



# LILY CHENG

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## Hi Neighbour!

Happy Family Day Weekend! Perhaps the snow will stay long enough for us to toboggan!

### Happening Tomorrow!

This Saturday, at Mel Lastman Square, **Yonge North York Enchanted Lights is bringing the rhythms of INDIAN CULTURE** with Madhurageetham 101.3 FM! It will be a great night featuring performances by Hrikdha Ashok's - Saatwika Dance Company, talented singers Sandeep Mohan and Rinchu Gibin, along with DJ Frz. Don't miss out on mouth-watering food! The opening ceremony starts at 6:30 PM! Visit **Enchanted Lights: A Celebration of Cultures February 17 from 5pm to 10pm**. For more information: [yongenorthyork.com/enchantedlights](http://yongenorthyork.com/enchantedlights)

### Happening Feb. 24 - Our own Willowdale Lunar New Year celebration!

There will be an **LED Lion Dance at Mel Lastman Square at 6:30pm!** Please RSVP for the day of activities: [www.lilycheng.ca/events](http://www.lilycheng.ca/events) Here is the rundown:

#### North York Atrium - 1-9pm

- Fun & Yum Vendors
- Taiwanese Snacks

#### North York Atrium - 2-6pm

- FREE! Bubble Tea from Fantuan
- Cultural Performances
- Live Music
- Tea Demonstration
- Children's Crafts
- Pictures with the God of Fortune
- Calligraphy Demonstrations

#### North York Library - 1-3:30pm

- Bilingual Mandarin/English Story Time
- Dragon Craft Drop-In (Auditorium)

#### Mel Lastman Square - 5-10pm

- **LED Lion Dance (6:30pm)**
- Outdoor Stage Performances including martial arts!
- Enchanted Lights
- Roving Performers
- Food Vendors

### Willowdale Youth Council Launch

An amazing group of young people(age 16-25), gathered at the library last night to talk about issues and ideas. In a pre-meeting survey, they identified these top 6 issues:

1. Community Safety
2. Loneliness & Disconnection
3. Parks/Green Spaces and recreational facilities
4. Housing Crisis
5. Traffic Management
6. Youth Challenges and Concerns

It was a wonderful opportunity to hear their concerns and ideas. They highlighted the importance of libraries as an important third space for youth and the lack of local alternatives to North York Central Library which is very crowded. They would like to see more youth hubs and group study spaces in our community. They had many creative ideas which we look forward to actioning alongside them towards empowering young people to have a voice in shaping our community. I also want to thank Metro for sponsoring the pizza at our event. If you are a young person and missed our first meeting, you can join the next meeting which will be announced in this newsletter.

### New Park slated for Beecroft & Kempford

In partnership with the **Parent Council of St. Cyril Catholic School**, we will be developing their asphalt school yard into a park that can be shared with community members on evenings and weekends. The Parks division has identified this pocket as an area of our neighbourhood with great density that would benefit from access to further park amenities which this project can help facilitate. Please join us **Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30pm at St. Cyril** for a consultative discussion on a much needed amenity for our community and for the school! [Click Here](#) to fill out the survey. [Click Here](#) to RSVP for the consultation.

### The City of Toronto Budget

Many of you will have heard that the Mayor's budget has now been finalized at the Special Council Meeting that happened on Valentine's Day. The budget includes an 8% increase in Property Taxes and 1.5% increase in the City Building Levy. Here is a table that includes increased cost per day as well as total cost per day as requested by a newsletter reader.

	2023 Property Taxes	9.5% Increase (8% Property, 1.5% Levy)	Difference	Increased cost per day	Total cost per day (365 day year)
<b>Tax Paid for avg. Home (\$694,381)</b>	\$4,626.48	\$4,908.35	\$281.87	\$0.77	\$13.45
<b>Tax paid for \$1 Million Home</b>	6662.74	7068.68	405.94	\$1.11	\$19.37
<b>Tax paid for \$2 Million Home</b>	13325.48	14137.36	811.88	\$2.22	\$38.73
<b>Tax paid for \$3 Million Home</b>	19988.22	21206.04	1217.82	\$3.34	\$58.10
<b>Tax paid for \$4 Million Home</b>	26650.96	28274.72	1623.76	\$4.45	\$77.46

### Why did you vote for the increase?

In fact, council did not have the opportunity to vote on the specific tax rate. Instead, motions were passed specific to services and programs for which offsets had to be identified. This is due to the Strong Mayor powers that were granted by the province.

