



LILY CHENG

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Hi Neighbour!

Spring has arrived and we're enjoying longer days this week! Please travel safely as we experience today's snowstorm that is hopefully winter's final roar. A reminder that it will take up to 14 hours to clear all residential streets and 12 hours to clear our sidewalks. Many thanks to the crews already at work! You can track their progress using the PlowTO Map [HERE](#). Please wait until 16 hours have passed since the end of the snowfall before contacting 311 with a service request.

This is Sara Hildebrand, Councillor Cheng's chief-of-staff, writing today as Lily had surgery yesterday and is recovering at home for the next few days.

We are excited to announce that Willowdale's first of two Environment Days for 2024 has been confirmed for April 13, 10am-2pm at Earl Haig Secondary School. Community Environment Days help reduce the amount of reusable or recyclable waste going to landfill and allow for safe disposal of household hazardous waste. We will have both bagged and loose compost available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Looking forward to beautiful gardens in Willowdale.

Please also note that Councillor Cheng's office is holding our first Willowdale Youth Council Meeting this Monday, March 25th at 4-6pm at St. Stephen's Newcomer Community Centre. See below for RSVP details.

Council meeting took place on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Councillor Cheng participated right up until she headed to the hospital late morning Thursday. Her four Member Motions were successfully adopted.

City Council Updates

[MM16.16 - An Equitable Distribution of Canada Day Celebrations Throughout the City](#)

Canada Day is an important opportunity for community members to gather. Many have memories of BBQs and fireworks. In Willowdale, community members used to have the chance to gather on Yonge Street and watch fireworks launched off of the North York Civic Centre. In a community where the visible minority population is 83,000, including newcomers and immigrants, and 74,000 residents have a mother tongue that is neither English nor French, it is important to bring people together to share meaningful experiences. After COVID, the City stopped Canada Day fireworks in Willowdale which had previously happened for 20 years and focused its investment at the waterfront. Willowdale is very far from the waterfront. We know many Willowdalers are not able to benefit from these investments, especially families with younger children for whom the added travel time at a late hour would make it difficult.

Councillor Cheng's motion directs City staff to review all City-run and funded Canada Day events across Toronto, including a review of the equitable distribution in terms of population and geography, and to report on a plan to celebrate Canada Day in the inner suburbs annually, subject to federal funding. As our city grows, we need to have a plan to foster stronger connectivity outside of the downtown core that already has a lot of events and programming.

[MM16.45 - Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds from the Development at 15, 19 and 21 Holmes Avenue for Improvements to the Schoolyard at St. Cyril Catholic School](#)

After collaborating with the Principal, Trustee, and parents of St. Cyril Catholic School for 9 months, our collective efforts led to the City Council passing a motion yesterday to allocate \$500,000 from Section 37 funds to partially fund the school yard's upcoming revitalization. The next steps involve finalizing designs incorporating community input from the March 6th consultation, and City staff drafting a Community Access Agreement. We're thrilled to create a space serving the school children while also offering a distinctive outdoor activity space that complements nearby City parks. This new play area will be a 5-minute walk for 7000+ nearby residents!

[MM16.46 - Establishing a Stakeholder Advisory Committee to Optimize the use of Mel Lastman Square](#)

Mel Lastman Square is a vibrant, active space in the heart of North York. It provides a place where people can gather and partake in a wide variety of social and cultural events leaving lasting memories for the community and can often help grow the economy. There is capacity to engage with members of the community to activate the space in a meaningful way. Given the importance of this space and its significance to Willowdale, engagement with the community on planned events will allow for further collaboration to enhance the use of Mel Lastman Square.

This motion provides direction to City staff to develop an informed stakeholder advisory committee made up of representatives of local organizations including North York Arts, local arts organizations, local Business Improvement Area and local business association leaders, in consultation with the local councillor, that can help to shape the ongoing planning of events at the square, with an aim of maximizing benefits to the community.

