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Hi Neighbour!

We are so excited to see you at tomorrow's **Community Environment Day from 10am-2pm at Earl Haig Secondary School (Kenneth & Empress)**. We have a jam-packed event and are grateful the weather shows NO RAIN (fingers crossed)! If it does rain, our event is rain or shine.

PARKING INSTRUCTIONS

If you are picking up compost and/or bringing large quantities of items for donation and disposal, please park in the parking lot. After items have been disposed or compost has been picked up, please consider parking at a nearby street to enjoy the rest of the ECO Fair.

Here is the wealth of activities you can enjoy:

FOR KIDS!

- JOIN US at 12-1pm for Professor Pricklethorn's ECO Show!
- Join us for FUN kids' environmental craft activities.

FOR GARDENERS:

- **FREE COMPOST** Each household is limited to one compost bag, but loose compost is also available. Please remember to bring a suitable bag or container for collection. Shovels will be provided on-site for residents to use. Compost is available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Signing up for the event does not guarantee compost will be available.
- **SEED EXCHANGE!**

ECO FAIR:

- **SIGN UP** for a FREE tree for September pick up for our Neighbourhood Planting Program. A choice from 12 varieties of trees and shrubs to be confirmed in late August.
- **LEARN** about smart commuting
- **ECO-SPARK** - learn about science, nature and climate change.
- **CLIMATE FAST, T-CAN and GNN** - Climate Educational Activities

SAFE DISPOSAL

- **DISPOSE** of hazardous items including cell phones, small electronics, e-cigarettes, used cooking oil, paint solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, unused medications, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, glue, household hazardous waste, and propane tanks.

DONATE

- **TINY TOYS!** Bring any old toys and/or toy pieces for upcycling.
- **DONATE** clothing and household donations to Salvation Army including the following items in good condition for reuse: sporting goods, arts and crafts supplies, books, musical instruments, board games, eyeglasses, walking aids, non-perishable food items for the local food bank, cameras, clothing, costumes, and linen.

BONUS!

- **MEET** your councillor
- **FREE FOR PICK UP** a Slow Down sign for your front lawn.
- **CYCLE TO & Community Member: Bike safety checks and tune-ups** will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.

DO NOT BRING:

- Car seats, ink cartridges or toner, construction waste, air conditioners, garbage, wood, cassette and video tapes, commercial/industrial hazardous waste, and scrap metal.

See you tomorrow!

Short-Term Rental Changes: is this overreach or does this preserve rental housing stock?

Next week, City Council will consider amendments to the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 547 regulating **Short-Term Rentals (eg. Airbnb)**. [CLICK HERE](#) to review. Here is a summary:

Short-Term Rental Program Costs and Revenue

As of Dec 31, 2023, there were 8,147 active short-term rental (STR) operators in Toronto—307 of these in Willowdale. In 2023, the STR program generated \$1.79M in fee revenue and cost the City \$2.65M in program costs. The estimated program costs for 2024 will increase to \$5.51M. Due to proposed phased-in fee increases, it is estimated the program costs will be fully offset by 2025 with expected revenue of \$2.13M in 2024 and \$5.52M in 2025.

The proposed annual registration fee per STR operator for 2024 is \$375. (The 2023 rate was \$53.22.) The proposed annual registration fee per short-term rental company is \$10,000 and \$1.50 per night booked.

In addition, all STRs are subject to a Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) of 6%. MAT generated \$8.60M in revenue in 2023. The City is required to share MAT revenue with Destination Toronto.

Short Term Rental Complaints

Since January 2021, the City has received 3,633 complaints through 311 about STRs. Nine by-law enforcement officers (BEO) investigate complaints and non-compliant operators, and 26 BEOs investigate STR noise complaints.

Proposed Amendments

Some of the proposed amendments include:

- Additional 2 pieces of documentation to prove a STR is one's principal residence
- Extending the current 180-day/year rental cap on 'entire unit' rentals to also include 'partial unit' rentals (e.g. renting one bedroom in your house)
- Limit operator registrations to one registrant per dwelling unit
- Whether an operator rents one bedroom or multiple bedrooms on a given night, this activity counts toward their cumulative 180-day limit per year
- Annual inspection of all registered STR units
- Prohibiting licensed multi-tenant house operators from obtaining a STR registration related to the multi-tenant house

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to participate in a survey on this matter with any concerns about short-term rental regulation and the proposed changes coming to Council April 17-19, 2024. I have a scheduled briefing with City staff on Monday, April 15th at which time I can raise concerns.

