Connected Community
February 18, 2023

@LilyChengTO LilyCheng.ca

Dear Neighbour !

It has been an intense week with many uncertainties that lay ahead. However, there are still 25 city councillors committed to working together to ensure the stability of operations of our city as we await the election of a new mayor. We wish John Tory and his family well as they embark on the difficult journey of healing and forgiveness.

On Wednesday, after a marathon 12-hour meeting with a bumpy start, we were able to pass the 2023 budget. I highlighted many ongoing gaps in our budget including a 9.5 billion dollar backlog of state of good repair, $230 million loss of development charges, $60 million loss in community benefits, along with a 1.4 billion dollar COVID funding shortfall (from 2022 and 2023) and $48 million dollar cutback in TTC services - it would cost us an increase of 69% in property taxes (with state of good repair backlog spread across 10 years). With only 5 provinces with budgets larger than ours, we need more funding tools to be sustainable.

Infrastructure across our city is crumbling and we are balancing our budget against future generations. That being said, I was able to work with a group of councillors towards increasing investment in supporting the most vulnerable in our community as well as climate change. I am grateful for the collaborative approach that was taken and look forward to many opportunities to do the same in the year to come.

The future will only be better if we work together!

Happy Family Day from my family to yours.

Warmest regards,
Lily Cheng
Toronto City Councillor
Ward 18 Willowdale
Councillor_Cheng@toronto.ca
416-392-0210

Scroll down to find out more about:

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- Community Development Consultation
- Community Safety Town Hall
- Request a Congratulatory Scroll from Our Office
- Community Roundtable Opportunities

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- Vacant Home Tax Declaration - Deadline Extended: Feb 28, 2023
- Douglas Snow Aquatic Centre Updates
- Free Tax Clinics in Willowdale

- Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods: Multiplex Consultation Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

UPCOMING Events

- **Fri, Feb 17, 2pm - 3pm @ Room 101, North York Central Library - Black History Month: Make Your Own Drum!** Hosted by Toronto Public Library.

- **Sat, Feb 18, 11am - 3pm @ 10 Senlac Rd. (Chartwell Lansing) - Mid-Winter Wrap Market.** Presented by Scarborough and Courtyard Farmers' Markets.

- **Sat, Feb 18, 2pm - 3pm @ Auditorium, North York Central Library - Black History Month: Tales by Moonlight.** Hosted by Toronto Public Library.

- **Sun, Feb 19 & Feb 26, 11am - 4pm @ Gibson House Museum - Traditional and Technology**. Presented by Toronto History Museums.

- **Mon, Feb 20, 11am - 4pm @ Gibson House Museum - Family Day at Gibson House Museum**. Presented by Toronto History Museums.

- **Tue, Feb 21, 2pm - 4pm & Thu, Feb 23, 6pm - 8pm @ Online (Zoom) - Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods: Multiplex Consultation Events.** Hosted by the City Planning department of the City of Toronto.

- **Sat, Feb 25, 11:45am - 12:45pm @ Edithvale Community Centre, Fitness Studio - Free Drop-in Afro & Soca Fusion Workout**.

- **Sun, Feb 26, 4pm - 6pm @ Spring Garden Church (112 Spring Garden Ave.) - Newcomers Welcome Tea.** Organized by NeighbourLink North York.

- **Mon, Feb 27, 7pm @ Willowdale Pentecostal Church / Zoom - Willowdale Community Safety Town Hall**. Hosted by Councillor Lily Cheng.

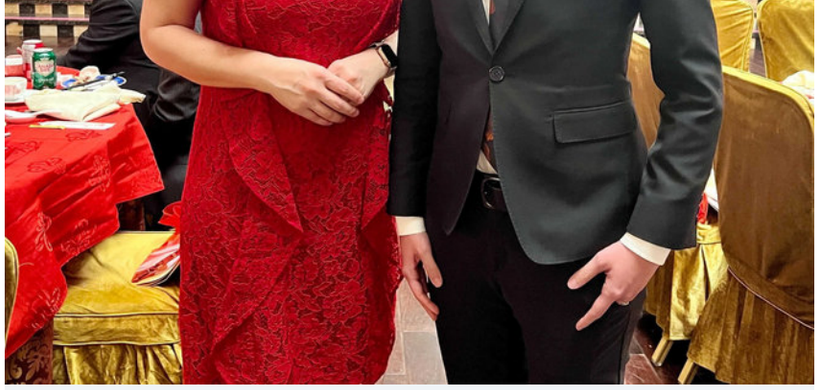
UPCOMING Virtual Community Development Consultations (click to RSVP)