### Was windrow service restored?

Yes!

### Why the big increase?

Here are a few cost drivers the city has had to grapple with:

- Multiple years of below inflation tax increases. There is much work that needs to be done to restore our city.
- Shelter and Supports for increasing numbers of both the unhoused and refugee claimants. Although some of the money will now be reimbursed by the Federal government - we continue to have to stretch our capacity as the city with the largest shelter bed per capita rate in Canada.
- The post-Covid normal continues to change our landscape with labour shortages, supply chain challenges and changes to the way we work. While increases in cost due to Covid were supported by the province and federal government in the past, we now have to baseline our budget as the new normal.
- TTC ridership continues to lag, however the cost of operating the system continues to grow. Due to the importance of well-funded transit for climate change and to prevent triggering a downward spiral in ridership, the city has frozen fares while working towards restoring and improving service.
- While we celebrate the upload of the Gardiner and DVP, downloads are still happening including 50% of the cost of administering childcare across our city which was previously covered by the province.
- This budget does not cut services. Instead it is making these key investments:
  - 450 new shelter beds for refugee claimant response
  - Expand Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition program (MURA) to retain affordable housing stock in the city
  - Further funding for eviction prevention including: rent bank, tenant support program, Eviction Prevention in Community Program, Homelessness Prevention Program and Multi-Tenant Housing Program
  - Additional funding for city-supported drop-in centres for the unhoused or those at risk of homelessness
  - Freeze TTC fares
  - Build Scarborough Busway
  - Hire 160 TTC workers to improve safety and wellbeing
  - Develop Home Energy rating and disclosures framework
  - Expand Toronto Community Crisis Service city-wide
  - Hire more firefighters, paramedics, police officers and civilian staff

- o Increase community grants focused on youth violence prevention

### What changed at the council budget meeting?

- Additional funding for community safety, violence prevention and wellbeing programs
- Funds to water, prune and plant more trees and make it easier to access home energy retrofit programs
- Support for economic development, culture and artists city-wide
- Restoration of windrow snow clearing services
- Additional funding for Black Creek Pioneer Village
- Support emergent priorities, unique costs and staffing needs of the Toronto Police Service.

### Does the city have a deficit?

The city is not allowed to run a deficit with our operational budget. The budget process opened with a \$1.776 billion pressure due to the impact of refugee claimants, shelter spaces and decreasing transit users. We would have had to increase property taxes by 42% to cover this pressure. Instead, efficiencies and offsets were found to the tune of \$620 million. Combined with expected Federal funding, the resulting property tax increase necessary to balance the budget was the rate increase announced in the Mayor's Budget (8% for Property Taxes, 1.5% for City Building Levy).

### Do you agree with the tax increase and budget?

It is hard to agree to something I know will be a difficult burden to bear for many. At the same time, I see the pressures on the city. Our population is growing and the impacts of homelessness, mental health, addiction and increase in refugee claimants have deep impacts on our operations. As the cost of living increases, so too has the cost of operating the city. Furthermore, most of us can agree that we must take care of the most vulnerable in our city which increases the quality of life for everyone.

In his closing speech at Budget Committee, Councillor Gord Perks made the point that Property Taxes allow us to group buy things that would cost us a lot of money to buy individually such as snow plowing, water delivery and waste pick up. We may not use all the services paid for by the city, but our combined investment can improve the overall quality of life for everyone.

**Does the city have layers of bureaucracy that need to be trimmed?** I look forward to the divisional reviews the city manager is planning on undertaking with business processes such as Lean Six Sigma. Although we cannot easily take a big knife and cut \$42 million (1% of property tax increase), my hope is that these reviews can help us make more laser focused decisions that will make the city leaner and more agile. I will report back as this process gets underway.

