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Hi Neighbour!

Happy New Year!

We are SO EXCITED for our **2nd annual Willowdale Skate Party!** It will be a great community event with figure skating performances, free hot chocolate, and a chance to connect with neighbours - including our **MP Ali Ehsassi** and **MPP Stan Cho!** Hope to see you Sunday, January 14 from 1-4pm. [Click Here](#) to RSVP. Please also consider volunteering at our event. [Click Here](#) to sign up.

It's City of Toronto Budget Time!

As many families prepare to launch their kids back to school, the city is ramping up to present the 2024 budget which will be released next week. There will be many opportunities to learn about the budget and provide feedback this month, including:

1. Join our Budget Committee Team! (a few hours in January) Last year a group of community members joined my team in reading through the \$16 Billion dollar budget to look for areas of improvement and opportunities. If you are interested in helping out, please [Click Here](#) to sign up. This will all happen in the coming weeks as budget notes are released next Wednesday. Your input can help shape questions I bring to Budget Committee the following week!

2. Virtual Willowdale City Budget Town Hall: An exclusive opportunity for Willowdalers to learn about the City Budget and where we are heading as a city financially. Budget Chief and neighbouring Councillor Shelley Carroll will be joining us as well as Interim ED of the Financial Planning Division. This is our money and our city. I hope you will join me in this important informative session. [Click Here](#) to register!

3. Chance to Speak to the Budget Committee (of which I am a member):

North York Civic Centre, Council Chamber, 5100 Yonge St.
Tuesday, January 23
1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.

To register to speak email buc@toronto.ca or call 416-392-4666. Please choose a preferred day and timeslot and **register to speak before 4:30 p.m., January 19.** Registered speakers will be provided with instructions about how to join the meeting in person or online. Other times and locations are available across the city.

Support LOCAL Performance!

A reminder that **"The Legend of Huli (the Fox)" (狐狸的传说)** is coming to the **Meridian Arts Centre** on January 20 and 21! Willowdaler and producer **Nina Zaslavsky** and Artistic Director **Roman Smirnov** presents a mythical story of the East-Asian celestial fox portrayed by world class performers. It is amazing to witness the collaboration of **Chinese, Jewish, Russian and Ukrainian artists** to bring this together. Experience a fusion of contemporary dance, light show and music ranging from baroque to flamenco, jazz, world and modern classics. Get your tickets now at: [Legend of Huli Tickets | Event Dates & Schedule | Ticketmaster CA](#). It is no easy feat to bring a performance to the Meridian Arts Centre. Let's come together and support Nina. I hope to see you there!

Message to the Jewish Community

It has been stressful for many in our community to hear of hate motivated crimes that have happened these past few days, including the firebombing of a Jewish owned deli in North York. The war in Gaza has caused a lot of pain and anguish for both Jewish and Palestinians in Toronto. The Toronto Police Services has worked to support the concerns of the community by setting up outreach locations, charging those who are committing hate crimes and increasing the size of the Hate Crime Unit in response to the rise in reported hate crimes.

I want to express my unwavering support and solidarity with the Jewish community in the face of these recent hate crimes. It is truly disheartening to witness these acts and to know they result in people feeling unsafe in their community. We all play a part in multiplying compassion and reducing hatred by reaching out to people across cultures and languages to foster greater connectivity and understanding. We must create an inclusive community, right here in Willowdale.

In recognizing the pain experienced by our Jewish neighbours, I must also acknowledge the pain experienced by Palestinian and Ukrainian neighbours as they worry daily if their loved ones can survive these wars. We certainly hope 2024 will offer some relief from all the death and destruction that is taking place. I pray those who hold power will choose mercy for the many innocent lives being impacted by war.

What I'm up to next week:

- January 8 - [General Government Committee](#)
 - January 10 - [Budget is Released](#)
 - January 11 - [Toronto Police Board](#)
 - January 12 - Chairing [Civic Appointment Committee](#)
- Please click on the items and you can read the corresponding agendas.

We will also be at the **Mayor's New Year Levee** at Toronto City Hall **THIS SUNDAY, January 7, 2024** from **2 to 4 p.m.** [Click Here](#) for details.

It's going to be a heavy week for committees and meetings! I'm going to be taking many deep breaths as we embark on this new year! Let's make it a great one together!

