Connected Community
March 16, 2023

@LilyChengTO LilyCheng.ca

Dear Neighbour!

Happy March Break! I hope all the students and families taking the week off are having a fun week together. March Break is also a reminder that spring is around the corner (though it's hard to imagine with all the snow we've been getting). If there are still any areas around Willowdale that require snow removal (ex. An unsafe sidewalk or streetway that wasn't cleared), please reach out to 311 to let the city know with pictures and the address. I ask that you also let my office know so we can ensure to advocate for better service with the city snow removal crew.

As spring is upon us, a reminder that this weekend, we are co-hosting our first **Willowdale Nowruz for Families** event with **NeighbourLink North York** and **North York Central Library - Children's Division**. Nowruz marks the new year and the arrival of spring for the Persian and Iranian community. It symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, and joy over sorrow. Participate in a variety of dance and craft workshops at the North York Center Library Auditorium or drop by the atrium at North York Centre where you can sip on Persian tea and enjoy some delicious treats while admiring a Haft Seen (Persian tribute table to the New Year) or join in some arts and crafts. We hope you can join us this Saturday, March 18th as we celebrate Nowruz with our Persian neighbours. You can RSVP here.

I'm sure we are all ready to celebrate the arrival of spring! Have a great weekend!

Warmest regards,

Lily Cheng 陳伶俐 لی‌لی چنگ

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

I had the pleasure of joining a group of passionate women and men celebrating International Women's Day organized by Empowering Moms and Children Association (ECMO), an organization that is advocating for the recognition and empowerment of mothers in society.

Scroll down to find out more about:

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- **Willowdale Nowruz For Families Event - THIS SATURDAY!**
- **Mitchel Field Updates**
- **New Warming Centre in Willowdale**
- Community Safety Town Hall Summary & Safety Survey
- Hiring: Constituency Office Operations Manager
- OLT Hearing - 172,176, 180 Finch Ave W, 1-33 Grantbrook St & 303-313 Hendon Ave
- Construction Updates
- **Trustee Pei Ward 12 Forum**
- **$500 one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit**

~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- Opportunity to join the City of Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee - Deadline: April 2, 2023
- Small business property owners may be eligible for a reduction in property tax - Deadline: April 3, 2023
- Funding available to improve appearance of commercial buildings - Deadline: May 4, 2023
- Funding available for restaurant owners to upgrade their patios - Deadline: June 30, 2023

~ COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

- See below

Thank you for subscribing to our weekly e-newsletter! Invite your friends and family to sign up at lilycheng.ca. Please also send us any updates of local community news and events that we can share.

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

THIS SATURDAY: WILLOWDALE NOWRUZ FOR FAMILIES
SAT. MAR 18, 1-5pm

Spring is coming and many Iranian Willowdalers will be celebrating **Nowruz (Iranian New Year)**. We are excited to be partnering with **NeighbourLink North York** and **North York Central Public Library Children's Department** to present a family friendly Willowdale Nowruz Celebration that will include Persian Tea, arts demonstrations, crafts and an Instagram worthy Haft-Sin (a beautiful New Year table arrangement) in the **North York Center Atrium** as well as ticketed Nowruz crafts and Persian dance workshops at the Library Auditorium. **PLEASE SEE SCHEDULE BELOW!**

Please bring non-perishable food items for the 415 Food Hub organized by **NeighbourLink North York**. Your donations will help provide essential food items to those in need in our community.

Please register for the event here: WillowdaleNowruz2023.eventbrite.ca

نوروز
مبارک

NOWRUZ
IN WILLOWDALE

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

WHAT?	برنامه	WHERE?	WHEN?
HaftSeen Display	سفره هفت سین	Atrium	12:00 to 5:00
HaftSeen Workshop	ورکشاپ هفت سین	Atrium	1:00 to 5:00
Persian Teahouse	چایخانه سنتی(رایگان)	Food Court	12:00 to 5:00
Music Performance	اجرای موسیقی	Atrium	2:30 to 2:45 4:30 to 4:45
Calligraphy Workshop	ورکشاپ خطاطی	Food Court	1:00 to 5:00
Painting Workshop	ورکشاپ نقاشی	Food Court	1:00 to 5:00
Art and Craft Workshop *needs registration	ورکشاپ کاردستی	Library (Auditorium)	1:00 to 1:40 2:00 to 2:40
Dance Workshop *needs registration	ورکشاپ رقص	Library (Auditorium)	3:00 to 3:40 4:00 to 4:40
Cyclic Yoga for Kids	ورکشاپ یوگا	Library (Room One)	2:00, 3:00 and 4:00

MITCHELL FIELD UPDATES

Renovations at Mitchell Field Community Centre are underway! While the gym floors are being refinished the weight room and track are still open.
We plan on reopening for Spring 2023 programming on April 3rd 2023. We have classes for early years, children, youth, adults and older adults in arts, fitness, sports, and more! Programs are open for registration. For more information about course offerings please visit efun.toronto.ca or call Mitchell Field Community Centre at 416-395-0265.