### What would you do differently?

- Consider Open Tendering. Currently, Toronto is the only city in Ontario that does not practice open tendering. This limits competitiveness that comes at a cost to the city. [Click Here](#) to read a commentary in The Toronto Star. [Click Here](#) to read Globe and Mail commentary.
- As a budget committee member, I would have like to have been presented with a deeper level of spreadsheets. We were given very high level reports to review and did not get the guts of the divisions. This would take more time, but I think it would be more helpful.
- The Budget 2025 Process has already begun. Conceptually, it would be great if councillors could be paired up and each be assigned a division for a deeper review. The breadth and complexity of the city make it difficult for us to have a line of sight into each division. That being said, our schedules are so full, it would be hard to find the bandwidth needed.
- Examine how recreation centres operate to optimize finances while still maintaining affordability and accessibility, including community centres that offer free programs to see how these resources can be allocated in a way that best supports vulnerable families.
- We need to get out of the exorbitant cost of shelter hotels. We should be investing in community-based shelters and help them scale up instead of inviting charities to operate industrialized mega-shelters.

If you have any other ideas please feel free to send them to me.

### Why did you vote for the police to receive their full increase?

I have spent the past year getting to know the police as a member of the board and through many opportunities working with 32 Division. What I can see is their resources are stretched and there is a level of exhaustion across the system. While public respect for the profession has dropped, our officers continue to run towards danger as part of their job. Due to several hiring freezes that happened in previous years and ongoing separations due to retirement, the police force has many gaps in front line and supervisory roles. It takes many years of experience to become a supervisor so we need a strong hiring pipeline to protect for future capacity. A 22-minute response time to Level 1 emergencies is unacceptable. We must build out our complement to allow for faster responses.

Here are a few other reasons to consider:

- Policing in Toronto is harder than many cities in Ontario. Retention becomes a challenge because other municipalities pay similar salaries with lower risk, complexity and cost of living.
- International issues impact Toronto. There have been 307+ protests since October 7.
- We have many large events such as the upcoming FIFA tournament, Raptors, Leafs and more.
- 87 out of 108 consular offices in Ontario are located in Toronto.
- 22% of all Canadian human trafficking happens in Toronto.
- Major crimes have gone up including auto thefts, break and enters and assault.
- The population of Toronto has grown in recent years by the size of the City of London that has 800 officers in their police force. Meanwhile, the the number of new officers has barely grown, if at all. The ratio of police officer to population increased between 2000 and 2010, from 200 to 215.8, and then declined quite remarkably, reaching 161.6 in 2019. In 2021, the rate of police officers had risen slightly, to 169.3, before decreasing again in 2022.
- Currently, the police force has 25% retirement eligibility in officers and 25% with less than 5 years experience.
- Police are increasingly dependent on video evidence from surveillance cameras and body-worn cameras. There are significant costs to the processing and storage of these videos including manual redactions for court submissions.

I remain committed with my fellow board members to bringing the reform and accountability many would like to see. This includes a multi-year hiring plan that can help us build a multi-year budget. There are definitely things that can be improved, however, we must build their capacity while making these changes. Having enough supervisors and experienced officers is important for the long-term sustainability of the police service. Having enough police officers is not just about safety, it is also about justice. We need police to gather the evidence and make the necessary disclosures to ensure criminals are held accountable. We have seen an increased brazenness of criminality which I hope can be mitigated as we invest in TPS.

### Final comments on the budget

**If we want to be a visionary city we need a visionary budget. This cannot happen without a new fiscal framework.** I am grateful we did not make cuts to services in this budget. However, there is much room to grow in how we invest in infrastructure and state of good repair. There are also many more upstream investments that could be made for better outcomes for the most vulnerable in our city. We see the challenges with growing homelessness, mental health and addiction issues that touch upon almost every division in our city. Our structural deficit takes away from our ability to fulfill our potential as Toronto the Good.

We are grateful for the New Deal thus far, but the only path towards a bright future for Toronto is a new fiscal framework that includes revenue tools that grow with our population and economy. I will say it again, Toronto has the size and complexity of a province, but we do not have the budget or authority to do what is needed for the people we serve.

The most important thing we can do is to commit to working together to amplify the need for a new fiscal framework. Cities across Canada are united in asking for this. [Click Here](#) to hear what some of them are saying. We cannot accept an apocalyptic SOGR. We need visionary investments and sustainable funding for the robust social services needed to bring healing and support to the most vulnerable in our communities. We need to build critical infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing population.

I believe in the nickname Toronto the Good. Good services, good support, and good infrastructure all depend on a good budget. A new fiscal framework is how we get there. I am grateful to know the Mayor and City Manager continue to sit at tables with our higher orders of government to discuss this.

