



LILY'S WEEKDAY UPDATE

Issues • Policies • Committees

www.lilycheng.ca

[@LilyChengTO](#)

councillor_cheng@toronto.ca

416-392-0210

willowdaleactionhub.ca

Hi Neighbour!

Welcome to **Lily's Weekday Update!** To shorten our community update blasts, we are piloting sending out Connected Community updates on Fridays and my personal update, including the previous week in review, on Mondays or Tuesdays to try to reduce the volume of reading for readers in any given email. Here is what you can expect:

Weekend Connected Community

- Urgent Updates
- City Updates
- Local Events & Opportunities

Lily's Weekday Update

- Previous week in review including policy breakdown
- Invitations to take action

REMINDER - Environment Day and Eco Fair THIS SATURDAY, 10am-2pm, Earl Haig Secondary School

[CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP.

[CLICK HERE](#) or scroll down to find out what you can and cannot bring for recycling and disposal as well as all the fun activities planned for this Saturday! Families with kids can join us for Eco Crafts and an Eco-Show from 12-1pm.

RSVP for a Spaghetti Town Hall near you!

Join us for a great opportunity to connect with neighbours and city staff about what is happening in your neighbourhood. A FREE spaghetti dinner will be served. You can choose to join us for the dinner, the town hall or both! **All dinners will begin at 5:30pm followed by a 7pm town hall.**

Avondale - Thursday, April 18

Newtonbrook West - Friday, April 26

West Lansing - Tuesday, May 7

This is a great opportunity to get more involved in your community! Kids are welcome to join.

[Click Here](#) to RSVP.

Growing Political Muscles and a Plea for Civility

"Shame on you!"

"You should go work at McDonald's"

"You should resign!"

"You pathetic useless idiot."

These are some of the responses my team and I have to wade through on a regular basis. When did public discourse turn so toxic? Was it social media that provided the platform? We live in an increasingly polarized political climate where anyone who disagrees will often rain down judgments and harsh comments without an acknowledgement that the recipient is a fellow human being.

This happened to me this past week - the aftermath of having my signature appear in a version of a letter I did not fully endorse. Beyond the complexities of that situation - being a recipient of so much political hatred was hard on me and by extension my family. I am not made of teflon and am learning to deal with backlash as a new skill or heart muscle, if you will.

I do not want to become hard-hearted as I believe my heart plays an important part of my compass in terms of the type of leader I aspire to be. But, I need to learn how to take the comments in stride. On the other hand, we do have to make room and listen to our critics. It's part of good leadership and making sure we have balance in the voices that shape our decisions.

Let us try to increase civility in our public discourse. We must demand it of our leaders and ourselves. **The Globe and Mail Editorial Board** recently made a similar ask of all political leaders. [Click Here](#) to read. Our votes help determine the direction of our democracy. Let us choose leaders who show wisdom and civility.

Congratulations to Food Hall TO!

I had the pleasure of attending the grand opening of the newly opened food incubator - **Food Hall TO located at 5210 Yonge Street**. The Food Hall is an incubator for immigrants, newcomers and refugees who share their stories with their food. Please consider supporting these budding entrepreneurs. The Food Hall features a streamlined cashless kiosk which allows people to order from multiple vendors at the same time. Here are the restaurants you can enjoy:

- **Momo + Bao - Himalayan and East Asian flavours**
- **Just Curry - Enjoy Thai Caribbean and Indian curries!**
- **SubG - Vegetarian and vegan food rich in flavour**
- **BurroLoco - Wraps, burritos, burrito bowls and churros.**
- **Spice Island - Caribbean dishes including jerk, BBQ and cajun spices.**

You can really tour the world by dining at this food hall. There are also panels around the hall featuring the courageous stories of the vendors. For more information: www.foodhallto.com. Kudos to **Suman Roy, Executive Director of Feed Toronto** and his team for bringing a fresh new approach to our incubator.

Metrolinx

I attended the Metrolinx Pop Up at Goulding Community Centre last week and had the pleasure of meeting Stephen Collins, the Executive VP of Subway Extensions at Metrolinx. I advocated for the following regarding the Yonge North Subway Extension:

- **Bathrooms should be installed at all stations.** Public bathrooms provide dignity and are especially important for elderly, pregnant women and children riding transit. In my visit to Taipei, Taiwan last year, I was amazed that subway stations included toddler seats in family bathrooms and nursing rooms across their subway system. It is shocking to me that we do not include bathrooms as standard infrastructure to be included in all stations.
- **Add parking at Yonge/Steeles.** Many commuters who want to take the subway need parking to access the station. Not everyone can easily take the bus. I asked Metrolinx to consider adding some commuter parking to their future Yonge/Steeles subway and bus terminal.
- **Add platform barriers.** While it is expensive and difficult to retrofit existing stations, all new stations should include platform barriers to increase safety. I was told there would be a rough in for the barriers, but it would not be built at this time.
- **Limit impact on surrounding community in design of ground level bus terminal at Yonge/Steeles.** I am concerned about the noise, as well as added vehicular intensity in the newly built community at Centrepoint Mall. People should not have to dodge buses and deal with the noise where they live. Therefore the design and placement of the terminal is key. I see the fast driving buses at the Yonge and Finch bus terminal and am concerned how a similar terminal built within a community will impact the residents.