Ukrainian Students Who Fled War Need Our Support to Access Post-Secondary Education in Canada

Many Ukrainian newcomer students are approaching an affordability cliff as their non-refugee status under the **Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) program does not allow them to access post-secondary education at domestic rates**. This can mean a difference of over \$20K per year. Some students have not even applied for school this year knowing the tuition is out of reach. We met yesterday and today with Ukrainian student leaders, a Ukrainian community leader, a Ukrainian settlement worker and an executive from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress—Toronto to hear their urgent concern.

The Government of Ontario is responsible for regulating student tuition for post-secondary educational institutions in the province. As the Councillor for many of these Ukrainian students, I am working towards moving a motion at Toronto City Council to request the province to grant Ukrainian students with international tuition exemption ahead of September 2024.

Please consider signing this [PETITION](#) set up by Liza, a student currently facing this challenge. Add your voice to support Ukrainian students!

Warmest regards,

Councillor Lily Cheng & Team

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

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- [Willowdale Community Environment Days and Eco-Fair](#)
- [Spaghetti Town Halls are Back!](#)
- [Neighbourhood Munch: World Tour Brunch](#)
- [Ceremonial Naming Survey](#)
- [Neighbourhood Watch Webinar](#)
- [Call for Volunteers](#)

~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- [Our Plan Toronto: Official Plan Chapter One](#)
- [Lights Out Toronto](#)
- [Sheppard Ave E Construction from Bonnington Pl to Bayview Ave](#)
- [Ventilation Shaft Repair Notice](#)
- [Updates on Multi-Tenant Housing in Toronto](#)
- [Toronto Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Consultation](#)
- [Clean Toronto Together](#)
- [Official Toronto Microgrants](#)
- [TTC Wheel Trans Community Feedback](#)
- [Caswell and Pemberton Playground Enhancements](#)

~ COMMUNITY UPDATES

- [Spring Lanterns in Willowdale](#)
- [Willowdale Community Clean Up](#)
- [Live Music at John McKenzie House](#)
- [All-In Spring Sale](#)
- [An Afternoon of Music and Exploration](#)
- [Toronto History Museums: Earth Month](#)
- [Let's Move, Willowdale](#)
- [Willowdale Bird Walk from Lee Lifeson Art Park](#)
- [The Yorkminstrels Show Choir Anniversary Celebration](#)
- [Toronto Marathon](#)
- [PCC Fundraising Relay](#)
- [Kindred Spirits Orchestra: Per Aspera Ad Astra](#)
- [Luminato Festival Toronto](#)

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

WILLOWDALE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DAYS & Eco-Fair



Meet your
City Councillor
Lily Cheng

Saturday, April 13, 10am-2pm
Earl Haig Secondary School Parking Lot

**THIS
SATURDAY**

Safely Dispose:

- Cell phones
- Small electronics
- E-cigarettes
- Used cooking oil
- Paint solvents
- Pesticides
- Fertilizers
- Unused meds
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Batteries
- Glue
- Household hazardous waste
- Propane tanks

Donate items in good condition for reuse:

- Sporting goods
- Arts & crafts supplies
- Books (no text books)
- Musical instruments
- Board games
- Eyeglasses, walking aids, etc.,
- Non-perishable food items for local food bank
- Cameras, CDs & cases
- Clothing, costumes, linens

Please **DO NOT** bring: car seats, ink cartridges or toner, construction waste, air conditioners, garbage, wood, cassette and video tapes, commercial/industrial hazardous waste and scrap metal

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WILLOWDALE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DAYS AND ECO-FAIR

Join us **THIS SATURDAY on April 13** for a Jam Packed **Willowdale Community Environment Day!**

Take part in the following:

- Free Compost (1 bag per household, additional loose compost as supplies last - bring your own container)
- Seed Exchange
- Hazardous waste disposal
- Household item donation
- Electronic Item Donation
- Eco Arts Stations
- Kids Eco Show, 12-1pm with Professor Pricklethorn
- FREE Bike Safety Checks and Tune Up (limited spots)
- Donate Toy Pieces and Parts for Upcycling with Tiny Toys
- Sign up for a tree to plant...and MORE!

Don't miss out on our Environment Day event if you're looking to safely dispose of: your cell phones, small electronics, e-cigarettes, used cooking oil, paint solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, unused medications, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, glue, household hazardous waste, and propane tanks.

Please consider donating the following items in good condition for reuse: sporting goods, arts and crafts supplies, books, musical instruments, board games, eyeglasses, walking aids, non-perishable food items for the local food bank, cameras, clothing, costumes, and linen.

