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Dear Neighbour!

**Eid Mubarak** to all our Muslim neighbours who are celebrating alongside Muslims worldwide as they mark the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan with prayers, visiting relatives, enjoying festive meals, and contributing to charity. May your celebrations be filled with love, laughter, and togetherness. Have a blessed Eid!

This Sunday will mark 5 years since the Yonge Street Tragedy. We will be holding a **Commemoration and Concert of Hope** this Sunday, April 23 at 3pm beginning at **Empress Theatres and ending with refreshments with neighbours at 4pm** by **Mel Lastman Reflection Pool**. Many of us have become accustomed to a level of isolation during the pandemic and have disconnected from community. We hope you will join us for our first in-person commemoration since the pandemic. We know some still struggle with heavy hearts. We hope to infuse our time together with a focus on remembrance, connection, hope and resilience. We have some very talented performers whose voices and music will lift our hearts. **Click Here to RSVP**.

**Willowdale Environment Days:** Thank you to everyone who attended our very first **Willowdale Community Environment Day!** I enjoyed connecting with our neighbours and hearing everyone's concerns. A special thanks to the City Staff for organizing this meaningful event and providing free compost. The seed exchange co-hosted by our **Emma Biggs**, local tomato gardening expert, and **Bonnie LaRue** from the **Parkview Neighbourhood Garden** was also enjoyed by everyone. Don't forget to mark your calendars for our next Environment Day on **July 29, 2023!** If you want to find other environment days happening in the near future, you can **click here**.

**Federal Riding Redistribution:** On Monday, April 17th, 24 councillors including **Deputy Mayor McKelvie** and I signed a letter prepared by our office to add our voices to **MP Michael Coteau** and **MPP Adil Shamji** to strongly oppose the proposed elimination of one federal riding in Toronto. With nearly 250 cranes in our city that contributes 20% of Canada's GDP and is home to 11% of Canada's visible minorities, Toronto's representation in Ottawa must not be decreased. It is great to see so many of my colleagues united on this issue and I thank them for their support in signing the letter. A strong Toronto is a strong Canada! **Click Here** for more information.

**General Government Committee (GGC) regarding Ontario Place and more:** When I was first assigned to the General Government Committee I was told it would not be an interesting place to be. Well, our meeting this past week was very lively with discussions about customer service, largest property tax debtors, urgent Gardiner Expressway repairs and the most controversial issue - the swapping of lands with the province to facilitate their vision for Ontario Place.

**A short recap of things I spoke about:**  
**Property Tax Debtors** - For properties that are clearly not sell-able - it should not take us 10 years to decide to take ownership of the land (there was one such property that is actually being used as part of a road and it has taken years for the city to make a decision).  
**Customer Service** - I am grateful for the work the city has done to make 311 more accessible to residents through phone, mobile texting, website, email and even Twitter! The work they have done to provide accessibility is incredible. At the same time, I spoke about the importance of reconsidering how we frame this aspect of our work. We live in a very consumeristic society which has eroded our participation in democracy. Our residents are not only receivers of service, but can also shape outcomes by participating in decision making. I have asked this department to reconsider the nomenclature around this, to inspire and empower more participation rather than only focusing on receiving service as a customer. I believe words matter and how we describe our interaction with the city as residents is important.

**Water Treatment Plant Upgrade** - A \$76 Million Dollar contract should have oversight that includes digital dashboards to ensure quality and efficiency of work. Too often we have seen these types of contract spiral due to lack of oversight.

**Ontario Place** - Many of us have fond memories of going to Ontario Place as a family destination. It was certainly an annual tradition for my family. Unfortunately, it has been left to crumble over the years across different provincial governments with a lack of vision and investment. Currently, the province has signed a contract to work with Austrian company Thermo that wants to install a huge glass encased water spa they are calling a "wellbeing destination." Many are opposed to this structure taking over a majority of the Ontario Place land making most of the site inaccessible to residents without spending large amounts of money.

The piece of Toronto land that was requested to be swapped with the province at this GGC meeting is a small symbolic bargaining chip we can hold as we ask the Province to journey with the city in good faith towards an outcome that can be enjoyed by all residents of Ontario. The city has many concerns with the current proposal and is committed to working with the province for a positive outcome. I have asked for more inclusive consultations that include more Ontarians. As well, I have encouraged opponents to work towards bringing a clearer vision to the bargaining table. It's one thing to oppose a project, but we need a vision for a family attraction that celebrates the beauty, nature and diversity of Ontario as it once did.