[MM16.18 - Authorization to Release Section 37 and Section 42 Funds to Amend the 2024-2033 Capital Budget and Plan for Parks, Forestry and Recreation to Advance Capital Projects in Ward 18](#)

Since Councillor Cheng took office, our team has been advocating for a dog-park in Willowdale. We've had numerous meetings with the Parks, Forestry and Recreation division of the City to compile a comprehensive plan aimed at identifying the best location for a potential dog off-leash area that can serve the greatest number of residents in our community. Councillor Cheng's motion was adopted at City Council and directs City staff to examine the feasibility of establishing a dog off-leash park in various locations across our ward. This initiative aims to create a safe and enjoyable space for our four-legged friends to play and socialize.

Your input is crucial to this process! Please help us identify the ideal location for the dog park by participating in our [SURVEY](#). Your feedback will ensure that the proposed park meets the needs of both pet owners and those who don't have pets.

All the best for the weekend ahead! Consider staying in for the evening as road conditions aren't ideal. Enjoy a warm beverage and the company of loved ones in-person or virtually.

Warm regards,
Sara Hildebrand
Chief-of-staff
Office of Councillor Lily Cheng

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

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- [Fire Report - 5949 Yonge Street](#)
- [15 & 35 Greenview Condo Safety Meeting](#)
- [First Youth Council Meeting](#)
- [Ceremonial Naming Survey](#)

~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- [Grand opening of the Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre and Library](#)
- [Official Plan Review](#)
- [Stormwater Charge and Water Service Charge](#)
- [Toronto Microgrants](#)

~ COMMUNITY UPDATES

- [Free Career Counseling](#)
- [Celebrating Norooz](#)
- [Live Music at the John McKenzie House](#)
- [Spring Lanterns in Willowdale!](#)
- [Have Your Say In The Library's Future!](#)
- [Newcomers Welcome Tea](#)
- [Call for Board Members: North York Arts](#)
- [All-In Spring Sale](#)
- [An Afternoon of Music and Exploration](#)
- [TTC Wheel-Trans Community Feedback](#)
- [Let's Move, Willowdale](#)
- [Toronto Marathon](#)
- [True Colours: Let Your Light Shine](#)
- [Music in the Park: Concert Series](#)

FIRE REPORT - 5949 YONGE STREET

Tragedy struck at 5949 Yonge Street as the occupant rescued from the fire on March 12, 2024 has succumbed to their injuries in the hospital. We express profound condolences to the family, friends, and all affected by this devastating loss. The investigation into the fire's origin, cause, and circumstances continues in coordination with Toronto Police and the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal.



15 & 35 GREENVIEW CONDO SAFETY MEETING

THANK YOU to all the residents of 15 and 35 Greenview Avenue who attended the Condo Safety Discussion this past Monday! Topics presented include break and enters, carjacking, street robbery, condo/apartment safety, and more, as well as major crime indicator (MCI) data for Newtonbrook W. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) was discussed for improving safety around the condo, such as improving lighting and camera fixtures.

During the overview of year-to-date crime statistics, 6 reported cases of sexual violation were observed, and I raised the question of whether this data reflects offences by strangers or by persons known to the reportee. In a follow up to the meeting, I received confirmation that all six involved an intimate partner or a known offender and consequently there is no reason to believe that there is an elevated safety risk to the public.

Many thanks to Staff Sergeant Cosgrove who gave a comprehensive presentation on community safety, as well as Crime Prevention, Community Relations Officer Matheson, and our Yonge Street Foot Patrol Officers who joined us for this discussion.

WILLOWDALE YOUTH COUNCIL

Calling all Willowdale Youth aged 16-25

RSVP | **1ST YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING**
 March 25, 2024
 4 - 6 pm

bit.ly/YouthCouncil2024

Learn about politics and policy that shape our city!

Get your **Volunteer Hours** by committing to monthly council meetings!

