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Dear Neighbour!

Many people in our community continue to carry the pain of the Israel/Gaza War. A friend of mine who lost family in a previous war finds all news and images of war very difficult to deal with. Those who carry existing trauma can find it hard to stay afloat in a sea of terrible news. Let us continue being kind and gentle with each other, even when it is not reciprocated. Let us keep checking in on our friends who may be struggling at this time. It is only in holding each other through this difficult moment that we can prevent the evil and violence that has transpired from dragging us into darkness. How fitting that this weekend we will be celebrating Diwali at Mel Lastman Square - a festival that is all about light over darkness. We pray and hope that justice and peace will prevail in our world.

Park Parties are a Great Pathway to Democracy!

We are grateful for all the community members who joined us for the **Grand Opening of Holmes Park**. I met the designer of the park who was pleased to see all the children playing. Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Team was pleased to have strong participation in their consultation for Phase 2 of the park that will see Holmes Park more than double in size! This is one of the newest parks along our Yonge Street corridor and we want to make it great! Please come out **TOMORROW** for a **Community Playdate and Consultation**. We will be serving popcorn and **Play Mobile** will be present offering residents a chance to try many different sports and activities!

Participating in consultations that shape the future of our community is part of participating in democracy. It isn't always easy to get people to come out for a "consultation meeting." However, consultation hosted alongside a park party is the best way to get people out. If only all our participation in democracy could be this fun!

A small win at Toronto Police Services Board

One of the hardest things about working as a City Councillor is the change we are able to make is often slow and incremental. My team and I are often frustrated along with constituents at the pace of getting things done. Yet, the longer I sit in this seat, the more I understand the difficulties of moving within a large organization with many staffing shortages and liability considerations. That being said, yesterday I experienced perhaps one of my most meaningful incremental wins. A few months ago I moved a motion at Toronto Police Services Board that officers conducting a search warrant would give consideration to children and vulnerable adults who might be inhabiting the space. Yesterday an update was given that checking in on children and vulnerable adults would now be included in the checklist officers are given when executing a search warrant and that a list of resources that includes these demographics would be provided for support related to the aftermath of having your home searched.

The seed for this motion was planted many years ago when I ran a basketball drop in for youth from under resourced communities. We held a special event where youth played basketball with officers and shared dinner together. During that dinner, we had some honest conversations and one young person shared the trauma they carried from a search warrant executed on a sibling and the resulting fear of police officers. When search warrant procedures were presented at the board meeting I noticed that while instructions were given for encountering residents in a state of undress, there were no specific instructions on how to support children.

The policy is still being fine-tuned, but it is a step in the right direction, that officers would take a moment during a search and address children in the space who may feel scared or traumatized. I am grateful for the opportunity to make this small but meaningful change in how search warrants are executed in Toronto.

[Click Here](#) to view the update presentation.

More about Toronto Police Services Board (TPSB)

With over 400 pages of briefing notes (considered a light agenda), the TPSB is always a marathon meeting with many regular debutants. Half of the day is spent in public session while the other half is confidential due to the sensitive nature of some of the work being done by the police. It has been great to have Deputy Mayor Amber Morley and Councillor Jon Burnside join the board with me. I appreciate the questions posed by my colleagues. It was decided between us that given my time on the board, I would sit on the TPSB Budget Committee. It will be interesting to navigate being on both this committee and the City of Toronto Budget Committee. We all know there are tough decisions to be made on the road ahead.

Newtonbrook Creek Restoration and Water Infrastructure Protection

Many residents enjoy hiking along the Newtonbrook Creek along the hydro corridor in Newtonbrook East which can also be enjoyed on the east side of Bayview. If you haven't visited, you should definitely take a hike during this beautiful fall season! I had the chance to participate this week in a consultation tour with neighbouring Councillor Shelley Carroll. In some places, city infrastructure, including sewage pipes, is starting to become exposed and is at risk of being compromised which would result in contamination. As a result, the city is embarking on a multi-year restoration program that will require re-routing the creek and rehabilitating the infrastructure. This will require the removal of many trees, however, in another similar restoration project, the area has bounced back with foliage and animals after restoration in a few short years.

[Click Here](#) to see a map of the risk areas.

[Click Here](#) to learn more about this project.