- Wed, Feb 22, 6:30 - 8:30pm regarding 5919-5799 Yonge St.
- Tue, Feb 28, 6:30 - 8:30pm regarding 5576 Yonge St.

UPCOMING Construction

- Feb 2023 - TBA - Yonge North Subway Extension: Hendon Avenue
- Mar 2023 – Jun 2023 - Toronto Hydro Overhead Civil & Electrical Upgrade: Finch - Grantbrook
- Mar 2023 – Nov 2023 - Watermain Replacement and Local Road Resurfacing: Ellerslie Avenue

COUNCILLOR UPDATES



Great to meet Taipei City Councillor 苗博雅 MiaoPoya at a recent Lunar New Year event. She spoke powerfully about the importance of democracy.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - 5799-5915 YONGE ST

Location: Online

Wed, Feb 22, 2023 - 6:30pm - 8pm

The application proposes the development of a 38-storey (120.2 metres) mixed-use building, which will be Phase 3 of the Newtonbrook Plaza redevelopment. The development would include 496 dwelling units, 254 vehicle parking spaces, and 405 bicycle parking spaces.

A total Gross Floor Area (GFA) of 38,997 square metres is proposed, of which 1,122 square metres would be retail and 3,093 square metres would be office.

Click here to sign up online: http://bit.ly/40VAnUL

COMMUNITY SAFETY TOWN HALL

Location: Willowdale Pentecostal Church / Zoom

Mon, Feb 27, 2023 - 7pm - 9:30pm

We are convening a meeting as many community members have approached our office with safety concerns. 32 Division police and staff from the Willowdale shelter (5800 Yonge St.) will be in attendance to address concerns, as well as provide suggestions on how we can improve community safety. We will also be sharing details on the establishment of a Community Liaison Committee for the shelter at 5800 Yonge St.

RSVP Here: https://willowdalesafety.eventbrite.ca

Construction on Hendon Ave

The Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) is expected to begin tunneling in 2024, with subway service extending to York Region beginning in 2030. In Willowdale, the Finch Early Works (FEW) project is a pivotal part of kick-starting this work for YNSE. This will prepare Finch Station for upgrades that will be made to connect existing Line 1 service to the new subway extension. The work will include:

- Installation of new traction power infrastructure required to energize trains on YNSE
- Upgrading equipment/electrical rooms (Back of House Rooms)
- Modifying the 'tail track' area beyond the station platforms

While this work is essential, there will be some traffic impacts for the duration of the Finch Early Works, which is expected to last approximately 7-8 months. The traffic impacts include:

Hendon Ave.

- Westbound full lane closure
- New temporary signal at Talbot and Hendon Ave.

Yonge St. at Hendon Ave.

- Closure of the North-South pedestrian crossing at Hendon Ave. (West of Yonge)
- Bus stop located on the NW side of Yonge / Hendon to be relocated approx. 30m North

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

Learn More

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

Learn More

Crossroads Mural at Finch TTC Station - Share Your Ideas!
Location: North York Central Library
Sat, Feb 18, 1:30pm - 3pm

Crossroads is a site-specific community-engaged mural project led by Artist Kseniya Tsoy in partnership with STEPS, exploring the unique cultural tapestry of Willowdale as a meeting place of global perspectives and cultural lineages while honouring the Indigenous lands we gather on today.

Share your ideas and co-create Crossroads - an exciting legacy mural project to animate Finch TTC Station in North York's Willowdale Community!
RSVP Here: http://bit.ly/3WOeCTw

Mitchell Field Update:
Warming Centre & Programming

Learn More

Request a Congratulatory Scroll from Our Office

Would you like to have a congratulatory scroll sent from our office to a Willowdale resident celebrating a significant birthday, anniversary, or other special event? Submit a request for a congratulatory scroll from our office.

