



LILY CHENG

TORONTO CITY COUNCILLOR
WARD 18 WILLOWDALE

416-392-0210

councillor_cheng@toronto.ca

willowdaleactionhub.ca

@LilyChengTO

www.lilycheng.ca

Hi Neighbour!

This week my team and I kicked off the week with a time of meditation and a discussion on how to prioritize our time - especially for family and important relationships. Our work is all-consuming, not just in terms of time, but mental capacity. In order for our service to Willowdale to be sustainable I want to make sure my team is still able to prioritize family. It is much harder for me, but I still fight for every precious moment I can get with my kids who are growing up way too fast!

The Budget Journey Continues

It's not too late to give your input as the Mayor takes in suggestions from community members as well as the Budget committee towards releasing her budget on February 1. The budget will then be voted on February 14. Here is how you can still give us your input:

1. **Please fill out our Willowdale "City Budget" Survey:**
www.bit.ly/WillowdaleActionHub-BudgetSurvey
2. **Submit your comments and feedback to the Budget Committee by email at buc@toronto.ca** or by mail to Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W., 10th floor, West Tower, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2. Note, written submissions to the Budget Committee become part of the public record.

Budget Committee Wrap Up

The Budget Committee wrapped up our portion of the journey with a run-through of all the briefing notes that were released. [Click Here](#) to take a deep dive into the many briefing notes that cover a broad range of divisions in our city. [Click Here](#) to view the final recommendations made by the Budget Committee to the Mayor. Here are some of the key parts of this motion:

- **Police:** Many people are concerned about the police budget; some want the city to pay the full amount requested by TPS, while others want the city to maintain the \$12.6 million reduction in what was requested. The motion recommends we work towards a multi-year hiring plan which will provide stability and predictability in staffing and funding.
- **Cost Savings:** The Budget Committee recommend that the Mayor request the City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to continue to work with management to find opportunities for further efficiencies and savings, with such savings being used to mitigate the 2025 property tax increase, this includes:
 - All employees being surveyed by their managers for ideas to save on purchases, including uniforms, furniture, equipment;
 - All employees being surveyed by their managers to identify savings in travel, overtime, and consulting fees; and
 - All employees are engaged in creating a culture that celebrates completing projects on-time and on / under-budget.
- **Windrow Clearing:** The continuation of the Winter Windrow Clearing Program in the areas of the city where the service is already provided;
- **Funding for Refugees:** The Budget Committee recommend that the Mayor continue to advocate to the Federal government on the reimbursement for the City's 2023 refugee housing costs and commitment for the City's 2024 refugee housing costs and those costs on an ongoing basis, all of which fall under the Federal government's responsibility for refugees and immigration.

Scarborough Budget Deputations

I spent Monday at Scarborough Civic Centre (which has a giant pond with koi fish in their lobby) listening to deputations alongside fellow Budget Committee members, Deputy Mayor McKelvie and Deputy Mayor Morley, along with Councillor Myers and Councillor Thompson.

We listened to 52 deputants who each had 5 minutes to share with added time for questions from councillors. The overarching theme was the underinvestment in infrastructure in Scarborough. They have long been promised a subway line that is still under construction. With the recent closure of Scarborough RT Line 3, many residents have had to add 20-30 minutes longer to commute per day. There was a lot of frustration expressed about the inequity of investments made by the city that often favour downtown areas over the suburbs. It must be incredibly frustrating for all those who depended on Line 3 that now have to take a shuttle bus. Many deputants asked for more funding to advance a dedicated laneway to reduce the impact of Line 3 through faster travel. Even with further investment - such a project would likely not be completed until 2027. It is so frustrating that the city allowed this to happen! There was a lot of support for the tax increase and resulting bolstering of services including a freeze on TTC fares.