Snacks sponsored by:



FIRST YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

Our FIRST Willowdale Youth Council Meeting is coming up soon, on Monday, **March 25, 2024 from 4-6 pm** at **St Stephen's Newcomer Community Centre** (5231 Yonge St.).

THANK YOU to TNG Community Services for offering their meeting space for the council! If you are interested in civic engagement opportunities, the politics and policy that shape our city, or simply passionate about making Willowdale a better place to live, consider joining the Willowdale Youth Council!

The Council is open to all Willowdale Youth **16-25 years old** who are willing to commit to monthly council meetings to help shape our city's future together. Gain civic knowledge, hands-on experience and volunteer hours.

THANK YOU to Loblaws Yonge Street for sponsoring the meeting with snacks and refreshments!

REGISTER NOW as a member of the youth council at <https://bit.ly/YouthCouncil2024> and come to our first meeting!

[Sign Up Here!](#)

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



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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](#)



GRAND OPENING OF THE ETHENNONHAWAHSTIHNEN' COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE AND LIBRARY

Mayor Olivia Chow will be joined by Councillor Shelley Carroll (Don Valley North), Chief William Romain from the Huron-Wendat Nation, Elder Valarie King from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill from the Six Nations of the Grand River and other distinguished guests to officially open the Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre and Library.

The name **Ethennonnhawahstihnen'** (pronounced Etta-nonna wasti-nuh), meaning **"where they had a good, beautiful life"** was a gift from the Huron-Wendat Nation to the City of Toronto.

Date: Saturday, March 23

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (remarks at 11:00 a.m.)

Location: 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane

The opening will feature a variety of family friendly activities including creative crafts, fitness classes, sports, swimming, face painting and cultural performances.

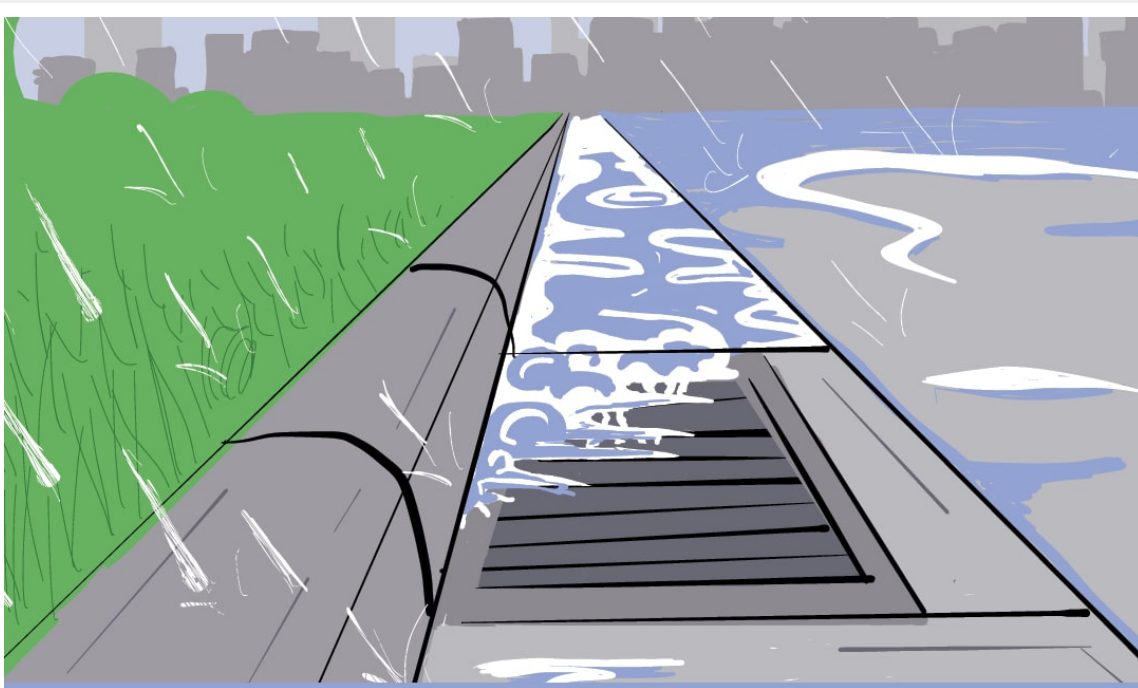
[Learn More](#)



OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

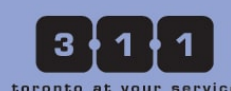
Join the City of Toronto on **March 26, 2024**, for an **in-person Open House** to discuss the recommended new Chapter One of the Official Plan. Taking place at Metro Hall, this event will provide insights into the city's growth direction until 2051, focusing on reconciliation, planning priorities, and a vision for an inclusive city. The Planning and Housing Committee will consider this new chapter on April 5, 2024, shaping Toronto's development for years to come. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in shaping the future of your city.

[Learn More](#)



The City of Toronto is considering a stormwater charge and water service charge.

Learn more and tell us what you think.



STORMWATER CHARGE AND WATER SERVICE CHARGE

The City is making critical investments to improve its stormwater infrastructure to help reduce the risk of basement flooding in homes and businesses, improve surface water quality in local waterways and protect vulnerable sewer infrastructure from the impacts of watercourse erosion.

The City is consulting on a stormwater charge and a water service charge, which could change the way you pay for water services. Join in at one of the virtual public consultation meetings being held on **April 8, 11 or 16**. To learn more about a potential stormwater charge and the water service charge, the consultation and to tell us what you think, visit toronto.ca/stormwatercharge.

[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



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](#)

COMMUNITY UPDATES

**NEED HELP APPLYING FOR A JOB OR
LEGAL HELP ADDRESSING A CHALLENGE AT WORK?**

BRING YOUR RESUME FOR FREE COUNSELING

Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

21 Hendon Ave

RSVP mycommunity@bayviewcummer.ca



Dr. Suzanne Cook
In-person career counseling on shifting to second career.

Ann Marie Gilroy
In-person tips on cover letter and interview preparation.

Dr. Ellie Berger
Countering ageism in job applications

Zeeshan Rahman
Speak about remedies to the at the Ontario Human Rights Commission

FREE CAREER COUNSELING

Need a boost with your job search or support with workplace issues? Look no further! **The Bayview Cummer Neighbourhood Association** is hosting a free resume counselling workshop on **March 23 from 11AM - 12PM at 21 Hendon Avenue!** Whether you need resume tips or legal advice, the BCNA team is here to help you shine through your career journey!

RSVP by emailing mycommunity@bayviewcummer.ca



Community Dining and Dancing Event

Join us in Celebrating Norooz

Saturday, March 23, 2024 12–2 pm

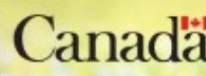
North York Senior Centre, 21 Hendon Ave.,

هر روزتان نوروز
و نوروزتان بيروز باد
نوروز مبارک

Bringing people together,
Breaking bread with one another,
Bridging generational ties,
Believing in culture and tradition,
Building a stronger community.

Register at: mycommunity@bayviewcummer.ca

Funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program



CELEBRATING NOROOZ

Save the date! On **March 23, from 12PM - 2PM**, the Bayview Cummer Neighbourhood Association will be hosting a Norooz Celebration at the **North York Senior Centre!** Let's strengthen our community bonds as we welcome the joyous arrival of spring and the new year. Enjoy delicious food, dance to vibrant music, and share in the spirit of unity!

RSVP by emailing mycommunity@bayviewcummer.ca



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](#)



Toronto Public Library is creating a new strategic plan to guide the library over the next five years, and we want your input.

Scan the QR code to complete an online survey and idea exchange. Closes March 27.