### 26 to 38 Hounslow Ave Development Consultation Recap

On Monday evening I attended a virtual consultation for 26 to 38 Hounslow Avenue. The applicant is proposing a 24 storey building with 305 units, 264 bike parking spots, and 80 parking spots. [Click here](#) to learn more about the application.

Here are some of the key items discussed:

**Concern:** 80 parking spots is not enough for a proposal of this size. Residents are concerned this will result in overflow parking impacting the surrounding area.

**Response:** Due to parking requirement bylaws, there are no longer parking minimums on new developments. Further, the development is close to higher order transit (subway).

**Concern:** Future traffic congestion

**Response:** A traffic impact study was completed and showed that the impact of this project would be negligible. Traffic impact studies look at existing traffic during peak hours, and all future developments in the catchment area to anticipate future traffic. Results showed that on average there would be 70 trips during peak AM and PM hours. The future ReImagine Yonge implementation will include lights at Horsham and Yonge which will help.

**Concern:** Developers incorporated a walkway that is owned by a private building into their proposal and aim to beautify the walkway

**Response:** Applicants are not relying on the walkway for their development and have proper set backs. The development will use the design of their properties to enhance the area alongside the pathway.

**Concern:** A resident of 5418 Yonge St that currently has a westward unobstructed view asked if they might be compensated for the loss of value of their unit.

**Response:** Residents will not be compensated for their loss of unobstructed views and potential impact on property value.

**Concern:** Many residents expressed concern for the increase in density in the area with a tower being built on the properties of 4 houses.

**Response:** The area is zoned for mixed use and this development fits into the secondary plan with other highrises abutting Beecroft north and south of the applicant's site.

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.

Hope you have a restful weekend with many opportunities to connect with friends and loved ones. It saddens me to know we are the loneliest city in Canada. Let's change this together by reaching out and inviting friends and neighbours to join us! Perhaps you can organize a meet up at the Enchanted Lights events.

Warmest Regards,

 陳伶俐  
Lily Cheng 陈伶俐

**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](#)
- [Caswell Park Playground Improvements Survey](#)
- [Willowdale Celebrates Lunar New Year Lantern Festival](#)
- [Goulding Community Centre State of Good Repair Project Update](#)
- [RapidTO Plans in Willowdale](#)
- [Toronto Hydro Construction Notice](#)
- [New Shared Park Consultation](#)

**~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES**

- [Paid On-street Parking on Statutory Holidays](#)
- [Ontario's One Fare Program](#)
- [Heritage Register Review: Public Information Session](#)
- [Toronto Public Health Strategic Planning](#)

**~ COMMUNITY UPDATES**

- [Spoken word poetry workshops at Gibson House Museum](#)
- [Willowdale Kindness Month - Inspire Kindness Contest](#)
- [A Day Away \(Adult Day Program\)](#)
- [Colors Of India & Enchanted Lights](#)
- [NeighbourLink's Newcomer Welcome Tea](#)
- [Public Realm Master Plan Visioning Survey](#)
- [My Safe Place](#)
- [The Kindred Spirits Orchestra \(KSO\) Concerts](#)
- [Nowruz Festival 2024 - Song of the North](#)

**COUNCILLOR UPDATES**



**“CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS SIGN UP NOW!**  
[www.lilycheng.ca/volunteer](http://www.lilycheng.ca/volunteer)

**Meet Neighbours & Earn Volunteer Hours**

Let's work together to make **WILLOWDALE** a great community!

**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](#)



**“VACANT HOME TAX IN-PERSON DROP-IN SESSIONS**

**It's time to DECLARE!**

**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 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!**


# CASWELL PARK SURVEY


**WHAT ARE YOUR DREAMS?**

- NEW PLAY STRUCTURE
- ADULT EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
- SHADED SEATING
- PERENNIAL GARDEN

**NEAR MAXOME & NEWTON**

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 23**

**ACT NOW** 

 [bit.ly/caswellsurvey](https://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

Enjoy Yonge North York Enchanted Lights!