One deputant, Susan Watson, impressed us with her knowledge of the impact of Bill 23 ([Click Here](#) to learn more about it) that reduced the amount of money developers contribute towards city infrastructure. According to Susan, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario says there will be a \$5.1 Billion shortfall over 9 years for infrastructure building across Ontario. Growth no longer pays for growth and now municipalities like Toronto have to find other ways to get things done. Many feel that as a result of Bill 23 we are subsidizing development including luxury condos to the tune of \$19K for one bedroom. Ultimately, the lack of investment in infrastructure will result in a greater cost to residents. Last year a Toronto staff report found: Bill 23 is estimated to result in a \$2.3 billion revenue loss to the City's growth funding tools over a 10-year period, including development charges, community benefit charges and parkland dedication. The complete financial impact to the City remains uncertain. [Read More](#). We hope this part of Bill 23 can experience the same reversal as the policy on allowing development on the Green Belt.

North York Deputations

There were mixed levels of support for the tax increase with many deputants who support the increase, voicing the importance of investments being made towards climate change. Here are some notable quotes that have been paraphrased:

On climate change:

The city is struggling as a parent with many little children. Climate is easily pushed back amidst so many priorities. - Suranjita Kaund

Plant more trees. The city is planning to plant fewer trees this year than 2020-2022. Trees are our future cooling capacity and the best way to protect people. Trees will help cool us. - Nasim Mazaheri

Native and perennial gardens are better than lawn providing flood mitigation, cost savings and flood prevention. The city of Toronto has publicly available materials. Many people don't know about it. - Anna Hardie

On housing:

Housing affordability is eating away at Toronto's potential. - Colleen Bailey

Toronto is unaffordable for youth. In order to pay \$5-600 rent, some people share mattresses with strangers to survive. On any given night, 2000 youth are homeless. - Melanie Yu, Toronto Youth Cabinet

On the library:

Libraries provide universal access to the thoughts and dreams of people throughout history. They beckon us to truth, goodness and beauty. - Mark Jeffrey Santa Ana

On the budget:

Property tax payers carry the brunt of the entire budget - John Abate. This insightful statement summarizes the problem. The Property Tax carries the burden of the operations of our entire city!

On investing in more support for the vulnerable:

"Police are the lid on a boiling pot, but they don't have the power to turn down the heat." - Pastor Stephen Milton, Lawrence Park Community Church

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 27 is a day set by the United Nations General Assembly that commemorates the victims of the Holocaust. The day remembers the killing of six million Jews, two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population, and millions of others by the Nazis.

This past week we lit candles at City Hall to commemorate this important day. Organized by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal, we were graced with the sharing of 95-year-old Holocaust survivor Rose Lipszyc. She talked about walking down a road with her mother and brothers towards a train that was headed for a concentration camp. Her father had already been separated from them. Rose's mother knew they were headed for certain death and pushed 13-year-old Rose off the road which ultimately saved her life. There were very few dry eyes in the room as she shared about that difficult moment and her miraculous survival and journey to Canada. Let us all reflect on the Holocaust and work together to eliminate hate in our world.

Meeting with North York Central Library

This past week we met with the library to talk about how we can collaborate and strengthen engagement in our community. We also discussed how to connect vulnerable youth in our neighbourhood to their amazing youth hub that also provides healthy snacks! We are lucky to have such an amazing library in our neighbourhood. [Click Here](#) to see the ongoing programs they have including board games, ESL, toddler time and book club!

Meeting with 32 Division and Dixon Hall

Some community members have reached out about incidents that have happened near the warming centre. All staff, including the police are careful not to draw a direct connection although there was mention of a spike of incidents in the area. When the warming centre is open, there is a 24/7 community safety team that is mostly outdoors patrolling the area. This safety team is trained in de-escalation and also knows how to connect people to services. The police and safety team talked about sharing information with each other towards better collaboration. Some residents wonder, what happens when the temperature is above -5°C and the warming centre closes? We were told that Dixon Hall does not immediately kick everyone out. Instead, they wind down according to how many clients they are able to refer to other more permanent shelter spaces. If you have any concerns or questions, you can email the city's **Community Engagement Facilitator** who has been a great bridge for my team, **Jane Farrow** at: WeatherResponseTO@gmail.com Please also copy my office: councillor_cheng@toronto.ca

North York Community Council - 72 Church Ave.