North York Community Council

This past week's council was my first time chairing the committee because Councillor Pasternak could not be present. Unlike most council meeting, we had a large number of deputants, many of whom were from an organization called "No Demovictions." They spoke in support of residents of 48 Grenoble Drive (Ward 16) who will have to move out as their building will be demolished for a new development. The good news is that these residents will get rental replacement which means after the construction is complete, current residents will have the right to move back into a similar size unit with similar rent. Here are their main complaints:

- Having to be displaced is very disruptive and stressful, especially for seniors who have raised their families in the community.
- Not enough multilingual engagement was done and many residents do not understand the process nor the supports that will be provided.
- The building is still in good condition and does not need to be torn down.
- Residents dependent on their cars were not guaranteed they could rent a parking space in the new building.

Unfortunately, the city cannot stop land owners from developing their properties and there is also a great need for housing across the city. However, we must ensure a supportive pathway for residents caught in this situation. Councillor Burnside moved an amendment requiring further community consultation as well as matching parking provision with new tenants.

Because of the many deputants, the meeting ran longer than expected and different councillors had to jump on and off the meeting, making it difficult for us to maintain quorum. It was a bit of a circus for me as a first-time chair of the meeting! We ended up deferring a few items to the next meeting because of time constraint and loss of quorum. I am grateful for City Clerks who supported me through the meeting. Here are a few of the Willowdale items:

[NY8.12 - 16-28 Centre Avenue](#) - Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment

I moved that the item be forwarded to City Council without recommendation. The reason for this is because I believe to build a vibrant community, we need commercial and amenity space on the ground floor. It also increases safety to have more pedestrians in the area. This development is across the street from the only park in the Yonge North York Secondary Plan. In the weeks before council, I will be advocating for minimum gross floor area for commercial space. Developers get more money from selling residential and they are afraid of vacant commercial properties. However, we can see, there are many successful areas of commercial space that are on side streets off of Yonge south of Finch including Northtown Way and Spring Garden Blvd. I am advocating for a walkable and vibrant future for the northern part of our ward.

[NY8.14-17 - 3358-3362 Bayview Avenue](#) - The houses are dilapidated and awaiting development. Usually demolitions are only granted when there is a building permit. In this case, the developer believes it will be 4 more years before they get to building permit stage. At a time of a housing crisis we should be discouraging developers from allowing houses to become unlivable. Many landowners would rather not deal with having tenants due to the complexity of eviction processes. Furthermore, once demolished, we also cease to collect vacant home tax. I originally moved to stop these demolitions. However, the will of my fellow councillors was to allow it due to the state of the houses and

because a plan for development was in place. Unfortunately, you cannot win every issue you stand up for.

Major Streets Study

In an effort to add more density, the city is looking at allowing for mid rise apartments and townhouses along major arteries. This would impact roads like Sheppard, Steeles, Bayview, Finch and Bathurst. Many people came out to the consultation held in the North York Atrium this past week. [Click Here](#) to view the study and [Click Here](#) to view the identified opportunities map. I did notice some developers came out for the consultation - likely planning for future land assemblies and opportunities.

Korean War Memorial

This past week I had the honour of attending a special concert in celebration of the 70 years since the armistice of the Korean War as well as 60 years of the Korea-Canada relationship. We gave a well deserved lengthy applause to the veterans in attendance. It is moving to know many Canadians fought in Korea alongside allies in support of freedom. More than 26,000 Canadians served. 516 Canadians sacrificed their lives. Because of this war Canada has a very special relationship with the Korean community - many of whom live in Willowdale. [Click Here](#) to learn more.

Lee Lifeson Alcohol in Park Pilot Extension

After some consideration, I have decided to extend the pilot until March 31. A majority of those who filled out our survey were in favour of the extension and it allows us to monitor fall and winter impact of this pilot.

I hope to see some of you this weekend at our [Neighbourhood Playdate at Holmes Park](#) tomorrow morning (11-2pm) OR perhaps we can all enjoy some delicious Indian food this weekend at [Diwalicious at Mel Lastman Square](#). Have a fabulous weekend!

Warmest Regards,

 陳伶俐
Lily Cheng

Councillor Lily Cheng

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



The grand opening of Holmes Park in Willowdale was a great success! Families and neighbours gathered to celebrate with ice cream and local singer-songwriter Matt Gerber entertained us with his fun songs.