3 Large Developments Moved without recommendations at North York Council

This past North York council, we moved the following 3 development motions without recommendations:

- **461 Sheppard Avenue East** - 44 story building on south-west corner of Bayview/Sheppard replacing the existing gas station.
- **26-38 Hounslow Avenue** - 26 story building in place of 4 houses not fronting Yonge St.
- **18-28 Athabaska Avenue** - 43 story building in place of 6 houses not fronting Yonge St.

What does it mean to move without direction?

This means, we did not approve or reject the developments. Doing this provides a window of opportunity to continue working with the developers before these motions come to council on April 17. That being said, there is very little I can do regarding the height and density added for each development. Many residents have expressed their frustration to have their quality of life impacted as some condo owners will lose their views and sunlight, while others will now live in the shadow of a 44-storey building overlooking their homes and backyards.

Our planning staff must tread a delicate balance as they have the following pressures when assessing a development including:

- **Tightened timeline for decisions.** For a zoning bylaw amendment submitted with an official plan amendment = 120 days, for a zoning bylaw amendment only = 90 days, site plan application = 60 days. The consequences for not meeting these requirements is the loss of development charges for the city to build infrastructure.
- **Operating in the shadow of the Ontario Land Tribunal.** Because some of our secondary plans are outdated, developers with whom we are not able to come to an agreement can easily appeal at the OLT, often with great success for more density that fits provincial planning policies. This is a two-prong problem. The City needs to update older secondary plans, while the province needs to show a measure of respect to the well thought out plans that have been made by the city.

Issues of concern include:

- Lack of visitor parking (one development has only 8 visitor parking spots for 44 stories!),
- Impact on sunlight, privacy and views of surrounding community members,
- Encouraging non-residential uses on the ground floor towards building a more complete community
- Inclusion of car share in all projects that have reduced parking and high density

The biggest frustration for me is the lack of funding for community benefits that help us build important infrastructure like community centres, parks, daycares and other community spaces. Councillors used to be able to negotiate Section 37 benefits which have now been capped at 4% of land value - which garners far less for the community.

We want to build a livable complete community not just a sleeper community. Many changes were made over the past few years relating to development which have significantly reduced our funding for infrastructure, parks and benefits. [Click Here](#) to read about the changes in provincial development policy that have been made.

Similarly, school boards can only build to current need and not projected growth, which is mind boggling for high growth areas like Willowdale. We see from Avondale School that was recently rebuilt, that they did not build to projected growth resulting in the use of a growing number of portables, much to the frustration of local parents.

Ultimately, we urgently need housing, but we need to commit the same level of effort and investment towards funding infrastructure to ensure we are building a livable future. Unfortunately, we will not feel the impacts of current policies until decades out. Therefore, because the impact is not immediate, it is harder to get the public attention needed to advocate for changes to these policies. Community members made significant noise about allowing developers to build on the Greenbelt. We need to organize in a similar way for building policies that build a better future for our communities.

25 Canterbury Place Youth Shelter

Some of you may know that we have a shelter operated by [Eva's](#) for unhoused youth located at 25 Canterbury Place. Unfortunately, due to issues of mold and disrepair, the site became unlivable and was vacated a few years ago. The building is being renovated with a timeline of completion at the end of December. We look forward to welcoming back youth in need of shelter into our community and supporting their integration into our neighbourhood. The bid for the renovation contract was recently approved. [Click Here](#) for details.

Hope to see you **THIS SATURDAY** for **Environment Day** and stay tuned for our regular Connected Community Update email this Friday!

Warmest Regards,

Lily Cheng 陳伶俐
Lily Cheng

WILLOWDALE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DAYS & Eco-Fair



Meet your City Councillor **Lily Cheng**

FREE COMPOST! bagged and loose

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

12-1pm KIDS SHOW with Professor Pricklethorn

A **FUN** lesson on the environment that will help us see trees in a different way! Kids will learn to respect and care for trees and how they can help the global environment!

Upcycle Toys and Loose Parts

Ecology Themed Art Stations

Spring Seed Exchange

FREE Bike Safety Checks

RSVP TODAY!

Meet Our Eco-Fair Table Hosts:




www.lilycheng.ca @LilyChengTO

WILLOWDALE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DAYS



Meet your City Councillor **Lily Cheng**

FREE COMPOST, ECO FAIR & SEED EXCHANGE

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

Drop off items for reuse and recycling and safely dispose of household hazardous waste!

Safely Dispose:

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

Donate items in good condition for reuse:

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


Visit toronto.ca/environment_days
Download **TOWaste** app

RSVP TODAY!

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

www.lilycheng.ca @LilyChengTO

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