Several Willowdalers attended our meeting this past week to make deputations against a new development that has been proposed for 72 Church Avenue. This development has been in the works for over a decade and has gone through several iterations from senior's home to now rental units and from 22 units to now 14. Community members are concerned about impact on traffic, especially because it is across the street from McKee Public School where a lot of car and student activity happens on weekdays. They are concerned about the impact on the building infrastructure of the surrounding stacked townhomes, and precedent set for the surrounding single detached homes. This project has been approved by our planning division which means if we turn it down, we will have to hire consultants to argue against the plan. Because the previous consultation was based on a previous version of the application, I deferred this item to the next North York Community Council so we can organize a community meeting with the applicant to discuss their concerns. I hope it can be a constructive conversation.

3 Swift Drive (Ward 16)

There was a large group of deputants who are facing demo-viction. They are primarily seniors paying low rents who now face eviction while the development is built. Due to the proximity to a new transit station, many of these buildings will likely be converted in this way. This is very stressful for the tenants who worry about the stress of moving, finding somewhere affordable to wait out the construction and the unknown future. Although they have been promised rental replacement, moving cost support and rent gap support, change is never easy - especially when it has to do with your home. Although it is unlikely we can cancel this project, I asked the city to ask the developer to replace at least one parking spot per household that has parking, as currently that is not being offered. Many seniors rely on driving to get to their appointments - and restoring access to parking, which they could never afford at market rates, will be important for maintaining consistency in lifestyle over the transition. I hope the developer will consider meeting this request.

Amazing things are coming to Willowdale!

Thanks to the creative passion of the Yonge North York BIA, we are getting Enchanted Lights at Mel Lastman Square from February 10-March 9. In addition to beautiful Instagram friendly lighting, there will be cultural performances and celebrations including:

- February 10 - Korean Lunar New Year
- February 17 - Indian Festival
- February 24 - [Chinese New Year](#)
- March 2 - Filipino Celebration
- March 9 - Iranian Fire Festival

[Click Here](#) for more information.

NEXT WEEK

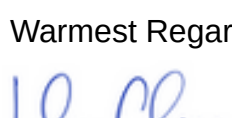
This past week, a constituent said on social media that I am invisible, that I don't do anything and all I do is talk. It's true that part of my job is talking at meetings, but my words are always about fighting for resources for our community and bringing positive change to our city. If only these critics could come hang out with me for a week. They would know the enormity of the responsibility that takes up so much of my waking hours. Here is a snapshot of some of my calendar next week:

- Anti-racism advisory panel co-chair meeting
- TTC customer experience meeting
- TO Live meeting
- Civic Appointments Meeting
- Visit to Willowdale Welcome Centre
- CreateTO Meeting
- TDSB Lunar New Year Celebration
- City Council Preparation of Motions

In addition to meeting with constituents and staff.

Hope you have a wonderful weekend! My family and I are going to attempt ice fishing!

Warmest Regards,

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Councillor Lily Cheng

Ward 18 Willowdale / Councillor_Cheng@toronto.ca / 416-392-0210

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

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- [Caswell Park Playground Improvements Survey](#)
- [Pemberton Parkette Playground Improvements Survey](#)
- [Willowdale Winter Warm Up BBQ with Sock Drive](#)
- [Youth Council Launch Pizza Party](#)
- [Willowdale Celebrates Chinese New Year](#)
- [Sheppard East Park Path](#)
- [Updates from 5800 Yonge Street CLC](#)
- [Reporting Power Outages](#)
- [Winter Bus Stop Update](#)
- [Update on Warming Centre in Willowdale](#)
- [Harlandale Closure](#)
- [Toboggan Ban](#)

~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- [Share Your Thoughts to Shape TTC Policies](#)
- [Library Services Update](#)
- [Vacant Home Tax](#)
- [Avoid Frozen Pipes](#)

~ COMMUNITY UPDATES

- [Edithvale Rink - Call For Volunteers](#)
- [Meals on Wheels and More - Call For Volunteers](#)
- [The Greatest Love of Dance](#)
- [Enchanted Lights](#)
- [The Toronto Book of Love](#)
- [TD Park People Grants Program](#)

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

CASWELL PARK SURVEY

WHAT ARE YOUR DREAMS?

