www.lilycheng.ca

Hi Neighbour!

Thank you for all the well wishes I received regarding my surgery. Pain is very humbling to endure and I realized that our current health system is dependent on family support being available. I could not have endured this past week relying solely on what is provided by the system. This is why we must strengthen our social fabric because not everyone has the privilege of having family support available. At the same time, we must continue to advocate for a better healthcare system to ensure people get the care they need. I also want to thank my incredible team that made it possible for me to take some rest days to recover.

Happy Easter!

We hope you enjoy the long weekend! Many parents, including myself, will be looking for strategic places to hide chocolates! Christians around the world will be taking time to reflect on the gift of forgiveness, hope and redemption. For those who are celebrating, I hope it is a meaningful time where we can connect with the unconditional love we have received.

Spearheaded by a Willowdale community member, a petition has been launched

Join our neighbours in taking action on the TDSB Budget!

about recent proposed cuts to their Learn4Life adult education programs. Adult education can play an important role in workforce adaptability and building social fabric. Some parents are also alarmed to hear after-school language programs currently available after school would be moved to 5:30-8pm. This change would negatively impact the accessibility of the program. Building language skills in the next generation is a huge benefit for our competitiveness in a global economy.

https://www.change.org/p/preserve-adult-continuing-education-classes-at-

Please consider supporting the petition:

the-toronto-district-school-board-tdsb

and TDSB Trustee. Some parents are asking for a "No Cuts Budget." Premier Doug Ford: premier@ontario.ca

You can also consider writing a letter to our Premier, Minister of Education, MPP

Minister Stephen Lecce: minister.edu@ontario.ca

MPP Stan Cho: <u>Stan.Cho@pc.ola.org</u>

TDSB Trustee Dr. Weidong Pei: Weidong.Pei@tdsb.on.ca

participate in civic action. Democracy cannot be based on headlines and quick-takes

This could be a great opportunity for you to engage young people in your life to

This week our communication channels exploded as people reacted to the study

being conducted on the potential Stormwater Charge. A deeper dive into this issue follows, but what I realized is the volumes of information that are layered into any significant policy are not easily digested by those not deeply entrenched in the work. And who could have the time in modern life to deeply understand all the policies that impact our everyday lives? So, here is my attempt to unpack Stormwater Charges that are being studied. **Proposed Stormwater Charge**

Currently, residents in Toronto pay one water fee. This proposal would instead

break out costs that were previously embedded together in our water utility bill. Therefore, instead of one fee, users would pay: Water Service Charge

- Stormwater Charge
- <u>Click Here</u> to see a video about this charge. **Click Here** for more information.

Here are answers to some of the questions we have received about this

proposed fee.

Is this a new tax being created by our new mayor and councillors? This work was initiated in 2017 under a previous mayor and city council. This is

NOT a newly launched tax or policy. Staff are simply following council direction that was passed years ago. It is not a new tax, it is delineating streams within an existing charge.

Many municipalities across the country have stormwater user fees including

Mississauga, Markham and Richmond Hill. Click Here to see a list. Many other cities, including Toronto are in the process of examining an implementation.

Do other cities do this?

What is Stormwater? Stormwater refers to rainwater and melted snow that runs off surfaces like roofs, roads, and sidewalks, often carrying pollutants and causing flooding if not

properly managed. A combination of factors including less softscape, more

density and more unstable weather patterns means issues relating to

Why separate out the charges? Separating out a stormwater charge would allow the city to:

stormwater present greater risks and impact.

runoff by funding the maintenance, repair, and improvement of stormwater management systems and infrastructure including pipes, catch

reduce the risk of flooding, prevent pollution of water bodies, and protect the environment. 2. Promote responsible water management practices including the provision of opportunities to incentivize investments and design by property owners that reduce stormwater risks and impact. A stormwater credits program is being considered that would incentivize property owners to manage stormwater on-site to reduce the burden on the city's

1. Make investments to address the challenges associated with urban

basins, and stormwater management ponds. These improvements help

stormwater management infrastructure. Property owners who implement approved stormwater management practices, such as green roofs, permeable pavement, or rainwater harvesting systems, could be eligible for credits against their water service charge. 3. Help the City of Toronto adapt to the challenges of climate change including more frequent and intense storms. 4. Ensure the costs of stormwater management are shared fairly among property owners based on their contribution to the problem.

