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Hi Neighbour!

Happy Mid-Autumn Festival to all who are celebrating. Many across Asia will be eating mooncakes while looking to the sky to enjoy the full moon. We hope you enjoy this time of connecting with family and sharing food and stories with each other. [Click Here](#) for some of the common stories shared for this festival.

Tomorrow is the day of **National Truth and Reconciliation Day**, also known as the **Orange Shirt Day**. It is a day for us to take time to reflect on the history of the land upon which we build our lives and the legacy of trauma from which Indigenous people continue to heal. My staff and I attended a time of sharing with elders that was deeply moving with many important pieces to reflect upon.

Why we wear orange

The unmarked mass graves that have been discovered, one after another, were of no surprise to the Indigenous community. It was a confirmation of the missing children who for them are named and missed. We wear orange to raise awareness of the intergenerational impacts of residential schools and to promote the idea of **"Every Child Matters."**

The use of an orange shirt as a symbol was inspired by the accounts of **Phyllis Jack Webstad**, whose personal clothing—including a new orange shirt—was taken from her during her first day of residential schooling, and never returned. The orange shirt is thus used as a symbol of the forced assimilation of Indigenous children that the residential school system enforced.

Indigenous Poet Duke Redbird shared a powerful poem, **"Stolen Children, Stolen Souls."** [Click Here](#) to view him reading his poem (between 1:39 and 9:20).

We then had the opportunity to hear powerful words from **Kim Wheatley**, an Ojibwe Anishinaabe Grandmother from Shawanaga First Nation Reserve. Here are some key thoughts she shared:

"Important for every Canadian to remember you are treaty partners. We are asking for your support. We have never gone to anyone else's lands and claimed them or renamed them."

"We encourage you as treaty partners to learn how to greet us. To encourage our government to recognize one of our languages as an official one."

On that note, here is how you say "How are you?" in Ojibwe: "Aaniish naa ezhiyaayin?"

Some issues we worked on this week:

Tree Saving. I met with city staff to try and save some of the trees slated for removal for the **Sheppard Complete Street project**. The trees will definitely be injured in the construction - hence it's a decision whether we remove the trees right away, or see if they can survive having a concrete sidewalk laid beside them. We did a field visit to identify which trees might be worth this effort. Our tree canopy is precious and lowers temperatures over 10 degrees. I think we would all prefer sidewalks and bike trails with good canopies.

Future Bus Terminal Design. We met with staff from TTC and Metrolinx along with **Urban Noise Activist Ingrid Buday** at York Mills bus terminal. The reason for this visit was because an above ground bus terminal is slated for the future development at Centrepont Mall and I am concerned about the impact of noise on this future neighbourhood. We measured the sound in the terminals and discussed how design could mitigate the sound impacting residents above and around the terminal. These included increasing the distance between the entrance and where buses are stopping, adding some soft surfaces inside (eg. spray foam) and using a fan to blow the sound inwards.

Holmes Park Part 2 Consultation. As we gear up for the launch of the new Holmes Park, we will also begin a community journey towards designing the second half of the park. The developer, with the assistance of my office, is planning an opening event scheduled for **October 17th from 4:30 to 6:30**. During this event, there will be some initial discussions regarding the future of phase two of the Holmes Park Expansion. Possible features include benches and picnic table, exercise equipment and/or ping pong tables. We look forward to many future opportunities where residents can participate in shaping this new park in our community!

Willowdale Youth Council to be reignited. We had a preliminary meeting to discuss relaunching a Willowdale Youth Council. Fostering civic engagement in young people is important in shaping our community and the future strength of our democracy.

Cycling Network from Willowdale to York Mills Station. We are discussing the possibility of building a cycling pathway from the West Lansing neighbourhood towards York Mills station as part of a proposal from CycleTO to build a bike path from Earl Bales along the golf course. This is a very preliminary discussion, but I will be advocating that Willowdale be included in the plan when it is proposed.

Strengthening Business in Willowdale. The Yonge North York BIA and I met with John Alderice the city's Manager of Business Retention & Expansion. We shared ideas on how we can strengthen current businesses as well as support the office buildings that are struggling with keeping and attracting tenants. We want to be a community where people can work, live and play. Making sure we have robust non-residential offerings is key to building a complete community.

