



# LILY CHENG

## TORONTO CITY COUNCILLOR

### WARD 18 WILLOWDALE

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#### Hi Neighbour!

**Happy Lunar New Year** to all those who are celebrating this weekend and for the next 15 days! For many, this is a time for family and friends to feast together while sharing wishes for good health and prosperity. We are excited to see two special events in our neighbourhood that will provide 2 very different experiences of the Lunar New Year.

#### **TOMORROW! Lunar New Year - Korean Seollal Celebration**

The **Korean Canadian Cultural Association (KCCA)** is bringing a day-long celebration in partnership with **Yonge North York Enchanted Lights**. Here are some details:

#### **North York Civic Centre Atrium - Indoor, 12 pm – 7 pm**

1. KCCA's Cultural Activities & Games
2. Korean Canadian Vendors
3. K-Pop Dance Area

#### **Mel Lastman Square - Enchanted Lights, Food, Activities & Show (5-10pm)**

- KCCA's Cultural Activities & Games
- Sariwon Restaurant (featuring various Korean dishes)
- The Cups (featuring Korean desserts and beverages)

#### **Outdoor Stage Show: 6:30 - 8pm**

Opening Ceremony by Yonge North York BIA Yonge North York **ENCHANTED LIGHTS** - a Celebration of Cultures

#### **Cultural Performances**

- 1) Nanta Drums performance by KCCA Nanta Drums
- 2) Traditional Korean Dance performance by NaRae Korean Dance Ensemble
- 3) Taekwondo Demonstration by Master Kang's Black Belt Martial Arts

#### **February 24th! Lunar New Year - Lantern Celebration**

[Click Here](#) to RSVP

Mandarin/English Storytime and Crafts hosted by **North York Central Library**. Indoor food and artisan market with cultural performances sponsored by the **Culture Centre of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Toronto**. The **Yonge North York Enchanted Lights** will continue with a Lion Dance and Stage Show hosted by the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto.

#### **North York Civic Centre Atrium - Indoor, 1 pm – 9 pm**

- Chinese Cultural Activities & Games
- Food & Artisan Vendors
- Cultural Performances

#### **Mel Lastman Square - Enchanted Lights, Food & Show (5-10pm)**

- Chinese Cultural Performances
- Asian food vendors

Stay tuned for more details about other Yonge North York Enchanted Light activities:

**February 17 - Celebrate India!** - Outdoor Performances

**March 2 - Celebrate the Philippines!** - Outdoor Performances

**March 9 - Willowdale Celebrates Nowruz & Iranian Fire Festival** with daytime indoor activities at North York Central Library and North York Centre Atrium and outdoor performances. Registration to come.

#### **Community Safety**

Safety issues are an ongoing concern in our community. Unfortunately auto thefts and break-ins continue to have an impact across our country, so much so that the Federal government convened an auto theft summit with funding that will primarily be allocated to national enforcement efforts. As a local councillor, there are limitations on how I can address nationwide organized crime. Here are our plans to address the issue locally:

- Advocate police receive the funding requested for this year's budget.
- Work with community members to establish local Neighbourhood Watch networks.
- Host a 2nd annual Community Safety Townhall to discuss neighbourhood trends and hear from police how we can work together to increase safety.
- Advocate for bail reform such that repeat offenders are held accountable and receive consequences for their actions.

If you have any ideas to contribute, please reach out to our office.

#### **461 Sheppard Ave**

On Monday evening I attended a virtual consultation for 461 Sheppard Ave E on the south west corner of Sheppard and Bayview, diagonal to Bayview Village Shopping Centre. The applicant is proposing a 43 storey tower with 526 units. [Click here](#) to learn more about the application.

During the consultation there were some concerns including:

- Loss of the gas station - City Staff explained the city does not have land use policy to preserve gas stations and cannot force land owners to keep their gas stations
- Challenging turns required for future residents to access the building. City staff are working with the applicant, however there are limitations due to its proximity to the 401 ramp and placement at a busy intersection.
- Inclusion of non-residential space to bring amenities and vibrancy such as restaurants and bars (rather than doctors offices and hair salons). The applicant will take this feedback into consideration.
- Underground access to the subway station (currently not planned). My office will discuss with TTC about plans to support all future developments at this corner of Bayview and Sheppard.
- Remediation of land since it has been used as a gas station. The applicant assured residents all necessary remediation will be completed as required.