We can't wait to welcome back the community this spring. Mitchell Field Community Centre will be hosting a **GRAND RE-OPENING** on **Friday, April 14**. The event will feature workshops in line dance, Zumba, and art; a community mural project; circle time with Councillor Cheng; and a movie night! The City is grateful to Willowdalers for hosting the vaccine clinic throughout the pandemic as well as the warming centre this past season. Please stay tuned for more details and a chance to sign up for our workshops.

NEW WARMING CENTRE LOCATION IN WILLOWDALE

Address: Willowdale Baptist Church, 15 Olive Ave
Operational during Extreme Cold Weather Alert, until April 15th, 2023

As of March 6, the Willowdale Warming Centre has transitioned from Mitchell Field Community Centre to 15 Olive Avenue for future activations as determined by the City. The Warming Centre will be run by Dixon Hall. On March 13th, my team hosted a town hall during which both Dixon Hall and the Shelter Support & Housing Administration (SSHA) from the City of Toronto were available to answer questions. **Click Here** to read a summary of the Q&A for those who were not able to join us.

COMMUNITY SAFETY TOWN HALL SUMMARY

If you missed our Willowdale Community Safety Town Hall on Feb 27, 2023, **click here** to read the highlights.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts on safety in our community. Click here to complete the Safety Survey. All neighbours in Willowdale are welcome to participate.

HIRING: CONSTITUENCY OFFICE OPERATIONS MANAGER

Do you know someone who loves the City of Toronto and wants to make a difference? Do they embrace new technologies and consider themselves an early adapter? We are looking for someone who is a creative problem solver with strong project management, organizational and communication skills. Would love to hire a Willowdaler for the position!

To learn more and apply, please visit: www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/3520440339.

ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL (OLT) HEARING

172,176, 180 Finch Ave W, 1-33 Grantbrook St & 303-313 Hendon Ave

Date/Time: March 30, 10am
Click here to join the online meeting, access code: **719-383-509**
*Once you enter the access code, click the **black** button that says **join in this browser**.

Click Here for further details about the hearing.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Temporary Road Closure:
Yorkview Drive between Fleetwell Court and Wynn Road
Expected Timeline: March 14, 2023 – March 24, 2023 (Extended)

Yonge North Subway Extension:
Hendon Avenue
Expected Timeline: February 21, 2023 - TBA

Toronto Hydro Overhead Civil & Electrical Upgrade:
Finch - Grantbrook: Finch Avenue West and Ancona Street
Expected Timeline: March 2023 - June 2023

Watermain Replacement and Local Road Resurfacing:
Ellerslie Ave.: Ellerslie Avenue from Bathurst Street to Stafford Road
Expected Timeline: March 2023 - November 2023

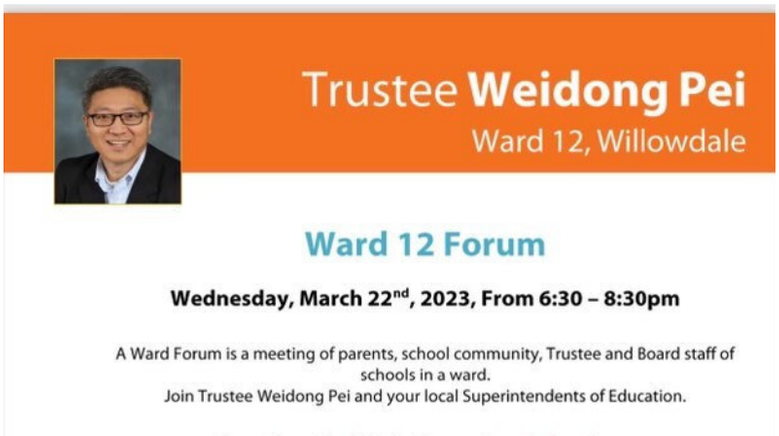
Learn More About Construction Updates

Finch Station Early Works - Metrolinx YNSE Project

Upcoming Metrolinx Community Pop-Up Event
Time: March 22, 3pm-5pm
Location: Centerpoint Mall (6464 Yonge Street)

Metrolinx's team is out in the community to share the latest project update and answer your questions about the Yonge North Subway Extension!

Upcoming Virtual Open House
Time: March 22, 6:30pm-8:30pm
Construction has started at Finch Station to set the groundwork for future construction on the Yonge North Subway. Metrolinx is hosting a Virtual Open House to answer your questions about the early works at Finch Station and provide a progress update on the Yonge North Subway Extension. You can register for the event online at: metrolinx.com/ynse_events



Location: Earl Haig Secondary School
100 Princess Ave, North York, ON, M2N 3R7
Will be held in the School Cafeteria

Meeting Agenda

- Opening Remarks & Introductions by Superintendents of Education; Trustee Pei
- Guest Speakers:
  1) Shameen Sandhu - System Leader, Mental Health and PSS
  2) MPP Stan Cho
  3) Councilor Lily Cheng: Toronto City Council | Willowdale

Please Register Here
Sign up for Ward 6 Newsletter Here

Toronto District School Board
Weidong Pei
Trustee, Ward 12, Willowdale
Tel: 416-395-8787 E-mail: Weidong.Pei@tdsb.on.ca

TRUSTEE PEI WARD 12 FORUM
Time: March 22, 6:30-8:30pm
Location: Earl Haig Secondary School

Join Trustee Pei, Superintendent of Education Giorgi, Hami for a discussion on student mental well-being at TDSB. Learn about TDSB's approach to supporting student mental health, and ask questions to the panelists. Enjoy free pizza and refreshments.