Strengthening City Response to Intimate Partner Violence. Following the city's declaration that Intimate Partner Violence is an epidemic, the Mayor has tasked me with working with a group of agencies and grassroots groups to host a future roundtable towards strengthening the city's response and ensuring the declaration is supported by good policy and services. We will be holding regular meetings to move this forward in a practical and tangible way. It is listed as a priority, but needs a more robust action plan which we are hoping to help ignite.

Leveraging vacant homes awaiting development for Refugee Transitional Housing. We have many developments in our ward where developers buy houses with the intention to demolish them for future development. Sometimes these applications take as little as 8 months to go through the City's approval process but more often than not it can take years. This means that these houses are not lived in and can be vacant for years. We've begun a conversation with city staff, Habitat For Humanity and Peoples Church to explore leveraging these houses to provide transitional housing for refugee claimants. We have invited Peoples House to present their community-based refugee housing model to city staff on October 16 to explore its scalability in Willowdale and beyond.

Oakburn Tenants. On Tues, Sept 26th, the City along with the developer (KG Group), held a community consultation to discuss the financial package being offered to the tenants at 2 to 12 Oakburn Crescent. Because this is a second group of tenants (original tenants were provided rental replacement in 2007), this group of 66 households are not being provided rental replacement. I was present for the consultation and heard the tenants' questions and concerns with the package being offered.

Many tenants voiced concerns of hardship as they will be unable to find housing at an affordable price and stay in the neighbourhood where they have built community and/or where their kids are attending school. The significant increase in housing costs puts a lot of pressure on these tenants who cannot move out until official notice is given otherwise they will forfeit the financial packages that have been offered. This means they will continue to watch housing costs rise and encounter a further gap in affordability depending on when notice is given. One single mom who has children with special needs was especially emotional about the stress of this situation. She said she often loses sleep over it. I am currently in discussion with both City staff and the developers to try to find the best solution.

Upcoming opportunities to Engage

October 18th there will be a community consultation for **Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods (EHON)** in Willowdale (time and location still being secured). The policy changes being proposed for all of Toronto will change building regulations along arterial roads including:

- permission for townhouses and small scale apartment buildings,
- permission for changes to lot patterns to permit lot assembly along major streets, and
- encouragement for a diverse mix of housing types and sizes, through intensification along major streets.

Many residents may have some ideas or concerns about this shift in policy and how it will impact our community. We invite you to participate in our consultation.

Spaghetti Town Halls. We will be hosting a series of townhalls across Willowdale which will provide an opportunity for residents to engage with city staff, voice their concerns, ask questions, and gain insight into future plans for their neighborhood. We will also brainstorm how to improve our neighbourhood. To make the townhalls more fun and provide a great opportunity to meet

neighbours, spaghetti dinners will be served before each townhall! The first meeting for residents of Newtonbrook East, is scheduled for November 23rd. Stay tuned for other locations and dates as well as information on how to sign up!

TTC Town Hall. The TTC will launch the final round of consultations for their 5-Year Service Plan (5YSP) and Customer Experience Action Plan (CXAP) this November. The Finch station (Yonge North Subway Extension Project) falls within our ward and significantly impacts the residents of Willowdale. I advocated for a consultation to be held in our ward which will allow residents to ask questions and share feedback about their TTC experience. The TTC Town Hall will be held at the **North York Central Library** auditorium on **November 24th**. Registration details will be shared in my newsletter.

Christmas Parade. In partnership with NeighbourLink North York, Willowdale will be hosting a Christmas Parade on **November 25th!** Whether this will remain a walking parade or whether we will have floats will depend on community involvement and corporate sponsorship. I am excited to be chairing the Christmas Parade Committee and look forward to working with the community and NeighbourLink to organize this exciting event. This will be a great opportunity to have your school, your organization, your business, parading along with friends and families dressed in holiday gear to rejoice together in community, sharing in holiday cheer! Stay tuned for details on how to participate!

STAY TUNED FOR ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITY! The deadline in August passed for the city to decide to fund **Cummer Station** - which could never have happened given our financial situation. But, we have not given up! Can you imagine downtown Toronto with one less station? The density for Cummer Station is coming and we do not want 5000+ new residents getting in cars to get around. Next week we will be launching a campaign to advocate for the province to fund Cummer Station and for this to be included in discussions for a new deal for Toronto. We will need your help to send letters of advocacy! We hope you will join us and support this important request for investment in infrastructure.

Thanks again for taking the time to read this email newsletter. I hope you can see, my team and I are passionate about building bridges for our community to participate in shaping our neighbourhood! I hope you will join us in many of the engagement opportunities mentioned above.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy your weekend!