Please speak with staff if you prefer a paper survey.



tpl.ca/strategicplan

HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE LIBRARY'S FUTURE

Toronto Public Library is developing a new Strategic Plan to guide its work over the next five years – and they'd like to hear from you! With your input, TPL

will continue to innovate and modernize to meet the changing needs of Torontonians and help address the challenges and opportunities that our city faces. To participate, please visit tpl.ca/strategicplan before March 27.

[Learn More](#)

WCRA ARTS COLLECTIVE PRESENTS...

Live Music

AT THE JOHN MACKENZIE HOUSE (JMh)

DETAILS:
WWW.WILLOWDALECENTRAL.ORG/WHATS-NEW

LIVE MUSIC AT THE JOHN MCKENZIE HOUSE

The WCRA Arts Collective is announcing a year-long live music project, in partnership with the Ontario Historical Society starting **March 29th!**

The project will proudly feature a wide range of independent and emerging Canadian artists at the **John McKenzie House**. Keep up with the vibrant lineup of musical acts, continually added throughout the year.

[Learn More](#)

NeighbourLink NORTH YORK
spring garden church
Spirituality Grace Community

NEWCOMERS WELCOME TEA

欢迎新移民茶会
صرف چای با تازه واردین

신규 이민자 이벤트
ВІТАЛЬНИЙ ЧАЙ
Bienvenida para recién llegados a Canada

Join us to give or receive a warm welcome to local newcomers from around the world!

Location:
Spring Garden Church,
112 Spring Garden Avenue

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 a Newcomer Welcome Tea on **Sunday April 7th from 4-6pm at Spring Garden Church (112 Spring Garden Ave)**. This is a **FREE** family friendly event hosted by local charity **NeighbourLink North York**. There will be activities, tea, light refreshments and community connection!

[Register Now](#)

NYA NORTH YORK ARTS

CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

+ Become a leader of North York Arts

CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS: NORTH YORK ARTS

North York Arts is seeking new board members to support their mission of uplifting and expanding the arts in North York by investing in artists, inspiring community members, and engaging with partners and businesses. Since 2011, they have built a strong audience of over 200,000 attendees and participants with their diverse arts events and programs in North York.

As a board member, you'll contribute to strategic leadership, governance, and policy establishment. North York Arts is particularly interested in candidates with expertise in:

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Fundraising and corporate sponsorship
- Artistic creation and leadership
- Intellectual Property Rights/Copyright
- Building management
- Experience working with and navigating processes of the City of Toronto

If you're passionate about the arts and committed to making a difference, apply before **April 8, 2024**.

Send your application to board@northyorkarts.org



ALL-IN SPRING SALE

As you do your spring cleaning, the Cumber 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.

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

[Learn More](#)



TRUE COLOURS: LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

The Toronto Children's Chorus' spring concert celebrates the shared beauty and connection that emerges when we fully accept the unique thoughts, emotions, and characteristics that make each of us who we are. This program will feature an array of equally unique pieces which display a wide range of vocal colours due to their varying musical and cultural influences.

The message found in the song True Colours aligns perfectly with our 2023-24 season concept, "Kaleidoscope: Let Your Light Shine!". It inspires us all to embrace our authentic selves and shine collectively, much like the colourful shapes in a kaleidoscope.

When: May 5, 2024 at 2:00pm

Where: George Weston Recital Hall

[Learn More](#)



MUSIC IN THE PARK: CONCERT SERIES

The Willowdale Concerts in the Park Series makes its comeback in June, featuring live performances that highlight the talents of emerging and established Canadian artists!

Join the Willowdale Central Ratepayers Association **every Thursday evening in June and July from 7PM - 9PM** at the **Lee Lifeson Art Park** for a free outdoor concert!

Don't miss out on the **family-friendly pre-concert park activities** happening from **5PM - 7PM!**

Feel free to bring a lawn chair or blanket and take in the show, or choose to have a seat at the Amphitheatre. These outdoor events are a great opportunity for us to come together as a community and enjoy our local parks!

[Learn More](#)

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