Both Planning staff and my office will continue to work with the developer on improving the plan. All residents can sign up for updates through the Application Information Centre and send any questions to corresponding planning staff or my office.

#### **City Council Updates**

This past week was a shortened agenda as we prepare for the February 14 Budget Meeting.

Here are some key highlights:

#### **[EX11.8 - RapidTO: Surface Transit Network Plan](#)**

The plan to move forward establishing bus only networks across the city was supported by council. This helps the thousands of commuters who rely on buses to get faster service and make bus commuting more convenient. While I wish we had the type of subway coverage I have experienced in Asia, this is the least expensive method available to create a citywide transit network. Some Willowdalers have expressed concern at the potential lane loss on Steeles west of Yonge and Finch east of Yonge, these are not routes being moved forward in the first stage of implementation and I was assured that due to density and road limitations that the city would strongly consider curb jumping lanes for buses rather than the loss of an entire lane in our part of the network. Due to planning involved for the Yonge North Subway Extension, the implementation of bus lanes on Steeles at Yonge St. still needs to wait for greater clarity on design and placement of the future bus terminal at Yonge/Steeles.

#### **[EC9.4 - Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy \(HSCIS\): Real Estate Strategy and Lease Extensions](#)**

This was a difficult discussion as it highlights the incredible cost of homelessness. A fellow church member who works in a homeless shelter says, "Shelters are the basin that catch all the people who fall through the cracks of our broken system."

The city has 17 hotel shelters that were opened during the emergency of COVID. Due to the significant increase in need for shelter space we have kept these hotels open despite their exorbitant cost. These shelters operate at an unsustainable scale. City staff acknowledge that any shelter over 80 residents is not ideal. Personally, I feel high acuity shelter residents would benefit from being housed in even smaller numbers.

Currently it costs on average \$260/night for each hotel shelter bed. That means we are spending \$96K per year on each hotel shelter resident. This is incredibly upsetting for any taxpayer. Yet the risk of closing them abruptly is that hundreds of people would end up sleeping outside and potentially starting new encampments. A cross sectoral discussion is being planned to ensure more innovative and affordable solutions can be found. This kind of expenditure has to

be carried with an effective transition plan. This is something I will be strongly advocating for with Toronto Shelter and Supportive Services. Hotel shelters are the wrong model due to their scale and their design which is focused on privacy and isolation as opposed to spaces that foster connectivity and community.

**[MM14.7 - Examining the Feasibility of Piloting an Operational Base in North York for the North York Municipal Licensing and Standards By-Law Enforcement Team](#)**

At some point before I became a councillor, Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) moved out of North York Centre and scaled down to a 3-operational base system. This means that MLS officers for Willowdale drive in from either 1530 Markham Road, 433 Eastern Avenue, or 399 The West Mall. There are 47 officers that serve North York, each traveling at minimum 15 minutes if not longer to pick up their vehicles from one of these 3 bases. This means a loss of approximately 117.5 additional hours of by-law enforcement per week along with corresponding fuel costs. Councillor Pasternak supported my motion to examine setting up a North York base to decrease travel time and costs for more efficient by-law enforcement. Having our MLS officers based in the community will also increase our ability to connect and work with them.

**[MM14.9 - Going with the Snow - Returning Tobogganing to 45 Hills Across Toronto](#)**

**Tobogganing is legal again in 45 Parks**

After some passionate debate as well as discussions in-camera with our city solicitor, council overwhelmingly agreed to remove the ban and replace it with “use at own risk” signs. The parks in Willowdale that were deemed legal prior to lifting the ban are:

- Burnett Park
- Glendora Park

Glendora happens to be our family favourite. My kids are missing the snow this winter!