Warmest Regards,

Lily Cheng 陳伶俐
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Councillor Lily Cheng

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



So great to meet with Inspector Jackson, PC Jokakelian, Superintendent Belanger and SS Cosgrove to discuss community safety, how our offices can work together and potential road closures for events in the future. We are grateful for their work in serving our community.

Click the links below to find out more about:

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- [Bike Share Station at Finch Subway Station](#)
- [Tree Planting Plans](#)
- [Automated Speed Enforcement Program on Drewry Ave Near Norwin St](#)
- [Toronto Hydro Updates](#)
- [Weekend Construction on Finch Ave](#)
- [Share Your Feedback: Conacher Park Basketball Court Relocation](#)

~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- [2023 Toronto Book Awards Ceremony](#)
- [Apply for a PollinateTO Grant](#)

~ COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

- [Mammothon](#)
- [Clothing Swap](#)
- [Seminar on National Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- [AsialiciousTO 2023](#)
- [FREE Bachata & Salsa Dance Lessons](#)
- [Full Moon Festival: Celebrating East Asian Heritage](#)
- [North York Seniors Centre Fundraiser](#)
- [Celebrate Oktoberfest with Reach North York](#)

COUNCILLOR UPDATES



BIKE SHARE STATION AT FINCH SUBWAY STATION

We are so pleased to announce that our first Bike Share station has now been installed at Finch Subway Station along Bishop Avenue. Bikes will soon fill this station once backend system setup is complete. We look forward to this added mode of transportation being made available in our neighbourhood!

TREE PLANTING PLANS

Urban Forestry's Tree Planting Program is proposing parks and street tree plantings throughout Willowdale this fall in an effort to increase the urban forest canopy cover, increase biodiversity, and reduce storm-water flows.

Please click the button below to see detailed plans for:

- Abbotsford Park
- Ancona Park
- Bishop Park
- Canterbury Place
- Harlandale Parkette
- Lillian Park
- Sheppard East Park

[Learn More](#)

AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ON DREWRY AVE NEAR NORWIN ST

Drewry Ave near Norwin St. will be receiving an Automated Speed Enforcement system during the next rotation planned for December 2023. This program aims to alter driver behaviour to decrease speeding and increase safety. The affected schools include RJ Lang Elementary & Middle School, Willowdale Christian School, Drewry Secondary School, and Monseigneur-De-Charbonnel Catholic Secondary School.

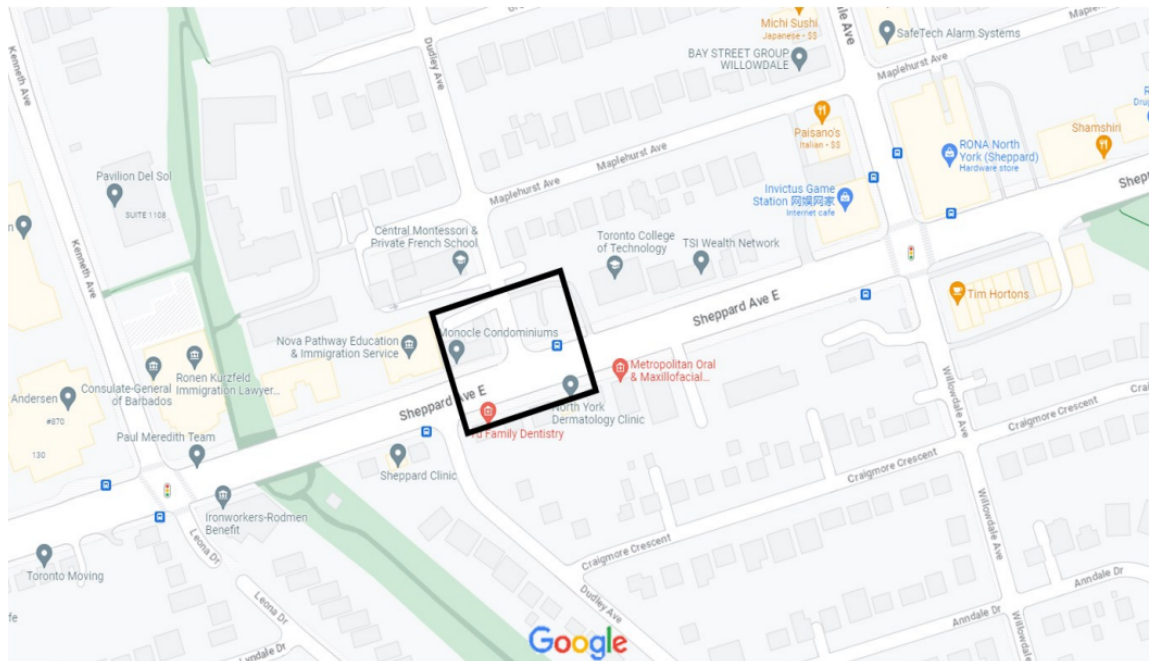
[Learn More](#)