For more information, please visit: https://www.lilycheng.ca/request-a-congratulatory-scroll

COMMUNITY CULTURAL GROUP CHATS

Our office launches neighbourhood networks on **WeChat** and **KakaoTalk** for our Chinese and Korean communities. Join us and connect with your neighbours!

Stay tuned, our Telegram network is coming soon!

COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE OPPORTUNITIES

I'm creating a Poverty Alleviation Roundtable and Climate Change Roundtable. If you would like to take part and share in the shaping of these initiatives in Willowdale, please sign up on my website www.lilycheng.ca. These roundtables will commence in the next couple of months and we'll be sharing more details soon.

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods: Multiplex (including Rooming House) Consultations

The Multiplex study is part of the Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods initiative which aims to bring more types of housing to Toronto's low-rise neighbourhoods. This study proposes to permit multiplexes in all areas designated Neighbourhoods in Toronto's Official Plan. Please join staff from City Planning at one of two identical consultation events. To register, please visit one of the links below:

Tue, Feb 21, 2pm – 4pm

Thu, Feb 23 6pm – 8pm

DOUGLAS SNOW AQUATIC CENTRE UPDATE

Stay fit and healthy with the Douglas Snow Aquatic Centre's fitness and swimming programs! Get the details and schedule for both registered and drop-in programs at http://bit.ly/3KhGlcC.

Free Tax Clinics in Willowdale

NAME & ADDRESS	TYPE	RETURNS PREPARED	LANGUAGE	CLIENTELE
Hispanic Development Council-Tax Clinic 203-280 FINCH AVE. W	By appointment, Walk-in	Current and prior years	English	LGBTQ2+ friendly, Newcomers, Resides within local community, Seniors, Social assistance recipients, Students
TCAT Tax Clinic at North Central Library 5120 YONGE ST.	Walk-in	Current year only	English, Mandarin, Taiwanese	General public
Office of MP Ali Ehsassi 115 SHEPPARD AVE. W	By appointment, Drop-off, Virtual	Current year only	English	General public
KCWA Family & Social Services 401-5075 YONGE ST.	By appointment	Current year only	English	General public
Free Income Tax Clinic for Newcomers 102-550 FINCH AVE. W	By appointment	Current and prior years	English, Mandarin	Newcomers

FREE TAX CLINICS IN WILLOWDALE

Community organizations host free tax clinics where volunteers file tax returns for people with a modest income and a simple tax situation. There are free in-person and virtual tax clinics across Willowdale.

Learn more: http://bit.ly/3xgi8fb

VACANT HOME TAX DECLARATION DEADLINE EXTENDED!

The City of Toronto has extended the deadline for Vacant Home Tax Declaration to February 28. **CLICK HERE** to submit your **Vacant Home Tax Declaration of Occupancy Status**. Homeowners are encouraged to make a declaration of their property's occupancy status as soon as possible to avoid any penalties. Reminder notices will be mailed out the week of February 13 to property owners who have not yet submitted a declaration.

If you require extra help to submit your declaration, please contact us (Councillor_Cheng@toronto.ca / 416-392-0210).

COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

Celebrate Black History Month and support Black-owned businesses in Willowdale by tasting the incredible flavors and unique dishes created by our talented Black business owners. Crave something delicious and discover the diverse cuisine and culture of our community. Join us in honoring and uplifting Black voices and businesses this month!

The Islands Caribbean Cookshop
4841 Yonge Street – Unit 205

Jerk King
4750 Yonge St.

Da Endz
5210 Yonge St.

Allwyn's Bakery
4750 Yonge St.

Don't miss out on the many community events happening in Willowdale!

From the Willowdale Random Acts of Kindness Day to Black History Month events at North York Centre Library; the Mid-Winter Wrap Market to Family Day event happening in Gibson House Museum, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Join your neighbours as the community celebrate kindness, positivity, diversity, and community. **Click to learn more and mark your calendars for these exciting events!**

Learn More

Let's Connect on Social

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

Building a Connected Community in Willowdale.

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

Share on social

Visit our website