“No Tobogganing” signs will be removed from the following parks. However, it will still be “Use at your own risk.”:

- Moore Park
- Newtonbrook Park (East side of Willowdale & Silverview)
- Dempsey Park

**Budget - Next Steps**

Next Wednesday, February 14, the Mayor’s budget will come before Toronto City Council. **Here are some commonly asked questions:**

**Did we get Federal funding for refugees?**

The Federal government recently announced \$103 million to cover a 2023 funding gap related to supporting refugee claimants and an additional \$40 million for the first quarter of 2024. They are still in conversation for funding for the rest of the year. Therefore, there will be no additional tax increase to fund refugee claimant response.

**Can you vote against the increase?**

As I mentioned in last week’s email, this is a Strong Mayor Budget Process and not one where we vote to pass or not pass the budget. Many people have asked, what is my position on the proposed property tax increase set forth in Mayor Olivia Chow’s budget? I think this is a difficult moment for many people in the area of affordability. I’m grateful for the reduction from the initial rate proposed by city staff - however I acknowledge that it is still going to make things challenging for many. Please see the chart below that summarizes the impact of the budget across different property values.:

	2023 Property Taxes	9.5% Increase (8% Property, 1.5% Levy)	Difference	Increased cost per day
<b>Tax Paid for avg. House (\$694,381)</b>	\$4,626.48	\$4,908.35	\$281.87	\$0.77
<b>Tax paid for \$1 Million Home</b>	6,662.74	7,068.68	405.94	\$1.11
<b>Tax paid for \$2 Million Home</b>	13,325.48	14,137.36	811.88	\$2.22
<b>Tax paid for \$3 Million Home</b>	19,988.22	21,206.04	1,217.82	\$3.34
<b>Tax paid for \$4 Million Home</b>	26,650.96	28,274.72	1,623.76	\$4.45

Councillors will be able to move motions for changes to the budget, but reducing the increase would require cutting \$42 million to offset every 1% increase. I am having ongoing discussions with several councillors about the way forward. I will have more clarity next week.

**What help is available for seniors?**

If you are a senior who is unsure if you can cover the proposed tax increase you may be eligible for the Property Tax Increase Cancellation Program or the Property Tax Increase Deferral Program. [Click Here](#) for details. Please contact my office if you need support accessing these programs.

**Results of Willowdale ‘City Budget’ Survey**

I presented a summary from our survey to the mayor during council this past week. Here are some things I highlighted to her:

- She was impressed to know that 67% of survey respondents understood the structural deficit built into the city’s operating budget.
- She also acknowledged that 70% of Willowdale residents were most concerned about the property tax increase.
- I also highlighted to her that only 29% of residents supported a tax increase 9+%.
- 50.7% felt that keeping taxes below inflation for multiple years has had a negative impact on services, infrastructure and state of good repair.
- 34.8% felt user fees should be considered to maintain windrow service.
- 33.5% felt the city should find the budget to preserve windrow service.
- A whopping 81% feel the federal and provincial governments should pay for things that have been downloaded to the city including the costs of social housing, sheltering refugees and the cost of sheltering and supporting those with mental health and addiction issues.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a summary of our results.

**Meat vs. Fluff and Pigeon Poop**


Those of you who follow me on social media will know there is a substantial difference in the content shared on social media vs. the information I share here in this newsletter. The nuance required in effectively communicating policy makes it very hard to encapsulate in short videos and colourful graphics. I realized this past week that those who follow me on social media but do not read my newsletters think that 90% of my effort and work is focused on fluff. There was outcry when I shared a quote about measures the city is taking to control pigeon populations. Media reached out to me to speak about the pigeon birth control pilot ([click here](#) to read the article), and I obliged. Some constituents were alarmed I would devote any time to this “trivial matter” (though it does really stress some who live in our neighbourhood). I do not choose what the media prioritizes, but when asked, I am open to answering questions in the name of transparency and accessibility.