Warmest Regards,

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Lily Cheng 陈伶俐

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

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- [Skate Party 2024](#)
- [Virtual Willowdale City Budget Town Hall](#)

~ COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

- [Legend of Huli](#)

COUNCILLOR UPDATES



The time has come for our **2nd Annual Willowdale Skate Party** at **Mel Lastman Square!** Join us for a wonderful time of experiencing community on and off the rink on **Sunday January 14, 2024 from 1PM - 4PM.**

Kick off 2024 with us as we skate with family, friends, and neighbours, enjoy jaw-opening ice skating performances and a fun interactive DJ, and warm up

with hot chocolate and cup noodles in support of NeighbourLink North York.

This is a **free event** sponsored by **Tim Hortons** and **Yonge North York BIA**, and brought to you by **Councillor Lily Cheng, MP Ali Ehsassi** and **MPP Stan Cho**. Free rentals made available by the Skate Lending Library.

See you at the rink!

RSVP



**WILLOWDALE
OUR CITY BUDGET
TOWN HALL**

VIRTUAL

Presentation on the 2024 City of Toronto Budget and Q&A

Hosted By:

- Shelley Carroll**
Budget Chief
- Lily Cheng**
City Councillor
- Anthony Ng**
Interim ED of the Financial Planning Division

Date: **Monday, Jan 15, 2024** | Time: **7:30 pm - 9:00 pm**

Join us for the **Virtual Willowdale City Budget Town Hall**, a crucial event unveiling the 2024 budget and charting our city's financial path. Featuring **Budget Chief and Councillor Shelley Carroll**, alongside the **Interim ED of Financial Planning Division**, this exclusive session is a unique opportunity for Willowdalers to understand and engage with our city's financial landscape. Let's come together virtually to discuss **OUR** money and **OUR** city. Don't miss this chance to be informed, ask questions, and actively participate in shaping the future of Willowdale.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register and be a part of this important conversation!

RSVP

COMMUNITY UPDATES

REPORTING POWER OUTAGES

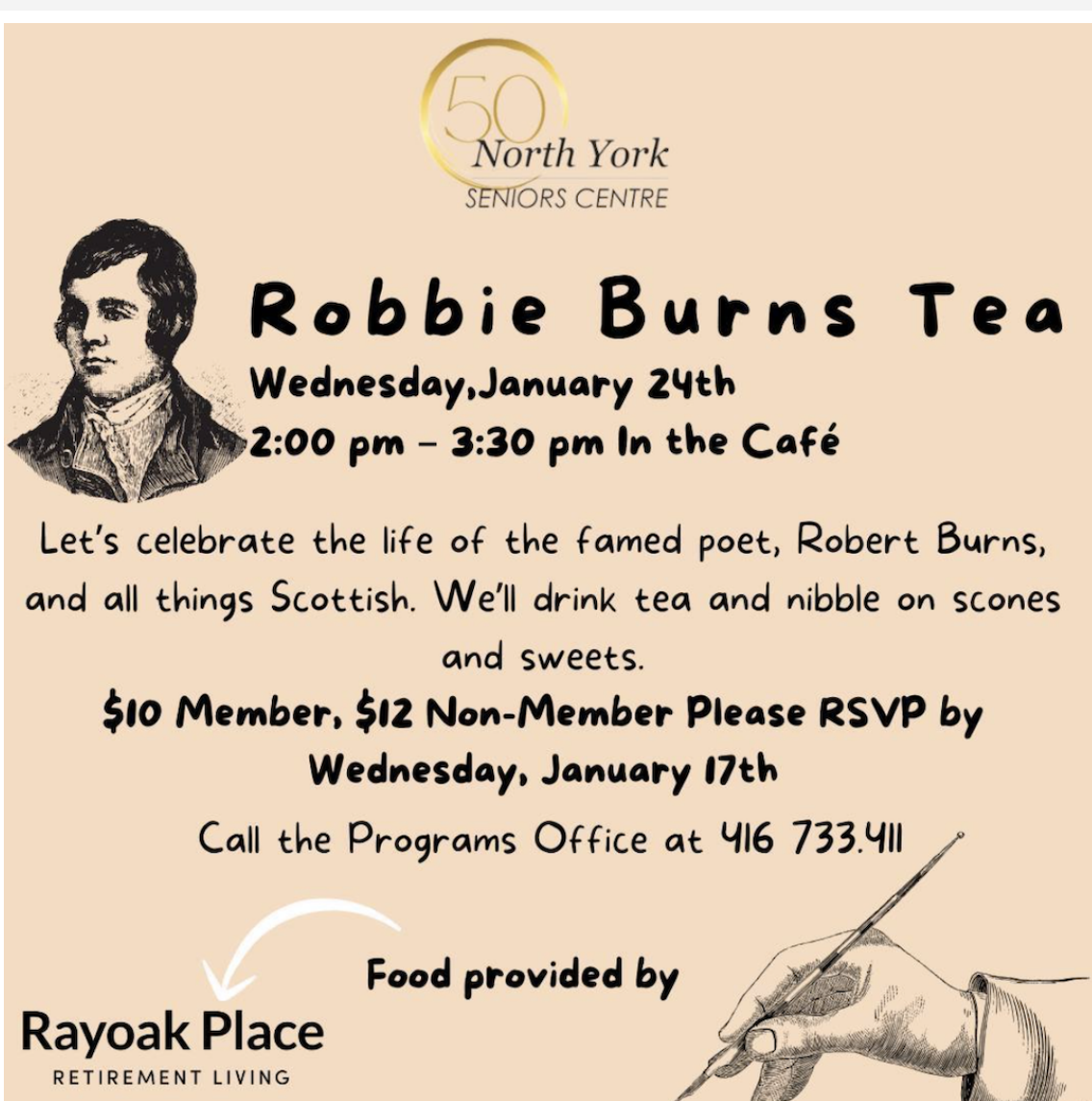
For residents experiencing power outages, reach out directly to Toronto Hydro at power_quality@torontohydro.com and provide them with their address so that they are able to determine the feeder that your home is serviced from to better address the issue. You can also call **416-542-8000 (press 6)** from 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 our [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](#)