The charge would be calculated based on each property's contribution to stormwater runoff, typically determined by factors such as:

• Size of surfaces, both hard and soft, like driveways and rooftops on the

Lot dimensions

How would the charge be calculated?

What is the Water Service Charge? The proposed Water Service Charge separates out costs currently embedded together with stormwater charges in our water utility bill. This would delineate a

stream of funding to cover costs associated with providing clean and safe

drinking water, as well as wastewater treatment services.

water meter size can be found on a meter's top panel.

How will the Water Service Charge be calculated? Similar to the current water utility fee, the Water Service Charge would be calculated based on the size of the water meter installed on the property (e.g.

most residential properties have a water meter size of one inch or less). The



How will the Water Service Charge be used?

This panel has a ¾ inch meter.

The stream of revenue from the Water Service Charge would be used to

maintain and operate Toronto's water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure, including water treatment plants, pumping stations, pipes, and sewage treatment facilities. This funding ensures that residents have access to high-quality drinking water and that wastewater is safely and effectively treated before being discharged into the environment.

<u>Water Service Charge Consultation – City of Toronto</u> **Public Consultation**

For more information, please visit the city's website: Stormwater Charge &

Currently, the City is consulting the public about the potential implementation of both charges. Public consultation on a potential stormwater charge and a water

service charge will take place March 18 to April 30, 2024. Following public consultation, City staff will review all feedback received. A report to the Executive Committee and City Council on the outcomes of consultation is planned for summer 2024. When would this be implemented?

2027.

How can I provide feedback?

Should Council decide to adopt these changes, it will not come into effect until

Monday April 8, 6–8 pm Register for Meeting #1

Thursday April 11, 6–8 pm Register for Meeting #2 Tuesday April 16, 6–8 pm Register for Meeting #3 We are currently assessing if a further Willowdale Stormwater Town Hall is

There are three upcoming scheduled virtual consultations with City Staff:

Please let us know if this would be of interest to you. Willowdale Arts Collective Meeting

This past Wednesday, local arts enthusiasts and community stakeholders met to

needed to ensure our community voices are considered in the implementation.

share ideas, collaborate on resource management, and address ongoing

challenges in program funding and networking. Led by Stephen Boyle of the Willowdale Central Ratepayers Association, the group left inspired with actionable steps and expanded networking opportunities for future discussions. This is the beginning of monthly meetings that will bring opportunities for additional collaboration and sharing of expertise and experiences to elevate all organizations in their efforts to support the arts, culture, and vibrancy of our neighbourhood. Many thanks to Steve for making this happen! Space to pray

Many thanks to Parks, Forestry and Recreation along with the staff at Edithvale Community Centre for providing late night space for Ramadan

Prayer for the North York Muslim Association. As mentioned in an earlier

enjoy!

email, they had significant challenges securing space for their month-long Ramadan Prayers. As our community continues to increase in density, maximizing the use of all our public spaces to support our community increases in importance. The willingness of staff to extend their work hours to make this accommodation was greatly appreciated. **Willowdale Environment Day:** We are excited to announce our two Willowdale Community Environment Days

April 13th at Earl Haig Secondary School and

for this year which will be held:

• July 20th at Centrepoint Mall These events help lower landfill waste and ensure the safe disposal of

hazardous household materials. We are also hosting an ECO Fair for all to

We hope you will join us for:

 Seed Exchange Bike Safety Checks and Tune Ups (*limited slots available)

Environmental Kids Craft

FREE compost

Kid's Eco Show

 <u>Tiny Toy</u> donations (bring your random toy pieces) They will be refurbished and repackaged for use by the next generation of kids!...and

This past Monday we held our first official Youth Council Meeting at St.

more! **Wilowdale Youth Council**

collaborate for greater impact.