As a reader of my newsletter, you will know my work is much more substantial than just focusing on pigeon poop. But how do I share this information in fun bit-sized communication pieces, when I already struggle to whittle it down for my already marathon lengthy email newsletter? I will ponder this dilemma as I recognize the importance of educating and empowering my community members with the knowledge that strengthens our democracy. In the meantime, the meat of my work will be communicated in this newsletter and those looking for fun photos of “life of a councillor,” (aka ‘fluff’ which probably only captures 5% of my work), can look to social media. My handle for instagram is @lilychengto.

**In Conclusion**

I’m off to cook a Lunar New Year meal for my family that will hopefully honour my grandmother whose Chinese New Year feasts I dearly miss. I remember living in Asia after university and enjoying the crowded streets and sharing food with friends and family. Even if this is not a holiday you celebrate - perhaps you can catch the spirit and come out with family to enjoy tomorrow’s Korean Lunar New Year. I hope to see you there.

Warmest Regards,

 陳伶俐  
Lily Cheng 陳伶俐

**Councillor Lily Cheng**

Ward 18 Willowdale / [Councillor\\_Cheng@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Cheng@toronto.ca) / 416-392-0210

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

**~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

- [Councillor Lily Cheng - Call For Volunteers](#)
- [Vacant Home Tax](#)
- [Pemberton Parkette Playground Improvements Survey](#)
- [Youth Council Launch Pizza Party](#)
- [Caswell Park Playground Improvements Survey](#)
- [Willowdale Celebrates Lunar New Year Lantern Festival](#)
- [Construction Notice: Watermain Replacement on Lorraine Drive](#)
- [Goulding Community Centre State of Good Repair Project Update](#)
- [RapidTO Plans in Willowdale](#)
- [Greenfield Ave Closure](#)
- [Noise from Overnight Construction at Yonge/Finch/Doris Area](#)

## ~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- [Library Services Update](#)
- [Share Your Thoughts to Shape TTC Policies](#)
- [Toronto Public Health Strategic Planning](#)

## ~ COMMUNITY UPDATES

- [Korean Style Lunar New Year in Willowdale](#)
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- [Willowdale Kindness Month - Inspire Kindness Contest](#)
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- [Lifting Voices For Belonging: Black History Month](#)
- [The digital project 'North York Recipes for Healing'](#)
- [Yonge North York Master Plan Public Meeting](#)
- [Enchanted Lights](#)
- [Colors Of India](#)
- [The Toronto Book of Love](#)
- [NeighbourLink's Newcomer Welcome Tea](#)
- [The Kindred Spirits Orchestra \(KSO\) Concerts](#)

## COUNCILLOR UPDATES

# “CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS SIGN UP NOW!

[www.lilycheng.ca/volunteer](http://www.lilycheng.ca/volunteer)



Let's work together to make **WILLOWDALE** a better place!

## COUNCILLOR CHENG

### COUNCILLOR LILY CHENG - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

**Calling all community members:** Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? Join us in our mission to bring about change and impact lives positively! We're looking for dedicated volunteers to join our team and help us make a difference.

**Calling all students:** Looking to earn **volunteer hours** while having fun and making a difference? This is the perfect opportunity for you!

We're not just about volunteering; we're about fostering a **Connected Community**. Sign up now and be a part of something meaningful. Let's work together to make Willowdale a better place!

[Sign Up Now](#)

“

It's time to **DECLARE!**

# VACANT HOME TAX IN-PERSON DROP-IN SESSIONS

NORTH YORK CIVIC CENTRE

FEB 6 8 28 29  
10:00AM - 3:00PM

LEARN MORE



[toronto.ca/VacantHomeTax](http://toronto.ca/VacantHomeTax)

## COUNCILLOR CHENG

### VACANT HOME TAX

In Toronto, owners of residential properties must declare their occupancy status annually, even if they reside 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, or **in-person drop-in sessions** are available for those needing assistance with their declaration. For residents in Willowdale, the **North York Civic Centre** is hosting sessions on **February 6, 8, 28, and 29**. These sessions take place from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** near the Inquiry & Payment counters.

The declaration deadline is **February 29, 2024**. Act now!

[Learn More](#)

### 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](http://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 Friday, Feb 23, at 11:45 p.m.** Your input will help shape the future!