- NEW PLAY STRUCTURE
- ADULT EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
- SHADED SEATING
- PERENNIAL GARDEN

NEAR MAXOME & NEWTON

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 12

bit.ly/caswellsurvey

ACT NOW >

CASWELL PARK PLAYGROUND (near Maxome & Newton) is going to get an upgrade! Share your ideas and thoughts in this short **SURVEY**. The survey will close on **Monday, Jan 29, at 11:45 p.m.** Your input will help shape the future!

[Take the Survey](#)

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

PEMBERTON PARKETTE SURVEY

WHAT ARE YOUR DREAMS?

- NEW PLAY STRUCTURE
- ADULT EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
- SHADED SEATING
- PERENNIAL GARDEN

NEAR DUDLEY & PEMBERTON

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 12

bit.ly/pembsurvey

ACT NOW >

PEMBERTON PARKETTE PLAYGROUND (near Dudley & Pemberton) is going to get an upgrade! Share your ideas and thoughts in this short **SURVEY**. The survey will close on **Monday, Feb 12, at 11:45 p.m.** Your input will help shape the future!

[Take the Survey](#)

Roll a Lawn Bowl* • Meet Your Neighbours

Willowdale Warm Up

Willowdale Lawn Bowling Club Winter Open House & BBQ
Feb 4, 2024 | 3:30-5:30pm

CO-HOSTED BY:
WILLOWDALE LAWN BOWLING CLUB
COUNCILLOR LILY CHENG

***Participants can try rolling a lawn bowl. However, there will be no game play available.**

FREE

SOCK DRIVE!

WILLOWDALE WINTER WARM UP BBQ WITH SOCK DRIVE

Co-hosted by **Willowdale Lawn Bowling Club** and **Councillor Lily Cheng**. Join us on **February 4th, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm** for some neighbourhood fun! Meet your neighbours, enjoy a hamburger or hot dog (vegan options available) and learn more about the fabulous people and facility at the Willowdale Lawn Bowling Club. Please remember to bring a donation of new, unwrapped socks for those in need. Help Willowdale fill the Sox Box! Children are welcome: There will be one short mat out. There are smaller bowls for children in the bowls room, and they will be brought out so children can give it a try.

[RSVP](#)

“ Launch Pizza Party! YOUTH COUNCIL

Calling all Willowdalers 16-25 years old. Let's form a strong voice for our city!

NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY - MEETING ROOM 1
5120 Yonge St, North York

FEBRUARY 15, 2024
Thursday, 5:00pm - 7:00pm

RSVP | lilycheng.ca/events

COUNCILLOR CHENG

YOUTH COUNCIL LAUNCH PIZZA PARTY

Calling all Willowdalers from **16-25 years old** for our **Youth Council Launch Pizza Party**, on **Thursday, February 15th, 2024, 5-7pm!** If you are a student interested in policy, civic matters, processes of municipal government or have ideas for a better Willowdale, consider joining the Youth Council where you can discuss and share with other young people with a passion for our community. This Launch will be a **FREE PIZZA PARTY** and a kick-start for forming a bright group of young minds that will gather monthly to form a unified voice and journey together in developing skills in the civic realm. Meet us at **North York Central Library Meeting Room #1 @ 5:00PM!**

Before coming to the meeting, please fill out the interests **SURVEY** ([Click Here](#))

[RSVP](#)

WILLOWDALE CELEBRATES
2024 CHINESE NEW YEAR
 SAT FEBRUARY 24 · 1:00-10:00PM
 Mel Lastman Square & North York Centre Atrium

1:00 - 6:00pm | Indoor Activities
 6:30pm | Outdoor Lion Dance
 6:30 - 7:30pm | Outdoor Show
 5:00 - 10:00pm | Enchanted Lights & Roving Performers

Event Highlights

- Music
- Performances
- Tea Demonstration
- Children Crafts

For More Info:
lilycheng.ca/events

Co-hosted by:
 Councillor Lily Cheng, TDSB Trustee Weidong Pei,
 Yonge North York, Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto

Partners:
 Toronto Public Library,
 GWL Realty Advisors

LUNAR NEW YEAR - SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE for the **2nd annual Willowdale Celebrates Chinese New Year** at Mel Lastman Square and North York Centre on **Feb 24th**. Indoor activities will be held in **North York Public Library** and **North York Centre Atrium** and **Food Court** during the day from **1:00-6:00pm** that will feature various cultural performances, demonstrations, arts and crafts, and storytelling in English and Mandarin. More details to be released in the coming weeks.