Services who are providing space for our monthly meetings every last Monday of the month from 4-6 pm. Twenty-six passionate Willowdale youth participated in our first meeting. They

are eager to initiate change in their community. The students shared many creative ideas and solutions to local issues with a focus on community

thinking about how youth from across organizations and initiatives can

connectivity. Youth Workers from TNG Community Services and Neighbourlink North York shared their respective initiatives, which encouraged youth to begin

Stephen's Newcomer Community House. We are grateful to TNG Community

Three priority areas for action were identified by youth through a live poll: 1. Community Connectivity 2. Mental Health Supports, and Community Safety. A committee will be formed around each priority area for members to identify

action items and develop projects. We introduced the council election process: youth will write and present an article on a topic within the three committee

areas in order to run for an executive leadership position. The articles will be presented in the coming months, followed by a vote to establish the leadership team. We are very excited to see the many youth-inspired community dreams that will become a reality through the council! A big Thank You to Loblaws Yonge

This week my staff toured the **Toronto Police Services Child and Youth**

Street for sponsoring the snacks and drinks for this meeting!

Toronto Police Service Child and Youth Advocacy Centre

Advocacy Centre (CYAC), open since 2013. CYAC provides protection and support for victims of child abuse throughout the investigation process, court and beyond. The officers at this centre oversee only cases with known offenders (e.g. re-offendors) where victims of physical violence are under 16 and victims of sexual violence are under 18. In 2023, 690 charges were laid and 204 arrests were made. Where the offender has not previously offended, cases are instead

investigated by local divisions or the TPS Sex Crimes Unit. Detective Sergeant Hunter Smith and Boost CYAC staff member, Lindsay, led the tour and described the effective partnership between community, private and public sectors to provide victims and their families with the very best childfocused investigation, treatment, support services, and advocacy under one roof. CYAC partners also include several children's aid societies. We saw colourfully decorated family rooms and interview rooms, a room for giving

remote testimony in court for child and youth witnesses, a medical examination room and a large room of officers at work investigating cases. Boost is the umbrella and advocacy organization. They are the CYAC partner that employs social workers to provide mental health support through brief counseling interventions and single session support for families to create the safety plans urgently needed. Although the CYAC is not funded to provide system services for adults, their system navigation assistance to families is

invaluable. It's wonderful to see such a thoughtful and collaborative approach to support children and families through difficult circumstances. Thanks again for reading our newsletter which is a great way to help us build a

Click On The Links Below or Scroll Down To Learn More About:

connected community! Have a wonderful long weekend. Warmest Regards,

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Ceremonial Naming Survey

~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

Sheppard-Yonge Station Bus Roadway Closure

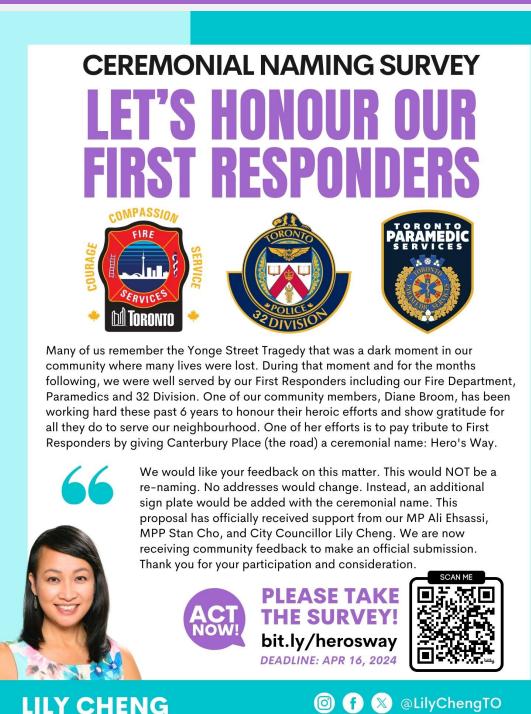
<u>Caswell and Pemberton Playground Enhancements</u>

- Reporting Potholes
- Clean Toronto Together
- Official Toronto Microgrants
- Action Plan for Toronto's Culture Sector Financial and Social Support
- Free Printing at Toronto Public Library
- TTC Wheel-Trans Community Feedback

~ COMMUNITY UPDATES

- Spring Lanterns in Willowdale
- Live Music at the John McKenzie House
- North York Arts' Northbound Exhibit Newcomers Welcome Tea
- Let's Move Willowdale
- NYHS Presents: Mark Bulgutch
- All-In Spring Sale
- Kindred Spirits Orchestra
- <u>Talk Climate To Me Spring Sessions</u>
- Recognize Be a Donor Month in April
- Toronto Marathon

