



# LILY'S WEEKDAY UPDATE

Issues • Policies • Committees

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## Hi Neighbour!

I hope to see you **THIS SATURDAY, May 18** at the annual **32 Division Community BBQ** happening on their front steps at **32 Eglerslie Avenue**. I heard police dogs and horses will be in attendance. It's always a great time to get to know and show our appreciation for our community officers. Please consider attending anytime between 4-8pm. **No RSVP required!**

## Mark your calendars!

**Saturday, May 25 - Asian Heritage Month** celebration is coming to **Mel Lastman Square** on **Saturday, May 25 from 12-10pm** with **23 diverse food vendors, food trucks**, and a **variety of cultural performances** that will entertain and help us learn about the different Asian cultures around us!

**Sunday, May 26 - Pride Toronto** is coming to **Mel Lastman Square** for a two-pronged event:

**1-4pm: Community Connects** aims to create more visibility and awareness for the 2SLGBTQI+ communities outside of the downtown core. Please contact them if you would like to contribute to the programming.

**4-6pm:** Pride Toronto recognizes May as **Asian Heritage Month**. Celebrate through performances, art, and complimentary food and beverages!

## Condo Leaders Luncheon Recap

Last week we had the pleasure of co-hosting a **Condo Leaders Luncheon** with the **Yonge Corridor Condo Association**. Over 35 condo board presidents and property managers joined us for a time of networking, lawn bowling, and discussion. We want to thank **Bao House** and **Mandarin Restaurants** for their generous donation of food to our luncheon. We also want to thank the Willowdale Lawn Bowling Club for teaching us how to bowl and helping to serve the food. We were lucky to have a beautiful day to enjoy the club!

I often say that condo board presidents are unpaid mayors of their vertical villages. When there is an urgent situation in the building, it is often the condo board president who gets called. As we discussed issues around safety, car noise, and tenant engagement, we realized that our short luncheon would not provide sufficient time to have more fulsome discussions and learning opportunities. We discussed the need for a symposium to be held in the future.

## Willowdale Community Partners Connect Recap

Monday evening we hosted a smaller **Willowdale Community Partners Connect** dinner which included leaders from a majority of neighbourhood associations across our community including fledgling groups that are seeking guidance on solidifying their organizational infrastructure. We were treated to a delicious feast sponsored by **Shamshiri Restaurant**. Our meeting discussed how neighbourhood associations can use the Willowdale Action Hub, an explanation of Participatory Budgeting, and how my office can support neighbourhood associations in general. These leaders are the backbone of our community and deserve our gratitude for their service to us. Getting people engaged and involved is increasingly difficult because people are increasingly busy and/or cocooning after Covid.

I invite you to consider how you might join or champion the start of a **Neighbourhood Association** OR you can start with a **Neighbourhood Watch** cluster in your immediate area! [Click Here](#) to see a list of existing neighbourhood associations in Willowdale.

**West Lansing Homeowners' Association** has the most developed board for neighbourhood associations in the community. They have board directors responsible for the following areas of concern:

- Development
- Traffic
- Beautification
- Safety

They organize 2 events every year - Canada Day BBQ and a Winter Social. It's always great to attend their events and see the strength of their community building!

## Community Leaders Symposium Coming in the fall!

As a result of our Condo Leaders Luncheon AND Willowdale Partners Connect, we have decided to host a **Willowdale Community Leaders Symposium** this fall to strengthen networking, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and collaboration. A small committee has been formed to shape the symposium. If you have some team-building facilitation skills you would like to contribute OR you would like to help plan the symposium, please let our office know:

[councillor\\_cheng@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_cheng@toronto.ca)

## RESCHEDULED - Neighbourhood Watch Webinar

Due to a sudden scheduling conflict, we have had to move our Neighbourhood Watch Webinar to **Wednesday, May 29, from 7:30-8:30pm**. Didi Cameron will be sharing how she has helped start dozens of clusters across the city and how you can create your own cluster. We will also discuss how all our clusters can work together through the **Community Police Liaison Committee**. [Click Here](#) to RSVP.

## That's a Wrap on Spaghetti Town Halls!

We held our sixth Spaghetti Town Hall for the West Lansing Neighborhood last week. We hosted 3 last November and 3 over the past few weeks. That wraps up all 6 neighbourhoods! It's been fun travelling across Willowdale to meet different communities. I am grateful to my staff team and volunteers who helped to make this happen. Our next series of Town Halls will be called the **Stone Soup Town Halls** and will kick off late-October! If you've never heard of the "Stone Soup" story before, we found two versions for you to enjoy:

[Click Here](#) to hear Stone Soup by Jon J. Muth.

[Click Here](#) to hear Stone Soup by Marcia Brown.

We look forward to making a delicious hearty soup with our community members while we continue to share updates and hear feedback. If you attended any of the last 6 town halls, **WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK!** [Click Here](#) for a quick survey!

## A Discussion about Wind

Some of you may notice that our main strip along Yonge Street between Finch and Sheppard can feel quite windy at times. Unfortunately, earlier in the development of our urban centre, there weren't policies around wind which means we have several tall buildings that stand flat against the sidewalk. The height and width of these buildings push wind downwards toward people on the sidewalk.

Last week I met with our community planner Guy Matthew and Urban Design Program Manager at the City of Toronto, Dawn Hamilton. We discussed the impact of wind on pedestrians in Willowdale, how buildings do wind studies in their application process and design elements that mitigate wind. Design elements such as awnings and buildings that have a podium with a tower that is set back further can help mitigate the impact of wind in our community. Trees can also play a role in decreasing the wind experienced by pedestrians.

There are two kinds of modelling that can be used for a wind study. The first uses computational modelling with consideration of surrounding building heights and built form. The second uses foam models with instruments that measure the wind impact. This information is helpful as we consider future public realm design with Transform Yonge where we should consider incorporating some free-standing awnings and more trees to help reduce the wind in our neighbourhood.

## North York Community Council

There were several fence exemption requests in Willowdale. Many of them were deferred as residents will continue to work with staff towards an agreeable outcome. The two exemptions that were passed had the support of neighbours and did not present any safety issues. The other item that was passed for Willowdale was:

## NY13.19 - Yonge Street and Kempford Boulevard - U-Turn Prohibition

We have received several complaints from residents who are concerned about people making U-turns at Yonge and Kempford endangering people trying to cross the road. Transportation staff suggested implementing a U-Turn prohibition both north and southbound at this intersection. This was passed at North York Community Council last week.

## Lunch with the Chief of Police

I believe in the importance of building relationships towards better collaboration and communication. Last week I had my second annual lunch with the Chief. He brought one of his staff members and I brought Sara, my Chief of Staff. Chief

Demkiw's team asked if I had an agenda for the luncheon and I said no because the purpose of the lunch is to get to know each other beyond the many formal interactions we have at board meetings.

During our meeting, we both agreed on the need for 32 Division to have a refresh of their aging building. Due to capital budget constraints, we discussed the potential of building a podium police station, which has been done in other municipalities. This is something we will discuss further. I also expressed my appreciation for the positive working relationship and support we have with 32 Division.

#### City Council Next Week!

Council agenda will be published tomorrow. [Click Here](#) to view the agenda which will be visible once published. I am moving 3 motions which I will share in Friday's email. Look out for items on:

- Major Streets Study bringing gentle density to major arteries throughout our city
- E-mobility policy that continues to opt out of provincial pilot, meaning e-scooters will continue to be illegal to operate in Toronto
- Impacts of Bill 185

Have a great rest of your week! Let's all toast the upcoming long weekend!

Warm regards,

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