[RSVP](#)

SHEPPARD EAST PARK PATH

Maintenance for the path connecting Sheppard East Park to Wilfrid Ave has now been secured. Thank you for your patience and grace as we investigated this matter as soon as we were made aware, and worked towards resolving the confusion of responsibility for the area.

UPDATES FROM 5800 YONGE STREET CLC

In our first gathering of the year on January 17th, the dedicated **Community Liaison Committee (CLC)** for the Willowdale Welcome Centre convened to share highlights and plans. Homes First provided an overview of the recent events and services offered to our cherished clients over the past months.

The property at 5800 Yonge Street is home to 278 residents in Building A and 132 residents in Building B, ensuring a safe and supportive environment, with separate accommodations for males and females.

During the meeting, our office announced some exciting developments:

1. TO Live Concert Support:

Following our request for assistance, TO Live has generously extended support by offering a total of 220 tickets across several upcoming concerts for the residents of the refugee shelter. We express our deepest gratitude for TO Live's commitment to enhancing our neighbourhood's cultural experiences.

- The Mirror (February 15-18, 2024): 50 tickets (25 pairs)
- Mrs. Krishna's Party (March 13-24, 2024): 50 tickets (25 pairs)
- Wildup on March 27, 2024: 50 tickets (25 pairs)
- Sing and Swing: A Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents Production on March 30, 2024: 20 tickets (10 pairs)
- Eve Egoyan's Longing and Belonging on May 09, 2024: 50 tickets (25 pairs)

2. Hydro One Land Safety Update:

There is a piece of land on the south side of our shelter which appears to impose some safety concerns for the public as well as the residents of the Welcome Centre. In response to our efforts, Hydro One is actively addressing safety concerns at their site at 5798 Yonge Street. Their team conducted a site visit on Friday, January 12th, reflecting our shared commitment to a secure community.

3. Community Support and Engagement:

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Willowdale residents and the concerted efforts of Homes First, we continue to receive a steady influx of donated clothes from designated bins at two locations within the community, at North York Public Library and Hullmark Building.

4. Coffee Time with Councillor

In our ongoing commitment to fostering community connections, our office is organizing a coffee time with the residents of the Welcome Centre during the coming week. This provides an opportunity for our team to engage in warm conversations, listen to concerns, and address any questions from those utilizing the shelter.

[Learn More](#)

REPORTING POWER OUTAGES

For residents experiencing power outages, reach out directly to Toronto Hydro at power_quality@torontohydro.com and provide them with your address so that they are able to determine the feeder that your home is serviced from to better address the issue. You can also call **416-542-8000 (press 6)** from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to report the outage.

WINTER BUS STOP UPDATE

As winter approaches, we would like to provide you with an update on TTC's [Severe Winter Weather plan](#).

Fifty-six bus stops are being updated in various locations across the city with new permanent winter weather information signs indicating that the stop may be taken out of service during snow and freezing rain storms. These stops are located in known trouble spots such as hills or areas that make it difficult for a bus to travel during heavy snow and freezing rain. Here is the list of stops that will be affected in our ward:

Route	Stop #	Location
42 Cummer	Stop #1803	Cummer Ave at Bayview Ave
53 Steeles East	Stop #8225	Steeles Ave East at Henderson Ave
353 Steeles East Night Bus	Stop #8225	Steeles Ave East at Henderson Ave