[Take the Survey](#)

# WILLOWDALE YOUTH COUNCIL

Calling all Willowdale Youth aged 16-25

**RSVP** | **YOUTH COUNCIL LAUNCH PIZZA PARTY**  
February 15, 2024

[lilycheng.ca/events](http://lilycheng.ca/events)

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

**Learn** about politics and policy that shape our city!



## YOUTH COUNCIL LAUNCH PIZZA PARTY

Calling all Willowdale Youth aged 16-25 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 passion for our community. You can also get your volunteer hours by participating in the Youth Council monthly. This Launch will be a **FREE PIZZA PARTY** and a kick-start to 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!**

[RSVP](#)



**ACT NOW** >

## 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 23**

**[bit.ly/caswellsurvey](http://bit.ly/caswellsurvey)**

**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 **Friday, Feb 23, at 11:45 p.m.** Your input will help shape the future!

[Take the Survey](#)

# 2024 WILLOWDALE CELEBRATES LUNAR NEW YEAR LANTERN FESTIVAL

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](http://lilycheng.ca/events)

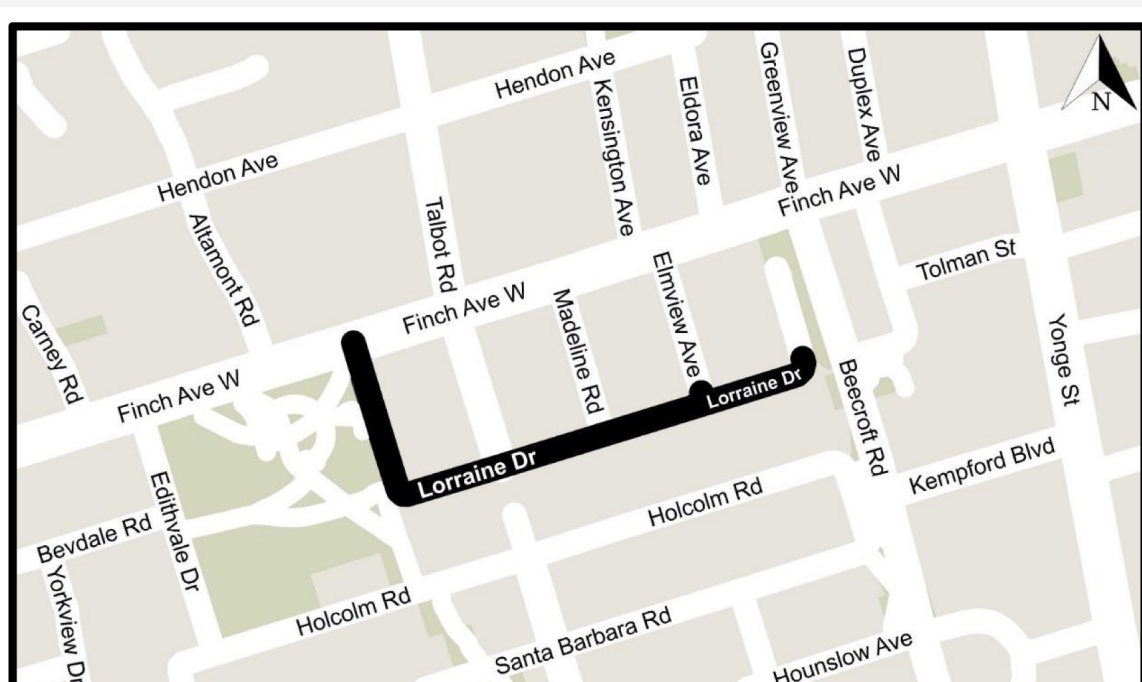
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| <b>Title Sponsor:</b><br>Culture Centre of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Toronto | <b>Co-hosted by:</b><br>Councillor Lily Cheng, Young Taiwanese Merchants Association of Toronto, Toronto Chinese Traders Association | <b>Partners:</b><br>Toronto Public Library, GWL Realty Advisors, Yonge North York, Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto |
|---|--|---|



## LUNAR NEW YEAR LANTERN FESTIVAL - SAVE THE DATE

**SAVE THE DATE** for the **Willowdale Celebrates Lunar New Year Lantern Festival** at Mel Lastman Square and North York Centre on **Feb 24th** from **1:00-10:00 p.m.** Indoor activities will be held in **North York Public Library** and **North York Centre Atrium** and **Food Court** during the day 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](#)



## CONSTRUCTION NOTICE: WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT ON LORRAINE DRIVE

Watermain replacement for substandard water services on Lorraine Dr, from Finch West & Lorrain Dr going westbound to Beecroft Ave, will **begin Feb 2024**, with an **end project date of Dec 2024**. Please see attached construction notice for more details.