**INDOOR**

**North York Centre Atrium**  
1:00-9:00 pm

-  New Year Fun & Yum Vendors
-  Taiwanese Snacks

2:00-6:00 pm

-  FREE! Bubble Tea from 
-  Cultural Performances
-  Calligraphy & Tea Demo
-  Children's Crafts
-  Picture with God of Fortune

**North York Central Library**  
1:00-3:30 pm

-  Lunar New Year Story Time
-  Dragon Craft Drop In

**OUTDOOR**

**Mel Lastman Square**  
6:30-10:00 pm

-  LED Lion Dance
-  Outdoor Stage Performances
-  Enchanted Lights
-  Roving Performers
-  Food Vendors

 **RSVP**

For More Info:  
[lilycheng.ca/events](https://lilycheng.ca/events)

**Title Sponsor:** Culture Centre of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Toronto

**Co-hosted by:** Councillor Lily Cheng, Young Taiwanese Merchants Association of Toronto, Toronto Chinese Traders Association

**Partners:** 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. Bring your family and friends – it's free for everyone to attend!

[RSVP](#)

## GOULDING COMMUNITY CENTRE STATE OF GOOD REPAIR PROJECT UPDATE

The project continues in the Construction Phase, including 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.

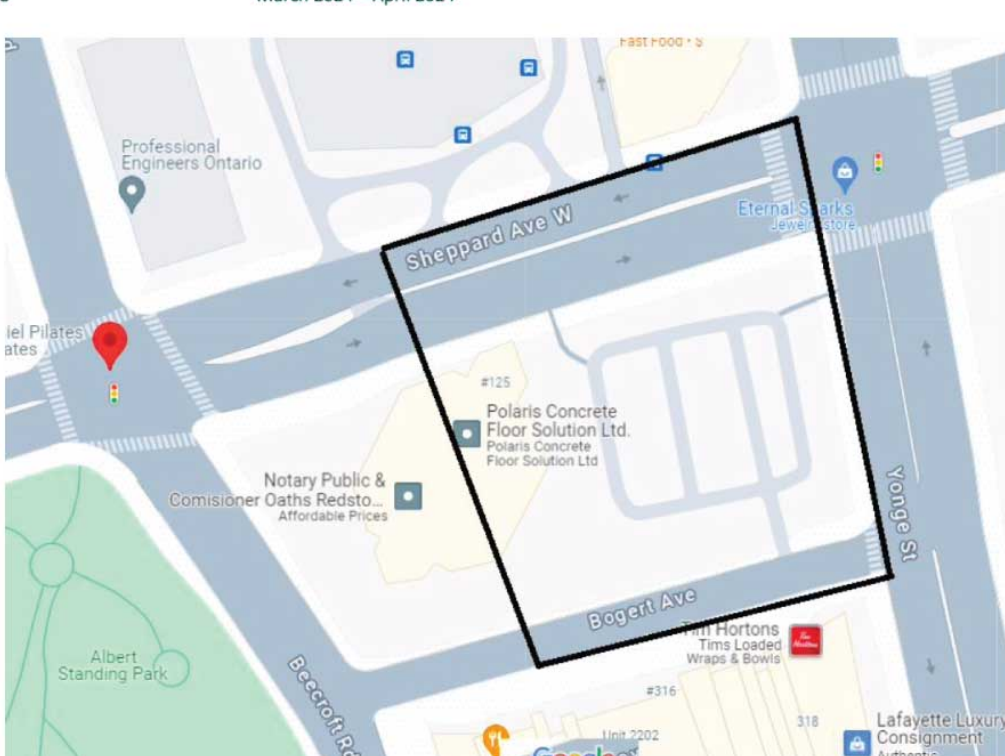
## Construction Notice



### PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT NUMBER
53 Sheppard Avenue West	C-230038-W10502-HT046
WARD	EXPECTED TIMELINE
18	March 2024 – April 2024

PROJECT AREA
A section of Sheppard Avenue West and Bogert Avenue



Please be advised that Toronto Hydro will be conducting construction near your property at **Sheppard Avenue West and Bogert Avenue**. This project involves the replacement of existing electrical cables within the city-owned property and is scheduled to take place from March to April 2024.

**Project Area:** A section of Sheppard Avenue West and Bogert Avenue  
**Project Duration:** March 2024 – April 2024

[Learn More](#)



Do you live near Beecroft and Finch?

# NEW SHARED PARK

ST. CYRIL & OUR COMMUNITY

## CONSULTATION

**Let's build a new shared space to move and play!**

We need your input to shape the future of the school yard at St. Cyril at Kempford and Beecroft which will become a community park on evenings and weekends!