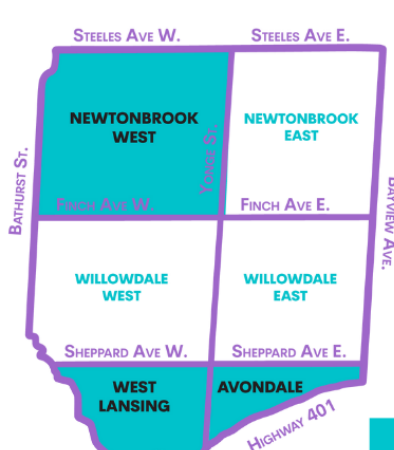
Please do not bring: car seats, ink cartridges or toner, construction waste, air conditioners, garbage, wood, cassette and video tapes, commercial/industrial hazardous waste, and scrap metal.

RSVP Now!



SPAGHETTI TOWNHALL SERIES

AVONDALE • THURS, APR. 18
NEWTONBROOK WEST • FRI, APR. 26
WEST LANSING • TUES, MAY. 7



- Meet Neighbours
- Share Ideas
- Connect with City Staff

RSVP

www.lilycheng.ca/events

SPAGHETTI TOWN HALLS ARE BACK!

SPAGHETTI TOWNHALLS ARE BACK! This time, at our **Avondale**, **Newtonbrook West**, and **West Lansing** Neighbourhoods. Don't miss an opportunity to connect with your neighbours, get information about your community, engage with City Staff and share your ideas! **RSVP NOW** at www.lilycheng.ca/events to secure your ticket for a **FREE dinner and townhall**.

Avondale

When: Thursday, April 18, 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Where: Spring Garden Church, 112 Spring Garden Ave, M2N 3G3

Newtonbrook West

When: Friday, April 26, 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Where: Willowdale Christian School, 60 Hilda Ave, M2M 1V5

West Lansing

When: Tuesday, May 7, 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Where: Lansing United Church, 49 Bogert Ave, M2N 1K4

RSVP Now!



NEIGHBOURHOOD MUNCH: WORLD TOUR BRUNCH

Join me and Feed Scarborough at Food Hall TO (**5210 Yonge Street**) for a fun-filled event where you can meet Newcomers to the country who are also students of our local food incubator, to hear their stories as they begin building their life in Canada as small business entrepreneurs. Enjoy delicious food, and learn about the new program in Willowdale. This is a great opportunity to connect with the community and enjoy conversations with me and the new team. Don't miss out on this fantastic event - mark your calendar, you're in for a culinary adventure that will leave your appetite satisfied!

When: Saturday, April 27, 11am - 2pm

Where: 5210 Yonge Street Toronto, ON M2N 5P6

[Buy Tickets Now](#)

CEREMONIAL NAMING SURVEY LET'S HONOUR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS



Many of us remember the Yonge Street Tragedy that was a dark moment in our community where many lives were lost. During that moment and for the months following, we were well served by our First Responders including our Fire Department, Paramedics and 32 Division. One of our community members, Diane Broom, has been working hard these past 6 years to honour their heroic efforts and show gratitude for all they do to serve our neighbourhood. One of her efforts is to pay tribute to First Responders by giving Canterbury Place (the road) a ceremonial name: Hero's Way.



We would like your feedback on this matter. This would NOT be a re-naming. No addresses would change. Instead, an additional sign plate would be added with the ceremonial name. This proposal has officially received support from our MP Ali Ehsassi, MPP Stan Cho, and City Councillor Lily Cheng. We are now receiving community feedback to make an official submission. Thank you for your participation and consideration.



ACT NOW!

PLEASE TAKE THE SURVEY!

bit.ly/herosway

DEADLINE: APR 16, 2024



LILY CHENG

CITY COUNCILLOR WARD 18, WILLOWDALE

[@LilyChengTO](#)

www.lilycheng.ca

CEREMONIAL NAMING SURVEY

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

LEARN HOW TO INCREASE COMMUNITY SAFETY!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEBINAR

**MON, MAY 27, 2024
FROM 7 - 8 PM**

**Learn how to set up
your own local cluster!**



HOSTED BY:

LILY CHENG

CITY COUNCILLOR WARD 18, WILLOWDALE

RSVP AT

[LILYCHENG.CA/EVENTS](http://lilycheng.ca/events)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEBINAR

Are you concerned about rising crime rates in Willowdale? Do you want to take action against crime and improve community safety? Consider forming a Neighbourhood Watch with neighbours in your building or block!