[Learn More](#)

## GOULDING COMMUNITY CENTRE STATE OF GOOD REPAIR PROJECT UPDATE

The project continues in the Construction Phase, including GWL work on the interior rooms, washrooms, change-rooms, mechanical and electrical systems.

**Phase 1** construction for the community centre was generally completed, including improvements at the multipurpose rooms, classrooms, dance room, gym floors and gym change rooms, mechanical units and BAS connections. Remaining work includes a fire shutter installation at the new reception counter, which will continue until February 2023. A supply chain issue delayed delivery, but it was installed in January, with some finishing work remaining.

**Phase 2** construction for the outdoor pool change rooms was generally completed. The installation of a new outdoor pool deck shade structure will proceed this spring until May 2024, before the outdoor pool opening.

**Phase 3** construction for the ice arena and change rooms were completed early September and allowed the ice rink programming to proceed as planned. Some

final work at the ice rink referee change rooms will proceed from April to July 2024, between the ice rink seasons.

[Learn More](#)

### RapidTO PLANS IN WILLOWDALE

The Surface Transit Network Plan (SNTP), undertaken by the City of Toronto and TTC, aims to enhance bus and streetcar transit throughout Toronto by analyzing and implementing transit priority solutions to improve service reliability. Specifically, in Willowdale, transit routes along Steeles Ave West, spanning from Yonge Street to Jane Street, and Finch Avenue East, from Yonge Street to McCowan Road, have been identified as requiring transit solutions to improve service access and reliability. For roads with fewer lanes (4 and below), the proposed solution involves integrating bus bays to facilitate queue jumping, thereby expediting service. Conversely, wider roadways like Steeles Ave. are suggested to accommodate a dedicated red bus lane. Currently, a comprehensive infrastructure study for Steeles Ave. is underway to provide recommendations to Metrolinx for future builds. The review for Finch Ave. is progressing ahead of Steeles Ave. In terms of implementation timeline, it remains in the early stages of design drafting.

### GREENFIELD AVE CLOSURE

Greenfield Ave (from Yonge to 36 Greenfield) closed from 7am-7pm for necessary HVAC replacement at Cardinal Carter School for the Arts.

### NOISE FROM OVERNIGHT CONSTRUCTION AT YONGE/FINCH/DORIS AREA

Last week, a contractor commenced utility cuts in the Yonge/Finch/Doris area to install essential cables for infrastructure upgrades. An overnight noise exemption was granted to prevent disruption to TTC schedules during daytime hours. The majority of the loud and intensive work is anticipated to be completed by Tuesday, February 13th, with no overnight work scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings. Upon receiving reports of disturbances earlier in the week, my staff promptly contacted the contractor to emphasize the importance of minimizing noise levels during overnight operations.

## CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES



### LIBRARY SERVICES UPDATE

The Toronto Public Library has made significant strides in restoring its services, including bringing the website back online and reinstating public computer workstations across all 100 branches, alongside implementing a more user-friendly reservation system. Additionally, classes in Digital Innovation Hubs and Computer Learning Centres have resumed with the reactivation of PCs in these spaces. Though printing services are still being restored, progress is being made incrementally, with regular updates provided to the community. The Toronto Public Library expresses gratitude for the patience and support of its patrons as it continues to work towards normalcy.