TORONTO HYDRO UPDATES

Toronto Hydro is upgrading the electrical distribution system in our community to improve the reliability of our electrical service. This upgrade includes upgrading overhead electrical cables and installing hydro poles on city-owned property near resident's lot.

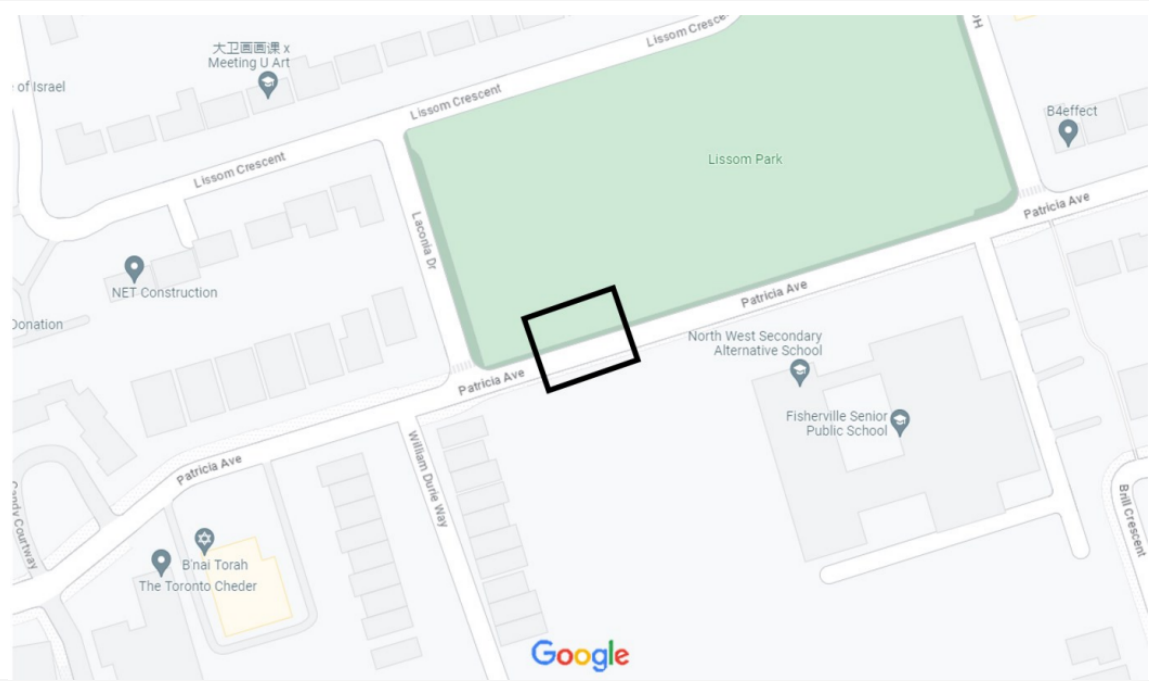
Expected Timeline: Oct 2023 - Jan 2024

1. ELECTRICAL UPGRADE: SHEPPARD - DUDLEY



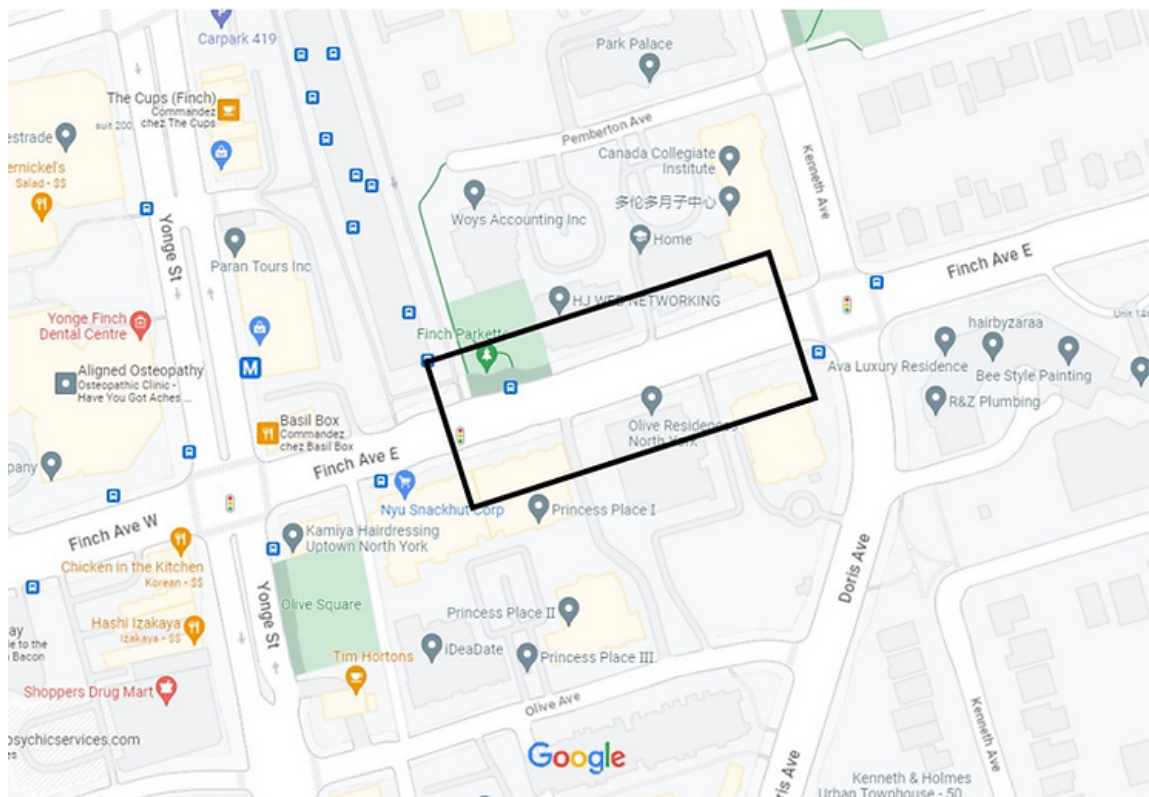
[Learn More: Sheppard - Dudley](#)

2. ELECTRICAL UPGRADE: PATRICIA AVENUE



[Learn More: Patricia Ave](#)

3. OVERHEAD & UNDERGROUND CIVIL & ELECTRICAL WORK: 31 FINCH AVE E



[Learn More: 31 Finch Ave E](#)

WEEKEND CONSTRUCTION ON FINCH AVE

This Saturday, **September 30**, from 9am to approximately 7pm, the City's contractor will be working on Finch Avenue. They want to complete the Milling and Paving on Finch Ave, so they can reopen all lanes on Finch Ave between Senlac Road and Edithvale Drive. The section on Finch Ave between Altamont Road and Lorraine Drive was completed last week. We understand the inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience and cooperation.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK: CONACHER PARK BASKETBALL COURT RELOCATION

The existing basketball court in Conacher Park needs to be relocated due to Toronto Hydro excavation work starting on **September 4, 2023**. The City plans to install a new basketball court within the park and will be collecting community feedback on the proposed location.

Share your thoughts on the proposed location of the new basketball court in an online survey open until **October 11, 2023**. The survey is also available in [Simplified Chinese](#), [Traditional Chinese](#) and [Farsi](#).

[Take the Survey Now](#)

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

2023 TORONTO BOOK AWARDS CEREMONY

The winner of the 2023 Toronto Book Award will be announced at the [North York Central Library](#) on **October 10 at 7 p.m.** Join The Social's Jessica Allen, Toronto Book Award finalists Sophie Jai, Wanda Nanibush, Georgiana Uhlyarik and Sheila Murray, and other notable Torontonians to celebrate the creativity and diversity of Toronto's literary community. [Find more information about the shortlisted titles](#) and [register to attend](#) the free ceremony.

“ HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO HELP OUR POLLINATOR HEROES !

PollinateTO Grant
applications are open now!

APPLY FOR A POLLINATE TO GRANT AND RECEIVE UP TO **\$5000**
TO CREATE A POLLINATOR HABITAT IN OUR CITY !