On May 27 from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, a safety webinar will be hosted by our office and Didi, a community leader and starter of several Neighbourhood Watches across the city! Her largest group is in the Yonge-Lawrence area, where she went door to door to form a neighbourhood watch group following a stabbing incident on her block. Watch the following news footage for her story: <https://globalnews.ca/video/4344474/torontos-yonge-and-lawrence-community-forms-online-neighbourhood-watch-program>

A Neighbourhood Watch Group allows for quick responses and reporting of incidents, increased awareness of suspicious events and enhanced crime prevention through collective action.

If you are interested in starting a Neighbourhood Watch for your area, please register for the Webinar at bit.ly/neighbourhoodwatchrsvp, and fill out the registration form for a chance to win a \$100 giftcard towards a Block/Building Party to launch your Neighbourhood Watch!

[Register Now!](#)



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS SIGN UP NOW!

Meet
Neighbours
& Earn
Volunteer
Hours

New volunteers

sign up here: www.lilycheng.ca/volunteer

Existing volunteers

sign up here: bit.ly/existingvolunteers



Let's work
together to make
WILLOWDALE
a great
community!

COUNCILLOR CHENG

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Passionate about making a difference? [We are looking for dedicated individuals to join our Volunteer Team!](#)

Help foster a [Connected Community in Willowdale](#). Contribute to making meaningful change and earn volunteer hours.

Let's work together to make Willowdale a better place for all!

New volunteers, sign up here: www.lilycheng.ca/volunteer
Existing volunteers, sign up here: bit.ly/existingvolunteers

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES



OUR PLAN TORONTO: OFFICIAL PLAN CHAPTER ONE

"[Our Plan Toronto: Official Plan Chapter One - Decision Report - Approval](#)" holds significance as a foundational framework guiding urban development and land use policies within the City. This item is coming to City Council for approval next week. The current Chapter One was adopted by Council in 2002 as part of the City's first post-amalgamation Official Plan.

Like other Chapters of the Official Plan, Chapter One also requires updating to reflect the changing vision for the city. This report recommends replacing the current Chapter One with a [new](#) Chapter One that focuses on advancing reconciliation, a Vision to 2051, and Principles for a successful and inclusive city.

Serving as a blueprint for sustainable growth and community well-being, the new chapter delineates the long-term vision, goals, and principles governing land use planning. It outlines the policies that will govern Toronto's growth and development for the foreseeable future. With its recent approval at Planning & Housing Committee, it signifies a collective endorsement of a sustainable, equitable, inclusive, and resilient future for the city which will help shape the physical and social fabric of the region for generations to come.

The Decision Report encapsulates extensive community engagement, expert input, and rigorous analysis, distilling them into actionable policies aimed at addressing pressing urban challenges. From managing population growth to enhancing transportation infrastructure, preserving green spaces, to fostering vibrant communities, the approved plan reflects a holistic approach to city-building.

The change requested for "[Our Plan Toronto: Official Plan Chapter One - Decision Report - Approval](#)" stemmed from various factors, including:

- **Community Feedback:** Input from residents, businesses, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders highlighted the need for adjustments to certain policies or strategies to better reflect community priorities and concerns.
- **Evolving Context:** Changes in demographics, economic conditions, technological advancements, or environmental considerations necessitated updates to the plan to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in addressing current and future challenges.
- **Legal and Regulatory Requirements:** Updates are required to ensure compliance with new or revised municipal, provincial, or federal regulations governing urban planning, land use, or environmental protection.
- **Policy Objectives:** The requested change aligns with broader policy objectives of the municipality, such as promoting affordable housing, enhancing public transit, or mitigating climate change impacts, necessitating adjustments to the plan to better achieve these goals.

Overall, changes to the Official Plan Chapter One ensures that it remains a robust and responsive framework for guiding the city's growth and development in line with community aspirations and evolving circumstances.

[Read More](#)



LIGHTS OUT TORONTO

To protect birds during their migration during the spring and autumn months, the City of Toronto has launched the "[Lights Out Toronto](#)" campaign – a city-wide campaign to address the issue of migratory bird collisions with building windows in Toronto during the spring ([April 1 to May 31](#)) and fall ([September 1 to October 31](#)) migration seasons.