[Learn More](#)

### 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](#)



### TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board of Health and Toronto Public Health (TPH) are currently developing the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, which will be the roadmap to guide TPH's work for the next four years. You're invited to help shape the development of the Strategic Plan! To make your voice heard, submit your feedback by completing the **survey by March 17, 2024.**

[Take the Survey](#)

## COMMUNITY UPDATES



**THIS WEEKEND** - celebrate **Korean style Lunar New Year** at North York Centre Atrium and Mel Lastman Square. Food, fun, activities and performances - both indoors and outdoor festivities **AND** you will get to see the launch of **Yonge North York BIA Enchanted Lights** that will bring magic to Willowdale! Hope to see you this weekend!



# The Greatest Love of Dance

FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2024  
MERIDIAN ARTS CENTRE

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](#)



## SPOKEN WORD POETRY WORKSHOPS AT GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM

Discover the power of **spoken word poetry** with **Toronto History Museums** and **RISE Edutainment** at Gibson House Museum! The engaging **workshops** are led by **Joshua "Scribe" Watkis**, an esteemed arts educator and member of the Up From The Roots collective and rapper/producer duo S.O.A.P (Scribe & English Aren't Perfect). Explore your creativity and express yourself through poetry on **February 11th and 25th from 1 to 3 p.m.** Get ticket now to secure your spot!

[Get Tickets](#)

# inspire kindness design contest



SEE YOUR WORK SHARED ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY  
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: MARCH 1



February is **kindness month** and to promote this value in our neighbourhood **NeighbourLink North York** is hosting an **Inspire Kindness Contest**. They're calling all graphic designers and artists to create a digital image inspired by the prompts on their website! The winning design will be selected to appear on a T-Shirt in their online store and sold to fundraise for their food bank and community care programs. The winner will win a gift card and merchandise with their design! Let's see the whole neighbourhood rocking your design, promoting kindness and making a difference in our community.

**Contest Closes: Friday March 1st, 2024**  
**Send Design To: [kindness@neighbourlink.org](mailto:kindness@neighbourlink.org)**  
**Design Specs: 2100px width by 1800px height**

[Learn More](#)



## A DAY AWAY Adult Day Program

A Day Away is a social/recreational program for seniors with physical frailties and/or cognitive challenges. Seniors can enjoy the company of their peers and caring staff in a safe environment.

**What we provide?**

Meals



Social environment



Caregiver Support



Transportation



Engaging activities



Our program takes into account each person's cultural, social, emotional, physical and spiritual needs.

Contact us to learn more  
416 733.4111  
[intake@nyseniors.org](mailto:intake@nyseniors.org)

Monday to Friday  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

 21 Hendon Ave, Toronto,  
ON M2M 4G8

 80 Sheppard Avenue West,  
Toronto, ON M2N 1M2

**A Day Away(Adult Day Program)** designed for older adults facing physical frailties or cognitive challenges, allows seniors to spend a stimulating day with friends in a safe and caring environment. Led by trained and compassionate staff, the program offers lively group activities, light exercise, nutritious meals, special events, arts and crafts, and more.

[Learn More](#)



TORONTO HISTORY MUSEUMS



LIFTING VOICES FOR BELONGING: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Toronto History Museums honour and amplify Black voices during **Black History Month** through dynamic performances, immersive installations, hands-on workshops and themed tours. Enjoy free general admission to all historic sites and attend drop-in and ticketed Black History Month events.

[Learn More](#)



North York Recipes for Healing

The digital project '**North York Recipes for Healing**' has officially launched, highlighting the cultural connections of the East Asian community through food in North York. In 15 oral history interviews, community members share their pandemic experiences and contribute meaningful recipes, fostering a reconnection with North York's identity and heritage. It's a wonderful way to explore the ties that food creates and how it brings people together.

[Learn More](#)

## YONGE NORTH YORK MASTER PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

**Help Shape the Future of the Yonge North York Business Improvement Area!**

**NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY,  
ROOM 101**  
Library, 5120 Yonge Street, North York

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024**  
6:00 - 7:00  
*Open House & Visioning Activities*  
7:00 - 8:00  
*Presentation and Discussion*

**COUNCILLOR CHENG**

**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!** Join us on Tuesday, **February 13, 6-8 pm** at **North York Central Library** for the **Yonge North York Master Plan Public Meeting**. The Yonge North York Business Improvement Area has begun developing a public realm and streetscape master plan, and need your voice and input! Come and share your thoughts on street furniture, greenery, shade, pedestrian experience, and more.