COUNCILLOR UPDATES



Share your thoughts on honoring our community's First Responders by adding a ceremonial name, "Hero's Way" to Canterbury Place. This tribute, spearheaded

CEREMONIAL NAMING SURVEY

www.lilycheng.ca

CITY COUNCILLOR WARD 18, WILLOWDALE

by Diane Broom and supported by MP Ali Ehsassi, MPP Stan Cho, and City Councillor Lily Cheng, aims to commemorate their heroic efforts without changing any addresses. Your feedback is important. Please complete the survey by April 16, 2024. Thank you for participating!

Take the Survey

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

Construction Notice



Work will be carried out in phases during weekdays from 7am-7pm. Please

For more information, click here.

expect some level of noise, dust, and vibration associated with general

construction work which will be kept to a minimum.



Potholes, boulevard trip hazards and asphalt road damage are repaired everyday Monday to Friday, weather permitting. Transportation Services also has a field investigator doing patrols and inspections which captures many potholes not communicated to 311.

Learn More



Toronto's annual spring cleanup is April 19 to 22. Gather your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues and help clean up litter in Toronto's parks, beaches and other public spaces. Last year, over 1,000 cleanups took place across the city and over 70,000 residents and City staff pitched in. Working together we helped keep Toronto clean and green.

Corporate 20-Minute Makeover: Friday, April 19 Community Cleanup Days: Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21 **School Cleanup Day: Monday, April 22**

Learn More

park people ami-es des parcs Toronto Microgrants InTO the Ravines x Sparking Change Connecting communities and celebrating local parks and ravines in Toronto. APPLY NOW Generously supported by the Balsam Foundation and In partnership with MEYER'S **DI** TORONTO

Toronto-based community groups, organizations and small grassroots initiatives

OFFICIAL TORONTO MICROGRANTS

can now apply to receive up to \$1,500 alongside training and support to organize one environmentally focused event taking place from mid-June to November 1, 2024 in their local park, green space or ravines.

April 22, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

Getting Started Microgrants are due by Friday, April 19, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

InTO the Ravines and Sparking Change Microgrants are due by Monday,

Successful recipients will be notified by the end of May.

Learn More



The City of Toronto is developing two plans related to creative industries: an

ACTION PLAN FOR TORONTO'S CULTURE SECTOR

Action Plan for Toronto's Culture Sector and an Action Plan for Toronto's Economy. These plans will inform the City's approach to supporting the growth of creative

industries and other industrial and cultural sectors as generators of vibrancy and innovation. Creative industries are those based in creativity and skill, leading to job creation and revenue generation through the production of intellectual property, such as interactive digital media including video games, film, TV and music production. Participate and share your perspective by attending a virtual Creative Industries

Town Hall on April 24, 10:30 am to 12 pm. **Register to Attend**



Toronto transit discounts, recreation and child care fee subsidies, housing, and financial supports.

Learn More



Please note that this free printing offer is temporary and will be in place until a new print management system is introduced. Once the system is implemented, fee-based printing will be reintroduced. During this period, there won't be any options to purchase, reload, or use copy cards.

cost. Visit North York Central Library or your nearest Toronto Public Library branch today and enjoy the convenience of free printing! **Learn More**

Take advantage of this opportunity to access high-quality printing services at no



Parkette Playground Enhancement Projects are set to commence construction in the Summer of 2024, promising enhanced play experiences for

Learn More

all.

We're thrilled to announce that both the Caswell Park and Pemberton



TTC WHEEL-TRANS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

The TTC wants to hear from you! From now until April 30th, the TTC is looking for community feedback on improving their Wheel-Trans Service & Family of Services.