**Date:** Wednesday, 6 Mar, 2024  
**Time:** 7:30 – 9:00 pm

**St. Cyril Catholic School**  
18 Kempford Blvd, North York  
**RSVP:** [www.lilycheng.ca/events](http://www.lilycheng.ca/events)

**HOSTED BY:**  
COUNCILLOR **LILY CHENG**  
Parent Council of St. Cyril Catholic School

**TRUSTEE**  
**MARIA RIZZO**  
Ward 5: North York

To learn more about the Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) visit: [tcdsb.org/stcyril](http://tcdsb.org/stcyril)

### NEW SHARED PARK CONSULTATION

In partnership with the **Parent Council of St. Cyril Catholic School**, we will be developing their asphalt school yard into a park that can be shared with community members on evenings and weekends. The Parks division has identified this pocket as an area of our neighbourhood with great density that would benefit from access to further park amenities which this project can help facilitate. Please join us **Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30pm at St. Cyril** for a consultative discussion on a much needed amenity for our community and for the school! [Click Here](#) to fill out the survey. [Click Here](#) to RSVP for the consultation.

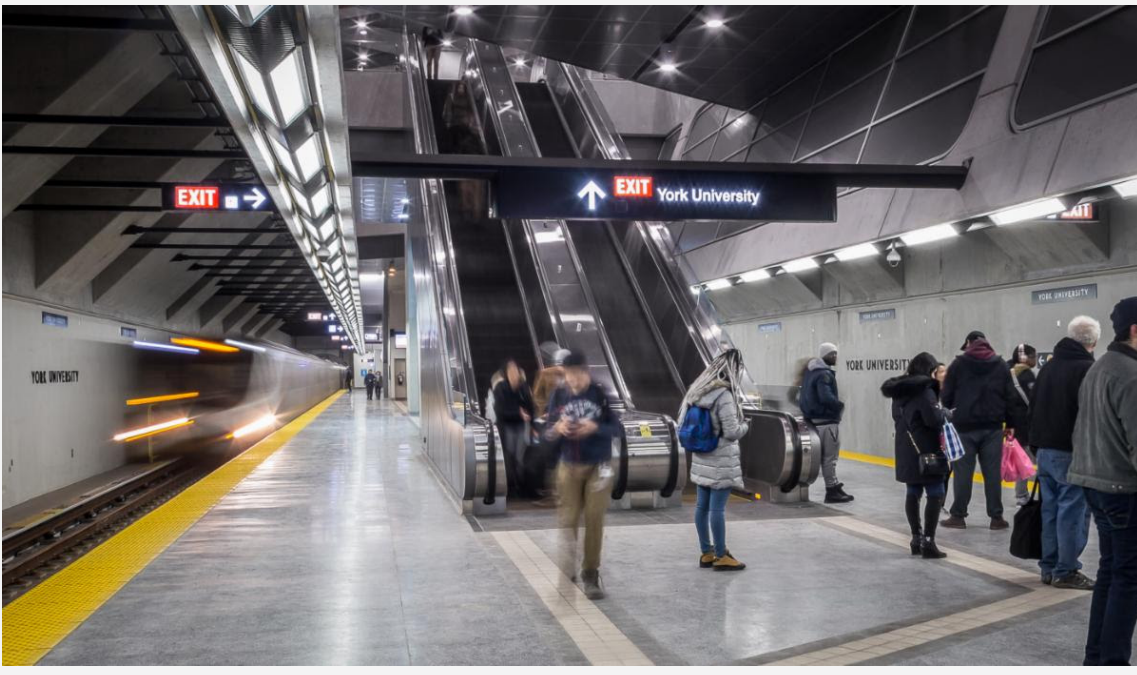
[RSVP](#)

## CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

### PAID ON-STREET PARKING ON STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

Starting **February 19, 2024**, the Toronto Police Service will enforce paid on-street parking on statutory holidays, a departure from past practices. This decision aims to manage the rising demand for parking in the city, reflecting Toronto's growth and the need for efficient parking management.

[Learn More](#)



### ONTARIO'S ONE FARE PROGRAM

Ontario's **One Fare Program** will offer free transfers between participating transit agencies. Starting on **February 26, 2024**, customers paying with a PRESTO card, PRESTO in Google Wallet, debit or credit card, will be able to transfer for free between the TTC and Brampton Transit, Durham Region Transit, MiWay and York Region Transit within the two-hour transfer window. Also, TTC customers paying single-ride fares connecting to and from GO Transit within a three-hour transfer period will benefit from a fare discount, making their TTC fare-free. The program applies to youths, adults, post-secondary students, seniors, and TTC Fair Discount Pass customers. Customers paying with cash, TTC tickets/tokens, or PRESTO tickets cannot transfer for free between transit agencies.