To register: https://bit.ly/42cABHT
Sign up for TDSB Willowdale Ward Newsletter and Trustee's update: http://bit.ly/3TitauA

$500 one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit

The one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit provides eligible applicants with a $500 one-time payment to help with their housing costs. To be eligible, applicants must have an adjusted net income in 2021 of $35,000 or less for families, or $20,000 or less for individuals, and pay at least 30% of their adjusted family net income towards rent in the 2022 calendar year. Please note that applications are open until **Friday, March 31, 2023**, 11:59 PM ET. **Click Here** for eligibility and how to apply.

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Are you a passionate member of, or an ally to, 2SLGBTQ+ communities in Toronto, who wants to champion 2SLGBTQ+ priorities and equity in Toronto? Help shape your city by applying for the City of Toronto's Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (2SLGBTQ+) Advisory Committee for its 2023 – 2026 term. Learn more and apply by **April 2, 2023**.

SMALL BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REDUCTION IN PROPERTY TAX
The City of Toronto implemented a small business property tax subclass that provides a reduction in the tax rate for eligible small business properties. For 2023, the applicable tax rate reduction is 15% of the commercial rate for both the municipal and education portion of taxes. If your property is eligible for the small business tax subclass, there is no need to apply – the reduced tax rate will be reflected in your final property tax bill. You can search by address to find out if your property is located within the small business subclass designated areas. Property owners who believe they have an eligible property that has not been included can file a Request for Reconsideration by the **April 3, 2023** deadline.

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE APPEARANCE OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

The City of Toronto's Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Program provides funding to eligible commercial property owners and tenants to improve the appearance of a commercial building's façade by providing a new look, enhancing neighborhoods streetscapes, and providing a more pleasant environment to work, shop and eat. Learn more and apply by **May 4, 2023**.

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR RESTAURANT OWNERS TO UPGRADE THEIR PATIOS

The City of Toronto's CaféTO Property Improvement Program provides restaurant, bar, and café owners with a matching grant covering 50%, up to $7,500 towards the cost of improvements to patios in the curb lane, on sidewalks and on private property. Funded by the Federal Economic Development Agency for South Ontario, this program is part of the Toronto Main Street Recovery and Rebuild Initiative. Applications are now open and will be accepted until Friday, **June 30, 2023**, or when funds are expended. Priority will be given to applicants with temporary curb lane platforms. Learn more and apply.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS:

- Young Urban Forest Leaders Applications - Deadline: March 21, 2023
- 2023 Summerlicious Applications - Deadline: March 22, 2023
- 2023 Curb Lane Cafe Applications - Deadline: March 28, 2023
- Pam McConnell Awards Applications - Deadline: April 3, 2023
- Mayoral By-Election - June 26, 2023

COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

UPCOMING WEEK (MARCH 18-25):

March Break at Gibson House Museum
March 11-19, 11am-4pm @ Gibson House, 5172 Yonge St.
Dive into a multi-sensory experience of Toronto's foodways through demonstrations and food activations.

Coffee With a Cop
Mar 18, 10am @ Starbucks, 6355 Yonge St.

Willowdale's Nowruz for Families
Mar 18, 1-5pm @ North York Public Library

Journaling with Our Seniors
Mar 18, 11am-2pm @ 10 Senlac Rd (ChartWell Lansing), Theatre Room

Mid-Winter Wrap Market Return Visit
Mar 18, 11am-3pm @ 10 Senlac Rd (ChartWell Lansing), Theatre Room

80th Anniversary Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
Mar 22, 2pm @ Prosserman Jewish Community Centre

Meet an Employment Services Representative
Mar 22, 2pm @ North York Central Library, 4th Floor

Networking Event for Entrepreneurs and Innovators
Mar 23, 6pm @ North York Central Library, Room 101

Community Safety Meeting: Elder Abuse and Harm Reduction
Mar 24, 7pm @ 175 Cummer Ave.

Learn How to Protect Yourself!
Mar 25, 11:30pm @ 175 Cummer Ave.

Willowdale Community Dining Event
Mar 25, 12:30pm @ 175 Cummer Ave.

Click the button below to check out the full list of events and learn more details!

Community Events

If you would like our office to promote your community events, please email us at Councillor_Cheng@toronto.ca.

Let's Connect on Social

If this email was forwarded to you and you'd like to sign up for future newsletters, you can do so at www.lilycheng.ca

Building a Connected Community in Willowdale.

100 Queen Street West,
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
416-392-0210

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