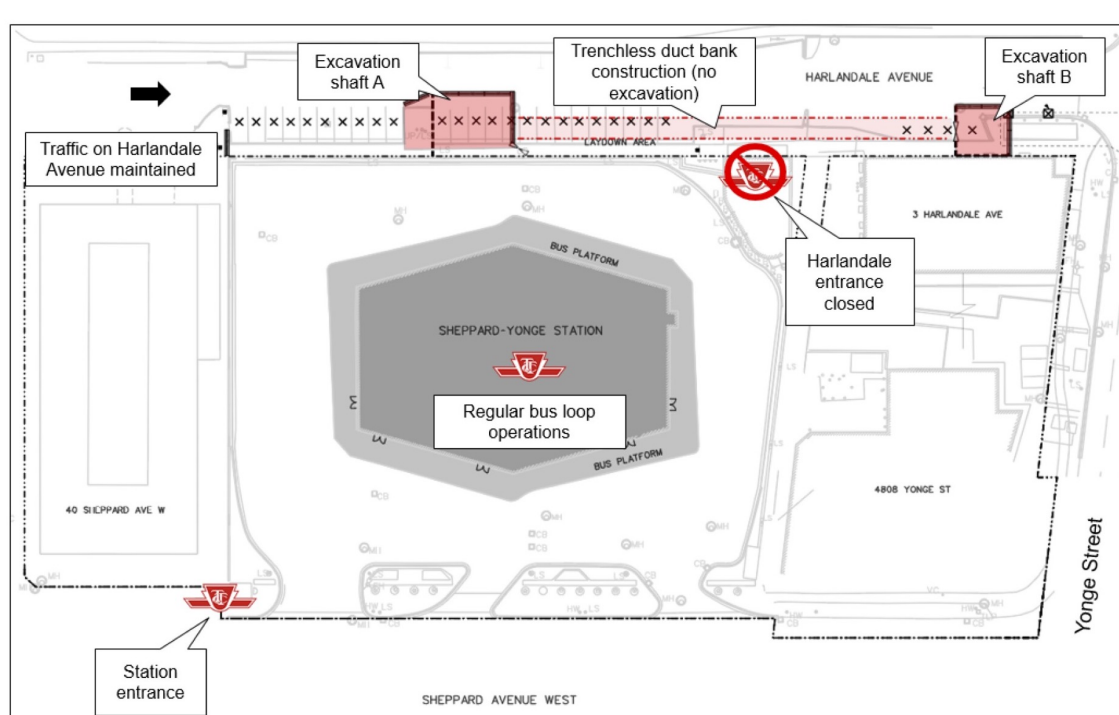
[Learn More](#)

UPDATE ON WARMING CENTRE IN WILLOWDALE - NAME CHANGED TO 12 HOLMES AVE:

The City acknowledges the recent challenges faced by clients due to confusion surrounding the address of our warming center. The amalgamation of the City of Toronto led to some street names being duplicated among the original six municipalities, leading to misunderstandings.

Specifically, the Warming Centre formerly known as 15 Olive Ave encountered issues as another property with the same address existed in downtown Toronto. Despite the City's efforts to discourage visits to the incorrect 15 Olive Ave, individuals consistently arrived at the wrong location, causing stress for both the resident of the downtown address and the individuals seeking assistance.

To address this issue, Toronto Shelter and Support Services (TSSS) has initiated the process of assigning a new dedicated address to the warming center: 12 Holmes Ave, North York, ON M2N 4L8. This change, necessitated by the confirmation of two legally assigned municipal addresses for the property, is expected to significantly reduce confusion. TSSS is confident that this adjustment will facilitate better access for vulnerable individuals to the correct address, ensuring consistent access to safe indoor spaces.



HARLANDALE CLOSURE

TTC will be working to improve the infrastructure at Sheppard-Yonge Station this year. Starting as early as January 26, a new duct bank will be constructed underneath Harlandale Avenue along the south curb lane. A duct bank is an underground reinforced concrete or metal container used for laying utility lines such as electrical. In the spring, TTC will also begin work to rehabilitate the pavement of the bus loop, requiring its temporary closure until late 2024. [Click here](#) to know additional details regarding the upcoming infrastructure improvements at Sheppard-Yonge Station.