[Learn More](#)

## “HERITAGE REGISTER REVIEW: PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

FEBRUARY 26, 2024

**COUNCILLOR CHENG**

On **February 26, 2024**, Toronto residents are invited to an online **Public Information Session** to learn about the City's **Heritage Register Review** project. The purpose of the meeting is to share information about the project and answer questions. This project has been initiated to develop a strategy for responding to amendments made to Section 27 (Heritage Register) of the Ontario Heritage Act that came into force on January 1, 2023. The Heritage Register Review project is focused on developing an ongoing strategy to prioritize the designation of properties that are currently listed on the Toronto Heritage Register before they are removed from the register on January 1, 2025.

[Learn More](#)



**HELP SHAPE TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH'S STRATEGIC PLAN!**

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

[toronto.ca/TPHStrategicPlan](https://toronto.ca/TPHStrategicPlan)

### 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](#)



**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 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 themselves in 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](#)

## MADHURAGEETHAM 101.3 FM Presents COLORS OF INDIA

**DJ FRZ**



**SANDEEP MOHAN**  
Singer



**SAATWIKA**  
DANCE COMPANY



**RINCHU GIBIN**  
Singer



YONGE  
NORTH  
YORK

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 Saatikwa 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!

- 6:30 PM - OPENING REMARKS
- 6:35 PM - SAATWIKA DANCE COMPANY
- 6:45 PM - SANDEEP MOHAN
- 9:00 PM - RICHU GIBIN, DJ FRZ

[Learn More](#)



**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](#)



Tell us your thoughts and help us create  
a vision for the public realm!

Participate by **March 1st, 2024**

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/YongeNorthYork](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YongeNorthYork)

The YNYBIA has begun the process of developing a  
public realm and streetscape master plan.

As a member of the community, your feedback and  
insight into the future of the area is incredibly valuable.

To help get you started, the public realm includes  
things like street furniture, greenery, shade, your  
experience as a pedestrian, and more!

[www.yongenorthyork.com](http://www.yongenorthyork.com)  
[hello@yongenorthyork.com](mailto:hello@yongenorthyork.com)



**PUBLIC REALM MASTER PLAN VISIONING SURVEY**

The Yonge North York BIA (YNYBIA) is seeking input from community members like you for their public realm and streetscape master plan. Your feedback on aspects such as parklets, greenery, lighting, street furniture, and public art will help shape the future of the BIA. This survey, part of a broader community engagement initiative, aims to gather insights to create a vibrant and welcoming public realm within the YNYBIA boundary.

Participate by **March 1st, 2024**

[Take The Survey](#)



**MY SAFE PLACE**, a free mixed media painting workshop where you'll embark on a creative journey to design your own imaginary houses. Learn basic perspective tricks to bring these houses to life using watercolour/acrylic paints, markers, and nature-inspired designs. Every Tuesday from March 5 to April 16 at Meridian Arts Centre in North York, unleash your creativity and transform blank canvases into vibrant, personalized safe havens. Each house you paint tells a unique story, making this workshop a delightful and imaginative experience for all.

**Dates:** Tuesdays Mar 5,12,19,26 & Apr 2,9,16  
**Time:** 5:30PM-7:00PM

**Location:** Meridian Arts Centre

[Learn More](#)

# Kindred Spirits Orchestra

Kristian Alexander | Music Director

## 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](https://www.ticketmaster.ca)



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.** and features internationally renowned pianist Li Wang.

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

[Get Ticket](#)



Tirgan proudly presents "**Song of the North**" a breathtaking spectacle of light and shadow based on a timeless love story from *Shahnameh* (The Book of Kings). Crafted by the visionary artist Hamid Rahmanian, this mesmerizing cinematic shadow theater, narrated in English, is brought to you a year ahead of its Broadway debut at the Nowruz Festival 2024.

**Date:** [March 8-10, 2024](#)

**Venue:** [Meridian Arts Centre](#)

Secure your tickets now at [www.tirgan.ca](https://www.tirgan.ca) and be captivated by this visually stunning masterpiece.

[Get Ticket](#)

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