**No registration required; all community members are welcome!**

## ENCHANTED LIGHTS

Cultural Saturdays Schedule

**SAT. FEB 10**

**SAT. FEB 17**

**SAT. FEB 24**

**SAT. MAR 2**

**SAT. MAR 9**

YONGE NORTH YORK 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](#)

## MADHURAGEETHAM 101.3 FM

Presents

# COLORS OF INDIA

**SANDEEP MOHAN**  
Singer

**SAATWIKA**  
DANCE COMPANY

**RINCHU GIBIN**  
Singer

**ENCHANTED LIGHTS**  
A Celebration of Cultures  
February 10 - March 10, 2024  
Mel Lastman Square | Open Daily 5pm - 10pm

**SATURDAY**

## 17<sup>TH</sup>

### FEBRUARY

5:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
**MEL LASTMAN SQUARE**  
5100, YONGE ST, TORONTO

FOR MORE DETAILS:  
Vijay Sethumadavan - 416 356 8529  
Vinod Mahesan - 416 833 3721

'MALAYALAM FM RADIO BROADCASTING ON CANADIAN AIRWAVES SINCE 2004'

A special event "**Colors of India**" presented by **Madhura Geetham** will be held on **February 17th** at **Mel Lastman Square**! You'll hear Sandeep Mohan and Rinchu Gibin sing in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi. Watch beautiful dances by Saatwika Dance Company and enjoy music by DJ Frz playing songs

from all over India. Plus, eat yummy dosas and snacks from Little South Bistro, and have some coffee or tea. It's going to be a fun celebration of Indian culture! Don't miss it!



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](#)

NEWCOMERS WELCOME TEA

欢迎新移民茶会

صرف چای با تازه واردین

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

신규 이민자 이벤트

ВІТАЛЬНИЙ ЧАЙ

Bienvenida para recién llegados a Canada

**NeighbourLink's Newcomer Welcome Tea** is back! They're inviting all local newcomers from around the world and welcoming neighbours from the community to join them on **February 25th!** Connect with fellow newcomers and friendly Canadians who want to help. This is a **FREE** family friendly event. There will be activities, tea, light refreshments and community connections!

- **When:** [Sunday February 25th](#)
- **Time:** [4:00 - 6:00 p.m.](#)
- **Where:** [Spring Garden Church, 112 Spring Garden Avenue](#)

In 2022 and 2023 these events were so valuable for Ukrainian newcomers and they are excited to make that same impact with newcomers from all corners of the globe. If you're a neighbour who speaks **Cantonese, Mandarin, Farsi, Korean, Spanish or another language** and would like to volunteer as a table host please contact Volunteer Coordinator Lily at [lily.su@neighbourlink.org](mailto:lily.su@neighbourlink.org)

[Learn More](#)

# Kindred Spirits Orchestra

Kristian Alexander | Music Director

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## MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Saturday, March 16, 2024, 8 pm

**George Weston Recital Hall**

JORDAN PAL, *On the double* overture

XINGHAI, Piano concerto "*Yellow River*"

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV, *Sheherazade*

Kristian Alexander | conductor

Li Wang | pianist

416.366.7723

5040 Yonge St.

[TicketMaster.ca](#)

You belong.

The **Kindred Spirits Orchestra** (KSO) is an award-winning orchestra that has been delighting **GTA** audiences for 15 years. Under the baton of Maestro **Kristian Alexander**, the KSO will be performing a **series of concerts** in North York for the first time, at the **Meridian Arts Centre – George Weston Recital Hall** on Saturdays March 16, May 11 and June 22nd.

The first concert, **Myths and Legends**, will take place **Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m.** features internationally renowned pianist Li Wang.

Tickets start at \$15 and are available at [KSO Concert Tickets](#)

[Get Ticket](#)

LET'S CONNECT ON SOCIAL



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