All persons with disabilities who use the TTC, including Wheel-Trans, support

persons and members of community-based organizations that support or advocate for people with disabilities are invited to participate. Your feedback plays a crucial role in shaping decisions concerning accessibility at the TTC. You can share your feedback by participating in this survey:

Wheel-Trans Community Feedback Survey (forumresearch.com) You are also welcome to attend one of the public meetings on April 16 or April

18, 2024. **Learn More**

COMMUNITY UPDATES



Welcome Spring by enjoying the beautiful lanterns placed across our

SPRING LANTERNS IN WILLOWDALE

neighbourhood. The Yonge North York BIA proudly presents its FREE "Spring Lanterns" exhibit. This vibrant art display brings traditional hand-made silk lanterns from Sichuan, China. You are invited to enjoy these beautiful vignettes at our sponsored locations until

Participating BIA Locations:

 North American Centre: 5650 & 5700 Yonge St. Mel Lastman Square: 5100 Yonge St.

April 30.

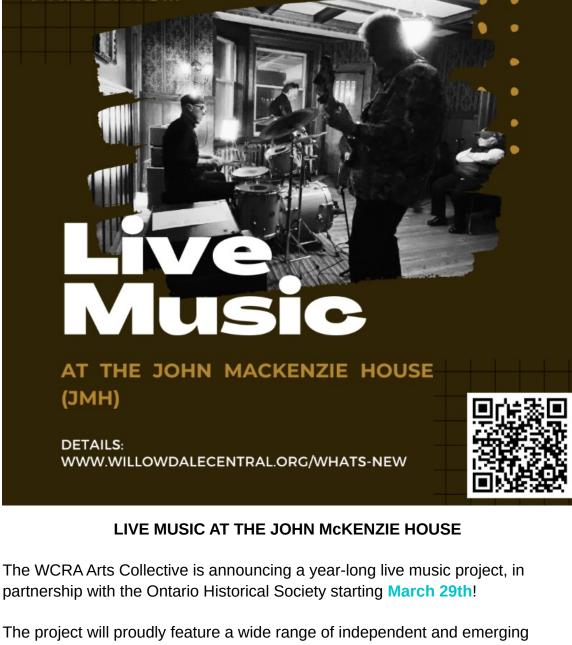
 Yonge Sheppard Centre: 4841 Yonge St. Emerald Park: 4750 Yonge St.

CRA ARTS COLLECTIVE

- **VISIT, SHARE & WIN!** From March 15 to April 30, we are hosting an Instagram Contest, whereby

North York BIA restaurant of their choice. To enter, make sure to tag #yongenorthyork. To receive additional contest entries, upload selfies at other participating Spring Lanterns locations. Click on the button below for full contest details and rules. **Learn More**

patrons are encouraged to share their Spring Lanterns experience(s) on their public Instagram Account for a chance to WIN a \$250 gift card to the Yonge



Canadian artists at the John McKenzie House. Keep up with the vibrant lineup of musical acts, continually added throughout the year.

Check out these great upcoming local date night opportunities. Friday, March 29, 8-10 pm. Ryan Gazzola Band

Ryan Gazzola is a Vancouver-born, Toronto-based singer-songwriter who fuses nu-disco grooves, noodling guitars, and soaring vocal hooks. His songwriting marries the sweet and catchy melodies of modern pop with a funk and soul instrumentation backbone. It takes inspiration from modern contemporaries: Maroon 5, Dua Lipa, and Charlie Puth, to icons: Stevie Wonder and Michael

Jackson.

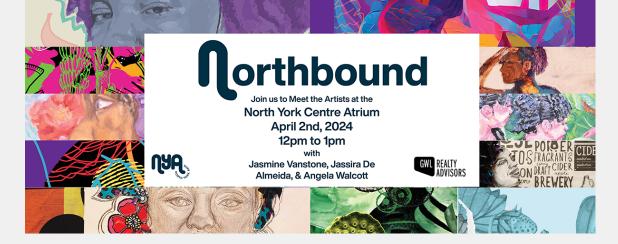
Saturday, April 13, 8-10pm: Evelynne Ross Trio The Evelynne Ross Trio is a 3-piece Canadian pop/rock trio from Toronto, Canada. The band has played together for over 20 years and is the core trio from the full band that was put together to showcase Evelynne Ross for her

most recent EP release show in January 2023. Her EP titled Against the Fence; a six song EP was released in December 2022. The band is comprised of multi-talented and well-established professional musicians who have played together and in different bands within the local GTA music scene for well over 20 years. The talented musicians, which include Howard Rabkin on guitar and backing vocals and Henry Lees on backing vocals and percussion come together to bring Evelynne Ross' original songs to life.