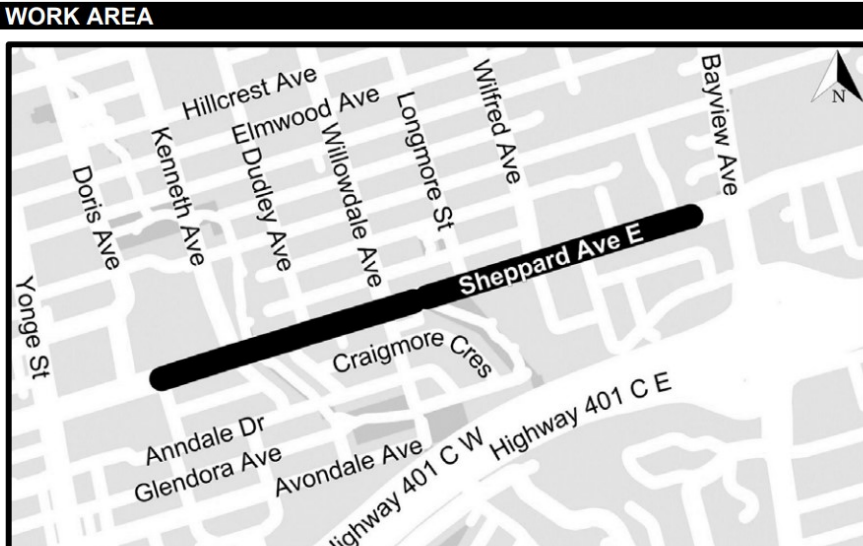
The City's campaign encourages the public to contribute to "Lights Out Toronto" by [turning off unnecessary lights](#) – defined as lighting not intended for security or safety reasons – during the nighttime, to reduce fatal bird collisions with buildings. By turning off non-essential lights in buildings, Toronto can be a leader in reducing the number of bird collisions and saving countless bird lives.

As part of the "Lights Out Toronto" campaign, Toronto residents and businesses are encouraged to:

- **Turn off interior lighting at night, especially on higher floors.**
- **Close window coverings at night if lights must be kept on.**
- **Turn off exterior decorative lighting, pot lights and flood lights when not in use.**
- **Substitute strobe lighting and reduce atrium lighting whenever possible.**
- **Install automatic motion sensors and controls wherever possible.**

[Learn More](#)

MAP OF WORK AREA



SHEPPARD AVE. E CONSTRUCTION FROM BONNINGTON PLACE TO BAYVIEW AVE.

Our office has been hearing from several concerned constituents regarding the [Road Resurfacing and Bikeway Construction on Sheppard Ave E](#). Please see below an explanation of the project scope and timeline, from the Engineering & Construction Services Division:

"This project involves major road resurfacing, upgrading sidewalks/boulevards, and the creation of two new bike lanes on both the north and south sides. Additionally, all signalized intersections within the construction limits will be upgraded as part of the scope.

Considering the various traffic-related challenges, particularly in maintaining business access and potential weather-related delays, especially during the Spring and Fall seasons, this timeline from **April to November** presents the most constrained window for completing this job. While we will make every effort to complete the work as soon as possible, we assure you that the provided timeline is reasonable given the complexity of the project's scope and other traffic related factors. **Throughout the construction period, residents can be assured that access to businesses will be maintained.**"

[Learn More](#)

Issued on: April 5, 2024

Ventilation shaft repairs requiring lane reduction Yonge Street between Poyntz and Bogert avenues

Date: Sunday, April 14 – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
**Pending weather and unforeseen events. Content/timeline accurate at the time of printing*

What we are doing and why
The TTC is in the process of rehabilitating its ventilation shaft on Yonge Street between Poyntz Avenue and Bogert Avenue. To date the majority of the work has been underground.

On **Sunday, April 14**, there will be a concrete pour to support ongoing activities. Trucks will be positioned at street-level on Yonge Street between Poyntz Avenue and Bogert Avenue. This work will require a temporary lane reduction on Yonge Street through the work area.

Motorist, cyclist, and pedestrian impacts

- The southbound curb lane on Yonge Street between Poyntz Avenue and Bogert Avenue will be closed during work hours.
- Motorists and cyclists travelling southbound through the area will be required to merge.
- All sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and access to nearby properties will be maintained.

Equipment

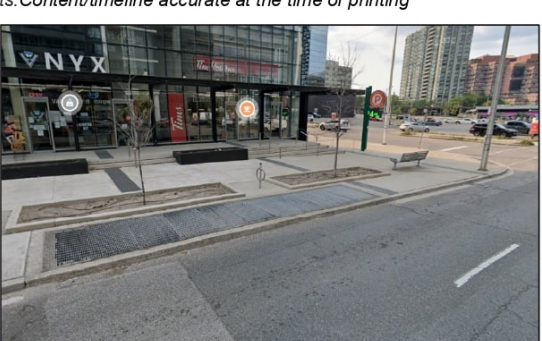
- Concrete trucks and crews will be present at street-level.
- Noise and dust associated with typical construction can be expected. Efforts will be made to keep levels to a minimum.

Work hours


- The concrete truck activity will take place between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- To create a safe work zone, crews may set up/remove traffic controls a few hours before and after the scheduled work activity.

