## Unionville All Candidates Meeting – HERITAGE QUESTIONNAIRE

### WARD 3 CANDIDATE QUESTIONS:

1. **Name:** John Cabrelli
2. **Do you live in Unionville?** Yes
3. **If yes, for how long?** 25+ years
4. **What experience do you have outside politics?**  
I manage my own business and have volunteered extensively in the community to organize events and raise considerable funds for worthy causes. Key positions: Chair, Unionville Festival (4 years); Principal Partner, Hockey With Heart, a community-in-need program assisting the Markham Food Bank and Children's Wish, among others; Board Member, Markham Arts Council; Committee Member, "Building a Creative Markham" Advisory Committee; Committee Member, Markham Jazz Festival; Organizer, B-Strong Bash supporting brain tumour research, to name a few.
5. **What do you feel is the number one issue regarding heritage in Ward 3?**  
Unquestionably, heritage protection is a vital part of enhancing the Unionville "brand." This encompasses several issues at the moment. For example, Main Street continues to attract thousands each year. We need to ensure its character remains intact and its historical buildings are protected against inappropriate development. As well, I believe the Town should retain control over the ownership and use of the Stiver Mill, and rigorously seek creative solutions to its revitalization. I will work to see these assets are protected.
6. **How far do you think heritage compliance should go when building within the heritage district?** I absolutely want to see buildings that honour the heritage of Unionville, and I will watch closely to ensure existing by-laws are enforced. At the same time, we have to be aware of public safety and remain flexible about issues such as accessibility. After all, as part of the Mayor's Diversity Action Plan, Markham has committed to lead the way in fulfilling the standards of the AODA – the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.
7. **What do you think is the healthy balance between Markham Growth and Heritage Protection?** Growth is happening all around Ward 3. My job as Councillor will be to ensure new development does not impact negatively on the existing community. This extends to protecting the public spaces, parks, paths and recreation facilities that give everyone the opportunity to stay physically healthy. One way to do this is to see that Crosby Arena and Crosby Park receive heritage designation so they cannot be replaced by residential development.

- 8. What have you done and what can you do to ensure the protection of the Unionville name? For the last several years I have worked on the Unionville Festival, which was started to protect the village and has grown to help promote the Unionville brand throughout Ontario. As Councillor, I will continue to support this and other marquee events that put the spotlight on our outstanding town. As well, we should thank Barry Laxton for his work over the last several years to convert the whole of Ward 3 to a postal district called Unionville. I agree with this initiative and will continue to support it.**
- 9. Do you think we need more or less heritage laws to ensure protection of heritage in town? The way forward is about ensuring that existing by-laws accomplish what they are intended to do, and about finding effective solutions. If needed, we will develop new by-laws to address evolving situations.**
- 10. What qualifies you to represent Unionville? I have lived, worked and volunteered in this community for more than 25 years. I communicate with a wide cross-section of people constantly about their concerns. And my focus is to work with all stakeholders. That includes residents, property owners and business owners as well as colleagues on Markham Council and Town staff.**
- 11. What steps will you take to improve the protection of the heritage village of Unionville? Through my work on numerous committees, I already have excellent working relationships with key Town of Markham staff as well as many community leaders. Together, we will work to continue bringing people to Main Street and prosperity to its businesses.**
- 12. What do you see as the future for the heritage Village of Unionville? The future is bright. We have people who care deeply about protecting the spirit of this community. I believe in protecting Main Street and its heritage buildings. I consider it a privilege to live here, and I will do everything I can to preserve the unique character of Unionville.**

**Thank you!  
John Cabrelli**

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