Their unique brand of entertainment fuses her memorable hooks with tight

Learn More

harmonies, air tight musicianship and high energy and will make you want to sing along.



NORTH YORK ARTS' NORTHBOUND EXHIBIT

Check out North York Arts' "Northbound Exhibit" now on display at North York Centre atrium! This exhibit showcases the artistic talents of Angela Walcott, Jassira De Almeida, and Jasmine Vanstone, three Black women artists from North York. Huge thanks to GWLRA for their support. If you haven't already, don't miss the vibrant new addition Northbound brings to the atrium!

Don't miss out on the fantastic exhibit and an artist meet-and-greet on Tuesday, April 2, from 12-1 pm in the North York Centre atrium!

Learn More



Location:

Spring Garden Church, **112 Spring Garden Avenue**

around the world!

When:

Sunday, April 7th **Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

TO REGISTER: neighbourlink.org/newcomers

NEWCOMERS WELCOME TEA

Connect with fellow newcomers and friendly Canadians who want to help at the Newcomer Welcome Tea on Sunday April 7th from 4-6 pm at Spring Garden **Church (112 Spring Garden Ave).**

York. There will be activities, tea, light refreshments, and great opportunities to make community connections! Register Now

This is a FREE family friendly event hosted by local charity NeighbourLink North



& BBQ in partnership with the North York Seniors Centre (NYSC) on Saturday, May 4th! The fun starts at Hendon Park with a 10:45 am stretch, and 11 am

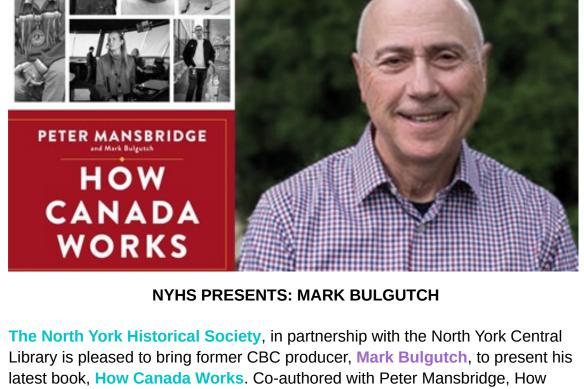
Join NeighbourLink North York for their 3rd Let's Move, Willowdale Move-a-thon

walk, run and ride along the Finch Hydro Corridor with friends, family and neighbours, marshalled by We Run North York and Cycle Toronto! May the 4th is Star Wars Day so come dressed up if you'd like! Following the Move-a-thon there will be a BBQ beginning at 12 pm with delicious food, entertainment, kids activities, crafts, caricature artists, prizes and much more!

For more details and registration visit www.neighbourlink.org/letsmove All funds raised will go towards NeighbourLink and the North York Seniors

Centre's programs targeted at alleviating social isolation for the most vulnerable in our community. NeighbourLink North York programs include Mobile Food Deliveries, Community Care Team and Single Moms Mother's Day event. NYSC programs include their Friendly Visits, Wellness Monitoring, Social Club and virtual programs.

Learn More



Canada Works uncovers first-person stories about the unique people and professions that make Canada work. Seating is limited, so register today! There is no charge for tickets. Where: April 17th, 2024 at 7:00 pm

When: North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street - Room 101

Register Now



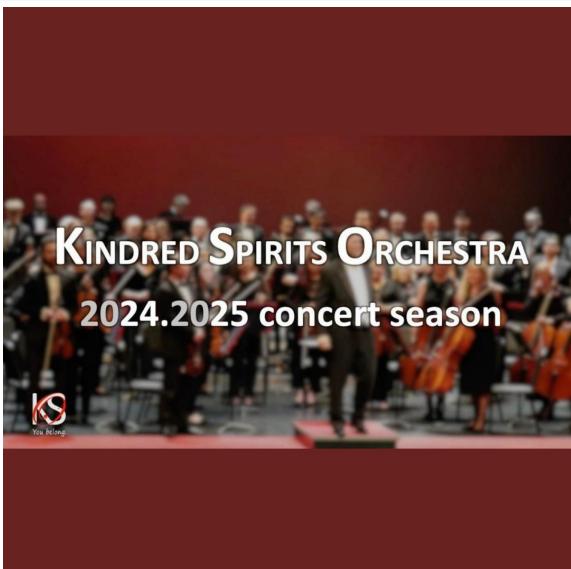
ALL-IN SPRING SALE

As you do your spring cleaning, the Cummer Lodge volunteers are looking for donations for their next big sale, which will be held on April 26 from 9 AM to 3:30 PM in the main lobby.