Thank you for your patience during this essential infrastructure repair work.

For further information
Scan the QR code to visit ttc.ca or contact Paul Tran, Senior Community Liaison, 416-981-1601, paul.tran@ttc.ca.



Ventilation shaft on Yonge Street, between Poyntz Avenue and Bogert Avenue.



Routes/Schedules/Fares: 416-393-4636 (automated - 24 hours daily)

Customer Service: 416-393-3030 (daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.)

TTY Line: 1-800-855-0511 (daily 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

ttc.ca

[@TTChelps](#)

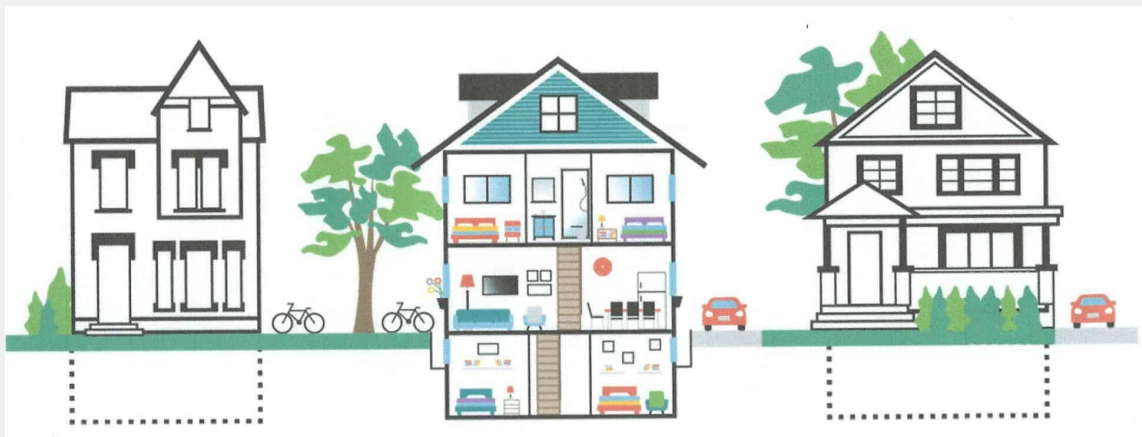
[@takethettc](#)

VENTILATION SHAFT REPAIR NOTICE

The TTC is in the process of rehabilitating its ventilation shaft on **Yonge Street between Poyntz Avenue and Bogert Avenue**. To date the majority of the work has been underground.

On **Sunday, April 14**, concrete trucks are scheduled to support work crews and will be positioned at street-level on Yonge Street between Poyntz Avenue and Bogert Avenue. **This activity will require a temporary lane reduction on Yonge Street through the work area.** The concrete pouring is the only expected work activity on April 14 and will only occur **between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.**

This activity will require a temporary southbound lane reduction on Yonge Street through the work area between Poyntz and Bogert avenues. The traffic controls will be lifted as soon as this work activity is completed for the day.



UPDATES ON MULTI-TENANT HOUSING IN TORONTO

The City of Toronto has implemented new rules for multi-tenant houses to enhance safety and standardize this affordable housing option across the city. These rules aim to improve oversight, compliance, and safety standards while preserving affordable housing for renters.

Multi-tenant houses, previously restricted in some areas, are now being legalized and encouraged to increase housing availability. **As of March 31, operators must obtain licenses for multi-tenant houses, with a three-year phased implementation period prioritizing education and support for tenants.** Defined as buildings with four or more rooms rented to separate individuals, multi-tenant houses cater to diverse residents, including newcomers, students, seniors, and low-to-moderate-income individuals.

Advantages of the new rules include:

- **Consistent standards**
- **Improved safety and building conditions**
- **Enhanced licensing requirements**
- **New operating standards**
- **A renovation program to preserve affordability**

The City has established an effective compliance program, including enforcement teams and a licensing tribunal, to ensure adherence to regulations. Toronto City Council has amended zoning bylaws city-wide and introduced consistent standards to safeguard tenant safety and address neighborhood concerns. Information about licensing requirements and tenant support is available on the City's Multi-Tenant Houses webpage.

[Learn More](#)



TORONTO MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN CONSULTATION

The City of Toronto has launched public consultations for the **2025-2029 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan** and is looking for your feedback!

People with disabilities, their support persons, and community organizations can share their experiences to help make Toronto more accessible. **Your feedback will inform priorities and initiatives aimed at enhancing accessibility in City programs, services, information and communications, facilities, public spaces, and employment practices.**

The survey is open until April 26.