What to expect during duct bank construction – January 26 to Fall 2024

- To facilitate work safely, the TTC entrance on Harlandale Avenue will be temporarily closed starting as early as January 26. Sheppard-Yonge Station has eight other entrances to serve customers during this closure.
- To ensure a safe work zone and to maintain one-way, eastbound traffic on Harlandale Avenue, existing on-street Green P parking stalls will be temporarily restricted.
- No westbound access to Harlandale Avenue from Yonge Street.
- Work will involve excavating two shafts as seen below. The duct bank between the two shafts will be constructed underground using a trenchless method, requiring no further excavation.
- Work will typically take place daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Access to the Green P parking lot on Harlandale Avenue will be unaffected.

TOBOGGAN BAN

Winter is here, snow has come, and along with that, fun times tobogganing outdoors! The City of Toronto wants to ensure everyone's safety, and have designated 27 amazing hills to ensure everyone's safety while enjoying this beloved activity. In [Willowdale](#), there are **3 notable parks** where tobogganing has been prohibited because of various safety hazards - and these parks are:

- **Moore Park** (into the 'bowl', as there are soccer goals right at the bottom of the slopes in many spots)
- **Newtonbrook east of Willowdale Ave** (very many trees and branches where the slope becomes a naturalized area)
- **Dempsey Park** (on the little hill with play structures – there are many posts, branches, benches, etc. directly on the slope or at the bottom of the slope)

[Learn More](#)

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS TO SHAPE TTC POLICIES

The **TTC** is asking for your input on three proposed policies related to **Special Constable** and **Fare Inspector enforcement activities**. These policies, created in response to Ombudsman Toronto's recommendations, cover topics such as the use of force, body-worn cameras, and discretion in enforcement decisions. Your feedback on interactions with TTC Special Constables and Fare Inspectors, as well as thoughts on these policies, is crucial. This input will help identify areas for improvement and shape the final report presented to the TTC Board. [Share your thoughts by taking the survey before February 14, 2024](#). Your voice matters in making our public transit system better.

[Take the Survey](#)



LIBRARY SERVICES UPDATE

The **Toronto Public Library** is diligently working towards restoring normalcy. The website is slated for a return by month-end, providing enhanced information on library services and improved access to digital resources. Borrowing services are actively circulating, with notifications for held items expected by mid-February. Public computers are scheduled to be back online early in February. The restoration process is ongoing, with regular updates assured. The community's patience and support during this period are sincerely appreciated.

[Learn More](#)

VACANT HOME TAX

In Toronto, owners of residential properties must declare their occupancy status annually, even if they live there. The Vacant Home Tax (VHT) applies to properties not serving as the principal residence, occupied by tenants, or eligible for exemptions for six months or more in a calendar year. Access the online portal for declarations now; the deadline is **February 29, 2024**.

[Learn More](#)

AVOID FROZEN PIPES

Frozen pipes can leave you with no water or cause your pipes to burst. Get tips to protect your home at toronto.ca/frozenpipes



AVOID FROZEN PIPES

As winter continues, ensure your pipes are protected from freezing! Did you know that during winters, the City receives regular calls of “no water” due to frozen pipes on residents' private property? Take steps to protect your pipes from freezing and learn what to do if they freeze by visiting the City's Prevent or Thaw Frozen Pipes webpage.

[Learn More](#)

COMMUNITY UPDATES



EDITHVALE RINK - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! Edithvale Ice Rink needs your help! With cold weather approaching, the team has started working on creating the rink. They are an all-volunteer-driven group that builds and maintains the rink for the community's benefit. Duties include clearing snow and flooding the ice, and they are time-flexible. This is a great way to meet your neighbours, enjoy some exercise, and breathe in some fresh air! For students, it's a good way to earn volunteer hours. Reach out to **Edward** at edithvalerink@gmail.com if you'd like to join the team.

Latest update: Edithvale community rink is **OPEN FOR SKATING** !

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of seniors and individuals with disabilities? **Meals on Wheels and More** invites you to become a vital part of their compassionate team in the Willowdale area, North York. MOWAM offers hot meals (Western and Chinese), frozen meals, boxes with fruits and vegetables as well as milk to seniors and people with disabilities in Willowdale area in North York.