50 North York SENIORS CENTRE

Robbie Burns Tea
Wednesday, January 24th
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm In the Café

Let's celebrate the life of the famed poet, Robert Burns, and all things Scottish. We'll drink tea and nibble on scones and sweets.

\$10 Member, \$12 Non-Member Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 17th

Call the Programs Office at 416 733.4111

Food provided by **Rayoak Place** RETIREMENT LIVING

Let's come together to celebrate the life of the renowned poet, Robert Burns, and immerse ourselves in all things Scottish! You're cordially invited to join for a delightful gathering at the **North York Seniors Centre's Robbie Burns Tea**.

Date: January 24th

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Indulge in a cozy afternoon filled with piping hot tea, delectable treats, and the joy of shared moments. To ensure your spot, please **RSVP** by calling the Programs Office at **416-733-4111**.



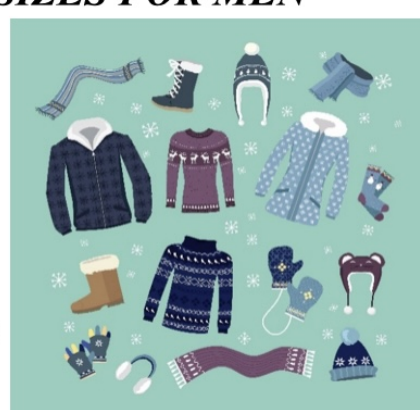
'**The Legend of Huli**' (狐狸的传说) is coming to the Meridian Arts Centre on **January 20 and 21!** Willowdaler and producer Nina Zaslavsky and Artistic Director Roman Smirnov presents a mythical story of the east-asian celestial fox portrayed by world class performers from China and Ukraine. Experience a fusion of contemporary dance, light show and music ranging from baroque to flamenco, jazz, world and modern classics.

[Get Ticket](#)



CALL OUT FOR COATS...AND HATS AND SWEATERS AND WARM BOOTS- ESPECIALLY LARGER SIZES FOR MEN

Every Wednesday, Cummer Avenue United Church Drop Inn offers a hot meal, a shower, and when possible, fresh clothing to a significant number of our un-housed neighbours, many of whom are from already under-served, marginalized, or vulnerable populations.



These friends need our help to stay warm this winter, so we're asking Willowdale to donate clean, warm clothing, blankets, and sleeping bags in good condition for distribution through the Drop Inn. Sweaters, hats, scarves, ski pants, and gloves/mitts are also welcome. **New unwrapped socks and underwear** are also in very high demand, as are hand-warmers.

Items can be dropped off at Cummer Avenue United Church (53 Cummer Avenue) any Wednesday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Parking is available on the west side of the building and a sign will guide you to the Drop Inn. 😊

LET'S CONNECT ON SOCIAL



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