[Take the Survey!](#)



CLEAN TORONTO TOGETHER

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
amis 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



OFFICIAL TORONTO MICROGRANTS

Toronto-based community groups, organizations and small grassroots initiatives 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.

INTO the Ravines and Sparking Change Microgrants are due by **Monday, April 22, 2024 at 4:00 pm**.

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

Successful recipients will be notified by the end of May.

[Learn More](#)



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](#)



CASWELL AND PEMBERTON PLAYGROUND ENHANCEMENTS

We're thrilled to announce that both the **Caswell Park and Pemberton Parkette Playground Enhancement Projects** are set to commence construction in the **Summer of 2024**, promising enhanced play experiences for all.

[Learn More](#)

COMMUNITY UPDATES



SPRING LANTERNS IN WILLOWDALE

Welcome Spring by enjoying the beautiful lanterns placed across our 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 **April 30**.

Participating BIA Locations:

- North American Centre: 5650 & 5700 Yonge St.
- Mel Lastman Square: 5100 Yonge St.
- Yonge Sheppard Centre: 4841 Yonge St.
- Emerald Park: 4750 Yonge St.

VISIT, SHARE & WIN!

From March 15 to April 30, we are hosting an Instagram Contest, whereby 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 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](#)



WILLOWDALE COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Willowdale community members are coming together at **Newtonbrook Park** to work to keep the Newtonbrook Creek clean and beautiful. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, make a positive impact on the environment, and have some fun while doing it!

Grab some gloves and a trash bag, and let's get to work picking up litter, tidying up green spaces, and making our community shine. Whether you're a long-time resident or new to the area, **everyone is welcome to participate in this event.**

- Where to Start:** Willowdale Avenue East (Across from Silverview Dr)
- Where to End:** Maxome Avenue
- When:** April 13, 2024 from 11 AM to 1 PM
- Items to Bring:** Garbage Bags and Gloves

[Reserve a Spot](#)



LIVE MUSIC AT JOHN MCKENZIE HOUSE

Don't miss out on an unforgettable evening of live music at the John McKenzie House! On **Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM**, the **WCRA Arts Collective** proudly presents the **Evelynne Ross Trio**. Hailing from Toronto, the Evelynne Ross Trio is a seasoned 3-piece pop/rock ensemble with over two decades of musical synergy.

Buy your tickets now to enjoy an evening of unforgettable entertainment that will leave you singing along!

[Buy Tickets](#)



ALL-IN SPRING SALE

As you do your spring cleaning, the **Summer 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](#)



AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC AND EXPLORATION

Join singer/songwriter and multi-disciplinary artist, **Joni NehRita** for an afternoon of music and exploration. The Jamaican-Canadian artist's music invites listeners to think, feel and move with her socially charged Afro-Latin & Caribbean soul.

NehRita is also a music educator & facilitator who has taught workshops in improvisation, performance & vocal technique at Wilfrid Laurier University, Seneca College, Folk Alliance International, The Uptown Waterloo Jazz Festival as well as at countless other schools & community events.

Call the **Languages, Literature, & Fine Arts department** at **416-395-5639** or visit the **3rd floor desk** to register.

Space limited. All ages are welcome.

- When:** Saturday, April 27th, 2024, 2PM-3PM
- Where:** Auditorium, North York Central Library



Throughout April, **Toronto History Museums** celebrate the Earth through a series of dynamic experiences that advance meaningful action towards keeping the Earth clean and green! **Celebrate the spirit of Earth, sustainability and community** through workshops, talks and programs that honour the Earth and promote environmental stewardship from multiple perspectives.

[Learn More](#)

Walk, Run, Bike
LET'S MOVE, WILLOWDALE

FAMILY FUN!
 ALL ARE WELCOME!

FUNDS RAISED ALLEVIATE SOCIAL ISOLATION!

COMMUNITY MOVE-A-THON & BBQ

SAT. MAY 4 • HENDON PARK
 11AM MOVE-A-THON • 12PM BBQ

REGISTER TODAY!
neighbourlink.org/letsmove

LET'S MOVE, WILLOWDALE

Join NeighbourLink North York for their 3rd Let's Move, Willowdale Move-a-thon & 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 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](#)



WILLOWDALE BIRD WALK FROM LEE LIFESON ART PARK

Come join your neighbours for a pleasant walk, along the northern reaches of **Wilket Creek** in Willowdale, while we listen for and see birds, including resident ones and those in migration. **The walk lasts 1-1.5 hours**, returning to the starting point. You may easily stop and return anytime earlier, if an hour or less is best for you. Volunteers knowledgeable about Willowdale's birds will be guides. **Children are most welcome** and have been amazing bird spotters in previous years! **All walkways are paved, with accessible curbs for strollers, walkers and wheelchairs.**

Sign up for the walk, whether you are new to birds or a long-time birder. Bring your family and friends! Those who know their birds can help the group see and hear them, but no prior bird knowledge is necessary. Binoculars are helpful but not required. Capacity limited to approximately 30 people.

