

# YMCA construction, community fundraising to start

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Staff Writer

Construction of the \$18-million Markham Family YMCA is about to begin.

Hosted by campaign co-chairpeople

Markham Mayor Don Cousens and IBM president Ed Kilroy, the YMCA of Greater Toronto will officially break ground for the new 60,000-square-foot facility at Hwy 407 and Kennedy Road Monday. Completion is scheduled for spring

2005. The YMCA will anchor the eastern end of the new Markham Centre development, serving more than 10,000 children, youth and adults, Jack Kinch, the YMCA's general manager of communi-

cations, said. "It's designed to provide meeting and event space for hundreds of community groups, while it will bring thousands of people to Markham's downtown," Mr. Kinch said.

The facility will include a child care centre, aquatics centre, gymnasium, wellness centre, indoor track, rock climbing wall, family locker rooms and technology and community resource centres.

"Our partnership with the YMCA will enable us to respond to important community needs that we are unable to address on our own," Mr. Cousens said. "The new Markham Family YMCA will help us develop and enrich our downtown core, while adding value to our entire community."

As a growing community, Markham needs resources that will support families and individuals to become the best that they can be, Mr. Kilroy said.

"I know the YMCA will enhance this strong and vibrant community," he added.

The groundbreaking event will also recognize the successful completion of the project's corporate gifts campaign and the official launch of the community campaign, providing residents an opportunity to support the project, Mr. Kinch said.

The YMCA of Greater Toronto has worked in the Toronto area since 1853.

## Policing forum open to public

York Regional Police, in partnership with Unionville ratepayers and community associations, will host a forum Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Markham Civic Centre.

Residents of Unionville will be given the opportunity to talk with police, including York Regional Police Chief Armand LaBarge.

Residents will be able to express their views and concerns on a variety of topics, including crime within their neighbourhoods, community partnerships and "any concerns they may have about the way the York Regional Police conducts business," Const. Kim Killby said.



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