Scroll down to find out more about:

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- Community Pop-Up Event at Holmes Park
- Willowdale Bike Share Grand Opening & Community Bike Ride
- Planning Community Consultation Online Event
- Fight For Cummer Station
- TTC Townhall for Willowdale
- Petition: Save Ontario's Science Centre

~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- Weekend Subway Closures: Finch - St. Clair
- Silverview Park Improvement Survey
- Short-Term Rental Implementation Update
- Finch Station Bus Terminal Improvements
- Property Tax, Water & Solid Waste Relief Programs
- Small Business Forum
- Construction Street Closure: Finch Ave West

~ COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

- Beethoven Fifth's Symphony
- Fall Fair at St. Joseph's Morrow Park
- Celebrate Oktoberfest with Reach North York
- 100th Anniversary of St. Edward Catholic School
- Diwalicious at Mel Lastman Square
- Haunted House
- Pop Up Artisan Market
- 2023 Christmas Market Vendor Application is Open
- North York Diwali Fest at Mel Lastman Square
- FREE Bachata & Salsa Dance Lessons

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

COMMUNITY POP-UP EVENT AT HOLMES PARK

Join us for a fun [NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAYDATE](#) at Holmes Park on Saturday, October 21st, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.! [WE WANT YOUR INPUT](#) to shape the second phase of Holmes Park, set to double in size. Play Mobile will be available for participants to explore various sports and learn how to become a City Sports Instructor! Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

[Know More](#)



Hosted by:
Councillor Lily Cheng

WILLOWDALE BIKE SHARE GRAND OPENING & COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

Let's celebrate our first Bike Share Station and ride the hydro corridor together!

Willowdale Bike Share grand opening and community bike ride will happen on [Sat. Oct 28 at 2 pm](#). Click below to register for the ride and the chance to win a free 1-year Bike Share membership.

[Register Now!](#)

PLANNING COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ONLINE EVENT

Join us in an [online community consultation](#) to discuss [10-18 Abitibi](#) and an information session about [33-43 Centre Ave.](#) on [Oct 23 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm](#).

The application for 10-18 Abitibi Avenue proposes the development of a 50-storey (160.4 metres) mixed use building, which would include 534 dwelling units and 186.2 square metres of retail/commercial gross floor area at-grade. The application also proposes 97 vehicle parking spaces within three levels of underground parking, as well as 412 bicycle parking spaces.

We will also discuss about the development application at 33-43 Centre Avenue. The application was appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal ("OLT") and will be considered for approval by the OLT. The application proposes four blocks of 4-storey (13.4 metres) buildings. Two of the proposed buildings would be back-to-back stacked townhouses and two would be low-rise apartments. A total of 146 dwelling units are proposed as well as 143 vehicle parking spaces on one level of underground parking, as well as 112 bicycle parking spaces.

[Register Now!](#)

FIGHT FOR CUMMER STATION!

10,400+ PEOPLE COMING*
... AND MANY MORE EXPECTED

5,000+ PEOPLE CURRENTLY LIVE THERE*

ACT NOW!

*0.8km radius surrounding Yonge and Cummer

- Existing Apartment Buildings
- Proposed/Approved/Under-construction Developments

Thank you to all who came out to support our 'FIGHT FOR CUMMER STATION' RALLY, and to all those who sent their Cummer Station Advocacy Letters to our provincial officials. We need continued support from our community for our voices to be heard loud and clear! Our provincial government should take urgent action to include Cummer Station in the Yonge North Subway Extension Project. Let's fight for Willowdale's future. **CUMMER STATION NEEDS TO BE BUILT.** Please continue to send your letters!

[Email Now!](#)

LET'S JOIN

TTC TOWN HALL

CONSULTATION SESSION

Help shape TTC's 5-Year Service Plan and Customer Experience Action Plan

NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
5120 Yonge Street, Toronto, M2N 5N9

NOV 24, 2023
Friday, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

HOSTED BY:
LILY CHENG
CITY COUNCILLOR WARD 18, WILLOWDALE

RSVP AT
LILYCHENG.CA/EVENTS

[RSVP Now!](#)

PETITION: SAVE ONTARIO'S SCIENCE CENTRE

Save Ontario's Science Centre needs your help to send a message that Ontarians care about the Ontario Science Centre. **Send a letter** to provincial officials, our Mayor and my fellow City Councillors. Demand that proper investments are made in the Ontario Science Centre so that it continues to be a world class educational institution that Ontarians can be proud of and enjoy for decades to come.

[Act Now!](#)

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

WEEKEND SUBWAY CLOSURES: FINCH - ST CLAIR

Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22, 2023, there will be no subway service on Line 1 Yonge-University between St Clair and Finch stations due to track and signal upgrades. Shuttle buses will operate.

Regular service will resume on Monday, October 23, 2023, by 6 a.m. St Clair and Finch are both accessible stations. If you require a connection at a station that may not be accessible, just ask any TTC employee for assistance.

North York Centre Station will be closed. All other stations will remain open for you to load your PRESTO card, purchase PRESTO tickets and connect to surface routes.