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **Oct 25, 2023**
LEARN MORE AT: toronto.ca/pollinateTO

COUNCILLOR CHENG

APPLY FOR A POLLINATE TO GRANT

The City is accepting applications for the next round of [PollinateTO Grants](#)! Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to support community-led initiatives that create or expand pollinator habitats in Toronto's public and private lands.

Funding projects in Toronto's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas is a priority this year. Community groups, not-for-profit organizations, student groups, parent councils and other resident-led groups are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted until Wednesday, **October 25**, with gardens to be planted in 2024.

[Apply Now](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

TAKE ACTION.
GET YOUR MAMMOGRAM!

mammothon

A BREAST SCREENING MARATHON

Participate in Mammothon if you:

- ✓ are a woman aged 50-74 years
- ✓ have not had a mammogram in the last two years
- ✓ have no history of breast cancer
- ✓ are a resident of Ontario

Walk In or Book an Appointment at NYGH's Participating Sites by Calling 416-756-6931. No Doctor Referral Needed!

September 30, 2023

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

NYGH General site
4001 Leslie St.
BMO Breast Diagnostic
Clinic, 1st Flr

October 3, 2023

8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

NYGH Outpatient and
Community Services
Centre
2 Champagne Dr.,
Unit E7

October 5, 2023

8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

NYGH Outpatient and
Community Services
Centre
2 Champagne Dr.,
Unit E7

For more info and other participating sites, visit mammothon.ca

Central
Regional Cancer Program
Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario)

NORTH YORK
GENERAL



CLOTHING SWAP

Hosted by St. Theodore Church



SAINT THEODORE OF CANTERBURY

111 Cactus Avenue, Toronto



SEP 30, 2023

Saturday
10:00am - 2:00pm

Learning about the Indigenous Experience
September 30, 2023 @
2:00 p.m.

Learn about the Children who Never Came Home

Presented by: Jeffrey Yang

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Funded by the
Government of Canada's
New Horizons for Seniors Program | **Canada**

The [Bayview Cumber Neighbourhood Association](#) is hosting an Indigenous seminar on Truth and Reconciliation for First Nations on on Sep 30 at 2pm.

Click [Here](#) or use Meeting ID: 842 2373 3717 and Passcode: 331615 to join the Zoom meeting.

ASIA LICIOUS™ TO 2023

SEPT 16 - OCT 1

ENJOY \$10/20/30/40 MENUS
FROM THE BEST ASIAN CUISINE IN TOWN

[View All North York Participating Venues](#)

BACHATA & SALSA DANCE LESSONS



FREE BACHATA AND SALSA REGISTER FOR FREE WEEKLY DANCE LESSONS (MUST BRING OWN PARTNER)

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHTS 7:30 to 8:30 PM 280 Otonabee St. Agnes Catholic School

Funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program







Full Moon Festival: Celebrating East Asian Heritage

Sunday, October 1, 2 pm-6 pm
North York Centre

Join us for a free celebration with food demonstrations, family-friendly activities, and prizes! All are welcome.

Food Demonstrations:

Matcha
Songpyeon



Activities:

Origami
Calligraphy



Hear community recipe stories and learn about East Asian food heritage.



Register early to receive a free mooncake at the event!*



Event Location and TTC access

Tsukimi
月見

Follow @heritagetoronto on social media for event updates and the chance to win prizes!



Mid-Autumn Festival

*Offer only available to the first 200 registrants. Limit of one mooncake per person.

[Learn More](#)



BETTER WITH AGE:

RELIEVE THE MOMENT!

ABBAMANIA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023
Doors Open at 5:30 pm

📍 **Bayview Golf and Country Club**

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!
Ticket prices will increase on September 1st.



CALL THE ALC PROGRAMS TEAM AT 416 733 4111 TO GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

[Learn More](#)



Oktoberfest

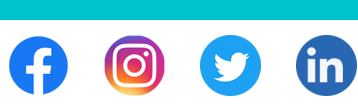
October 14

Fair Games | Face Painting
Bouncy Castle | Crafts
Brezels | Sausages
Biergarten | Live Music

Saturday, October 14
3 - 10 PM
236 Finch Ave East
free admission | goods for purchase

[Learn More](#)

Let's Connect on Social



If this email was forwarded to you and you'd like to receive such community updates, you can sign up for our newsletter at www.lilycheng.ca

Building a Connected Community in Willowdale.

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