Jewellery, clothing, housewares, artwork, home decor, sports equipment, games, books, and almost anything else (but not the kitchen sink or large furniture items please!) would be greatly appreciated.

Funds raised at the sale will support resident programs.

Learn More



Discover the Kindred Spirits Orchestra's 2024-2025 concert season,

KINDRED SPIRITS ORCHESTRA

featuring 9 performances in Toronto and Markham under Maestro Kristian Alexander's direction. Experience "3 at the Weston" concerts in March, May, and June 2024 at Meridian Arts Centre – George Weston Recital Hall. Don't miss these incredible musical experiences! Tickets are on sale now!

Buy Tickets



climate leaders who will be armed with the climate awareness and behaviour change tools necessary to speak confidently and inspire change in their homes

and communities!

The next run of Talk Climate to Me starts this April and you can have a front seat! Catch TCM online on Monday evenings or Tuesdays at lunchtime or dive deep into the Weekend Intensive sessions!

Learn More



RECOGNIZE BE A DONOR MONTH IN APRIL

Did you know that one organ donor can save up to eight lives and improve the lives of up to 75 others through tissue donation? In Ontario alone, approximately 1,400 people are eagerly awaiting life-saving organ

transplants. Sadly, every three days, someone loses their battle while waiting for a transplant.

But here's the empowering truth: everyone, regardless of age or health, has

the potential to be an organ and tissue donor, becoming a beacon of hope for those in need.

Over 4 million compassionate Ontarians have already taken this vital step. Don't

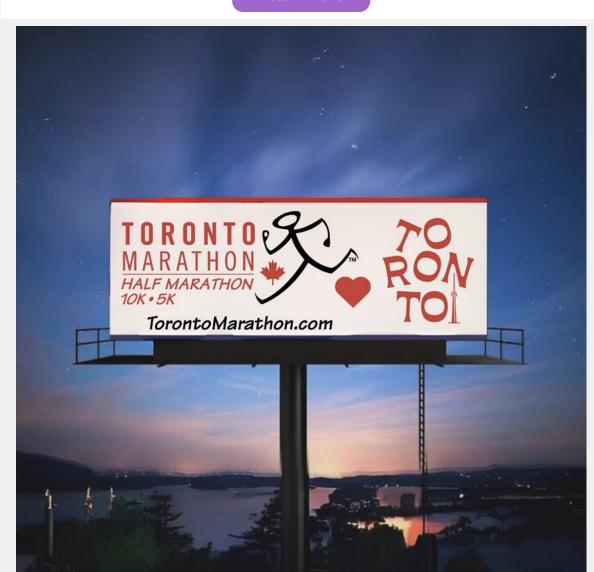
forget to have a conversation with your loved ones about your decision, ensuring your wishes are honoured.

Visit_www.BeADonor.ca today to become a donor and learn more about how

you can transform lives. Your generosity can be the gift of a lifetime. Let's make

April a month of giving and saving lives together!

Learn More



TORONTO MARATHON

Get ready to lace up your running shoes as the annual Toronto Marathon takes over the streets on Sunday, May 5, 2024! This event welcomes over 16,000 participants from 60+ countries.

The Half Marathon begins at 8:30 am. 5K and 10K begin at 8:00 am.

The Marathon begins at 7:30 am.

For East-West travel: Bloor Street, Danforth Avenue, Queen Street, and Dundas Street are all open for uninterrupted East-West traffic. Police will be at major intersections to direct traffic. Expect some delays.

Hwy. 401 – Ramps to Yonge Street Southbound will be open by 10:00 am.

For more information, including detailed road closures and course maps, visit www.torontomarathon.com **Learn More**

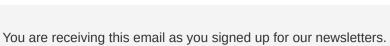
LET'S CONNECT ON SOCIAL











Want to change how you receive these emails?