[Learn More](#)

SILVERVIEW PARK IMPROVEMENT SURVEY

The second online survey for Silverview Park is available on the project [webpage](#) in multiple languages: English, Korean, Farsi, Chinese (traditional), and Chinese (simplified). The survey closes on **October 30th**.

[Take the Survey Now!](#)

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE OF THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL BYLAW

In-Person meeting on Oct 24
Online survey by Oct 30

LEARN MORE AT:
toronto.ca/ShortTermRentalUpdate

COUNCILLOR CHENG

[Learn More](#)

FINCH STATION BUS TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS

The TTC will be upgrading bus bays at Finch Station from **Oct 2023 to Oct 2024**. During construction, bus bays will be taken out of service. Efforts will be made to keep noise, dust, and vibration associated with construction to minimum levels.

[Learn More](#)

RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR PROPERTY TAX, WATER, AND SOLID WASTE

Tuesday, **October 31**, is the last day for low-income seniors and low-income people with a disability to apply for Property Tax, Water and Solid Waste Relief Programs.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

SMALL BUSINESS FORUM



OCT 30

TORONTO | Ontario | Desjardins | TORONTO STAR

SMALL BUSINESS FORUM

Experience the City of Toronto's free full-day, in-person signature event in support of small businesses. The forum features main stage programming with keynote speakers and expert panels from a wide range of sectors, as well as the Nobellum Pitch Competition, breakout rooms, small group speed mentoring, a vibrant Indigenous Market and a trade show hosting a diverse display of small business services and goods providers. Only electricity from renewable energy sources will be used at the forum.

Date: Monday, October 30, 2023

Location: Metro Toronto Convention Centre (opens in new window), South Building, Level 800, Exhibit Halls F & G

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Register Now!](#)

CONSTRUCTION STREET CLOSURE

There will be construction street closure for pavement restoration on Finch Ave West on Oct 21, 2023 from 9am to 5pm.

COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE



**BEETHOVEN
5TH SYMPHONY
October 21**

[Buy Tickets Now](#)

FALL FAIR 23'

OCTOBER 21, 2023

Live Music | Games | Food | Fun

DOORS OPEN AT 12 PM!
AT 3338 BAYVIEW AVENUE | ST JOSEPH'S MORROW PARK

\$5 ENTRY FEE | CHILDREN UNDER 5 ARE FREE
ENTRY COMES WITH **FREE PHOTOBOOTH PICTURE**

St. Edward Catholic School

**100TH BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION**

Saturday October 21, 2023

10:30 am mass at St. Edward the Confessor Church

1- 4 pm Take a walk down memory lane through the halls of St. Edward Catholic School

Enjoy a sweet treat at the bake sale and make sure to buy some limited edition St. Ed's birthday merch!
(cash only)

RSVP: <https://forms.office.com/r/k4YXH6LA05>

[RSVP Now!](#)



plus
Presents

DiValicious

TASTE OF DIWALI
Mel Lastman Square - North York
OCTOBER 21-22
12PM-10PM

- FUN & MASTI
- LIVE PERFORMANCES
- FREEBIES FROM SPONSORS
- FUN CHALLENGES
- KIDS ACTIVITIES
- LOTS OF FOOD

Funded in Part By  Ontario  Canada 

Community Sponsor 

[Learn More](#)



**SPOOKYSIDE UP
HAUNTED HOUSE**

**OCTOBER
27TH, 28TH, 29TH & 31ST**
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
34 PARKVIEW AVE

ALL AGES

FREE AND PAID ATTRACTIONS
BOUNCY CASTLE | GAMES | FACE PAINT | PERFORMERS | RAFFLE

[Learn More](#)



NOV 4 & 5
10:00 AM TO 4:00PM

**ARTISAN
MARKET**

food, art, wares, home decor

John Mckenzie Historic House
34 Parkview Ave, North York, M2N 3Y2

[Learn More](#)



**NeighbourLink
NORTH YORK**

**OUR 2023 CHRISTMAS MARKET
VENDOR APPLICATION IS OPEN!**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25 AT MEL LASTMAN SQUARE

[Learn More](#)

MOKSHA
CANADA FOUNDATION

In Association With

SoLoMo Presents **RAPA**

North York Diwali Fest
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Music | Food | Arts
Live Entertainment

NOV 11TH, 11AM - 9PM
Mel Lastman Square

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

Call for Sponsors & Vendors
Sam - 647 831 7223 : Deep - 647 546 3377

For Artist Opportunity
Rashmi Mishra - 437 258 3065
events@mokshacanada.com

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

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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