When: Saturday, May 4, 2024 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Where: Lee Lifeson Art Park, 223 Gladys Allison Place Toronto, ON M2N 3R5

[Reserve Your Ticket](#)

St. George on Yonge
 Anglican 5350 Yonge St. (at Churchill)

presents
The Yorkminstrels Show Choir

Under the Direction of Cathy Whiteside

Celebrating 50 Years of Song & Dance

Saturday, May 4th @ 7:30 pm

FUNDRAISER

Contact the St. George on Yonge church office to purchase tickets
stgeorgeonyonge.ca | 416-225-1922

TICKETS: \$20 | Bring an item for the 415 Food Hub
 Parking off Churchill Ave. | Accessible
 Reception to follow

THE YORKMINSTRELS SHOW CHOIR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Celebrate the Yorkminstrels Show Choice 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 4th, at 7:30 PM!

Enjoy an evening of singing and dancing with a special performance presented by St. George on Yonge Anglican Church.

Purchase your ticket now by contacting the St. George on Yonge Church office at 416-225-1922.

When: Saturday, May 4th, at 7:30 PM
Where: St. George on Yonge Anglican Church, 5350 Yonge St, North York, ON M2N 5R5

[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 Marathon begins at 7:30 AM.
The Half Marathon begins at 8:30 AM.
5K and 10K begin at 8:00 AM.

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

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

[Learn More](#)

Let's come together and raise essential funding to provide compassionate care and support to 2500+ women facing unexpected pregnancies this year. **They need your help!**

PCC Fundraising Relay

40 YEARS THRIVING TOGETHER

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- 1. Sign up**
Sign up to participate or join a team
- 2. Fundraise**
Ask your family & friends to make a contribution
- 3. Walk**
Join us at our 5 KM walk on May 11th

Donate and register at pccfriends.ca/relay

JOIN US AT OUR WALK ON SATURDAY, MAY 11TH | START TIME: 8:30 AM
THE PEOPLES CHURCH (PARKING LOT)
374 SHEPPARD AVE E., NORTH YORK, ON M2N 3B6

QUESTIONS? Call or text: 416-229-2607 Email: events@pregnancycarecentre.org

416-229-2607 | For Supporters: pccfriends.ca | info@pregnancycarecentre.org | Central Office: 15 Hove St. Toronto, ON. M3H 4Y8

PCC FUNDRAISING RELAY

Save the date for the **Pregnancy Care Centre's** First Response Relay on **Saturday, May 11th** as they celebrate their 40 year anniversary!

As a community, let's come together to show our support to women and families facing unexpected pregnancies.

Help raise funds by reaching out to family and friends for support who want to give compassionate community care to families in our city.

When: Saturday, May 11th at 8:30 AM
Where: 374 Sheppard Ave E.

[Learn More](#)

PER ASPERA AD ASTRA

Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 8 pm

George Weston Recital Hall

[Book seats](#)

KINDRED SPIRITS ORCHESTRA: PER ASPERA AD ASTRA

Experience a night of musical wonders! Delve into the vibrant rhythms of **Manuel de Falla's The Three-cornered Hat suite**, journey through the virtuosic brilliance of **Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2**, and feel the emotional depth of **Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5**. Don't miss out on an unforgettable evening filled with enchantment and joy!

Featuring:
[Kristian Alexander](#) | Conductor
[Ludmil Angelov](#) | Pianist
[Daniel Vnukowski](#) | Host

When: Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 8 PM
Where: Meridian Arts Centre - George Weston Recital Hall 5060 Yonge St., Toronto

[Buy Tickets](#)



LUMINATO FESTIVAL TORONTO

This June, **Luminato Festival Toronto**, the city's multi-arts festival, returns to kick off the summer with memorable arts experiences.

From **June 5 to June 16, 2024**, Luminato will present a vibrant programming lineup featuring exceptional Canadian and international artists who will illuminate the city with a unique blend of music, dance, theatre, performance art, and more.

SPACED, curated by Banded Purple, celebrates the notion that art can be found in every corner and can permeate every aspect of our lives. The artists behind SPACED aim to take up space and affirm their own presence in the world, and to inspire people to recognize the beauty that exists in the world even in the most unlikely of spaces. **Check out their exhibit at Finch Station from June 5 to June 16!**

[Learn More](#)

LET'S CONNECT ON SOCIAL



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