Be a part of something extraordinary—where every meal delivered is a moment of connection, care, and community. Contact **Elena Koroleva** at **416-225-6041** or ekoroleva@mowam.ca to start your journey of impact and kindness today. Together, let's deliver more than meals; let's deliver hope and warmth to those who need it most!

[Learn More](#)



Mark your calendar for an amazing night of dance at **The Greatest Love of Dance** on **February 10th at 7 PM in the Meridian Arts Centre Lyric Theatre, North York!** Watch talented dancers from around the world, including The National Ballet of Canada, National Opera of Ukraine, Mariinsky Theatre, and more. The event is organized by **Anna Kovarsky**, who wants to spread hope, light, and inclusivity through dance. Tickets are available now!

[Get Ticket](#)

ENCHANTED LIGHTS

Cultural Saturdays Schedule

SAT. FEB 10

SAT. FEB 17

SAT. FEB 24

SAT. MAR 2

SAT. MAR 9

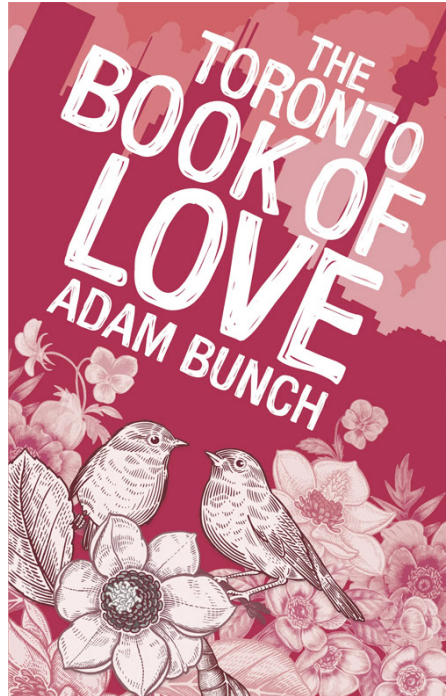
ENCHANTED LIGHTS

Come and enjoy a Celebration of Cultures every Saturday evening starting February 10 at Mel Lastman Square. Each week, diverse cultural groups will showcase their heritage through delicious food and entertaining performances. Let's come together to celebrate diversity and unity!

- Feb 10: Celebrate South Korea [KOR]
- Feb 17: Celebrate India [IND]
- Feb 24: Celebrate China [CHN]
- Mar 2: Celebrate The Philippines [PHI]
- Mar 9: Celebrate Iran [IRI]

- **Mel Lastman Square**
- **February 10 to March 10, 2024**
- **Open daily from 5pm to 10pm**
- **Free Admission**

[Learn More](#)



Join the **North York Historical Society** for an exciting evening as renowned author **Adam Bunch** presents "**The Toronto Book of Love.**" Dive into fascinating true tales of romance, marriage, and intrigue that have shaped Toronto's history. From scandalous love affairs among the city's early settlers to the prime minister's wife partying with rock stars, and from First Nations marriage ceremonies to one of Canada's first same-sex weddings, Bunch's storytelling captures the heart of Toronto's romantic evolution.

Where: [North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street - Room 1](#)

When: [February 21, 2024 @ 7:00 PM](#)

As seating is limited, please register for the event below. There is no charge for tickets.

[Get FREE Ticket](#)

TD Park People Grants

**Building
Vital Connections
Between People & Parks**

APPLY BY FEBRUARY 27

parkpeople.ca/opportunity/td-park-people-grants

TD TD READY COMMITMENT

park people
amis des parcs

TD PARK PEOPLE GRANTS PROGRAM

TD Park People Grants Program launched on January 10th, and the application deadline is **Tuesday, February 27, 2024!**

This year, the \$2,000 grants will support 70 groups hosting park events in 21 urban areas across Canada ([see eligible cities here](#)). Successful applicants will use the grant to host two events supporting the ongoing care and protection of green spaces through environmental education, sustainability and stewardship initiatives.

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