As an aside, I am opposed to the re-location of the **Ontario Science Centre**. My family recently renewed our membership because we value having such a quality family attraction in North York. Further, the unique design of the building as it embraces the surrounding ravine is unique and should be preserved. Premier Ford has said he is uncertain the pods at Ontario Place would have sufficient space. We should consider developing a Children's Museum instead. There is one in Rochester which many families enjoy and would be a great use of the space at Ontario Place.

Hope you enjoy the weekend!

Warmest regards,

Lily Cheng 陳伶俐

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Scroll down to find out more about:

- ~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES
  - Yonge St. Tragedy Commemoration
  - Council Members Survey for Warming Centres
  - BCNA Annual General Meeting - **UPDATED ADDRESS!**
  - **NEXT MONDAY! Community Consultation - 221-237 Finch Ave West & 43 Finchurst Dr**
  - Construction Updates - Byng, Elmwood, Estelle, Hillcrest, Wedgeport and Wilfred
  - Construction Updates - Holcolm, Hounslow, Park Home, Stafford, Stafford Park Trail, Tamworth, Wallbridge, Yorkview, Altamont, Christine, Cloebury, Dromore, Eilerslie, Finch Ave. West, Finchurst and Fleetwell.
- ~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES
  - Opening of Seasonal Park Washrooms and Water Fountains
  - TTC Line 1 York Mills to St Clair Full Weekend Closure
  - St. Cyril's Parent Council Received PollinateTO Grant
  - Electric Vehicle Charging Network Partnership Opportunity
  - Urban Forestry Grants and Incentives
- ~ COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE
  - See below

Thank you for subscribing to our weekly e-newsletter! Invite your friends and family to sign up at [lilycheng.ca](http://lilycheng.ca). Please also send us any updates of local community news and events that we can share.

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

**WE love WILLOWDALE** **Yonge St. Tragedy Commemoration**  
*Concert of Hope*  
**& Refreshments with Neighbours**

Let us remember our neighbours & the strength of our community.

Sunday, April 23, 2023, 3pm • Empress Cineplex, 5095 Yonge St.

**SCHEDULE**

- 3pm Commemoration & Concert
- 4pm Paper Boats of Light & Hope at Mel Lastman Reflection Pool
- 4:30pm Refreshments with Neighbours

*"5 years ago our community endured a tremendous tragedy together. Much has happened since that terrible day that has challenged us and also brought us closer together. Let us gather to remember those we lost as well as the resilience and hope that can be found in the strength of our community." - Councillor Lily Cheng*

Organized by:  
Yonge Street Tragedy Steering Committee &

[www.lilycheng.ca/events](http://www.lilycheng.ca/events)

RSVP: Free Eventbrite tickets

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

**221-237 Finch Ave West & 43 Finchurst Dr**

Join us on Monday evening - April 24 at 6:30pm for consultations for two projects. The planning department and developers will discuss the construction of 3 connected residential buildings containing 122 stacked townhouse dwellings at 4 stories. The proposal will include 153 underground parking spaces, a private outdoor amenity area, a Gross Floor Area of 11,645.69 square metres and a FSI of 1.92. The subject site is comprised of 9 properties and is located on the eastern corner of Finch Avenue West and Finchurst Drive. **Click Here** to RSVP and get the WebEx link.

COUNCIL MEMBERS SURVEY FOR WARMING CENTRES

Each year, Warming Centres are activated to provide a warm indoor place for those who are vulnerable to rest, access snacks, use washroom facilities, and receive referrals to emergency shelter.

As a councillor, I successfully advocated for Shelter, Support & Housing Administration (SSHA) to come up with a survey for Members of Council to complete. This survey will help SSHA to identify potential new Warming Centre locations. **Click Here** to read a **Review of policies and procedures related to Warming Centres** that will be discussed at the upcoming Economic and Community Development Committee meeting on April 25, 2023. I believe that with the collaborative effort of the Council and City Staff, we can identify new opportunities and provide support to those in need.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

April 24, 2023 at 280 Otonabee Ave., St. Agnes Catholic School – Gymnasium between 7:00 to 9:30 P.M.

The Bayview Cummer Neighbourhood Association will be holding its AGM to vote on a new leadership team. The President will present an Annual update, and voting members will be able to participate in an in-camera discussion and vote on a proposal made by the City to settle the 175 Cummer Ave – Modular Facility to be placed in our neighbourhood.

**Only those who are paid BCNA voting members are able to vote or participate in the election or participate in this special in-camera discussion.**

**BECOME A MEMBER AND VOTE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

<https://bayviewcummer.ca/become-a-member/>

**Special Guest Speakers:**

Key Note Speaker: Councillor Lily Cheng  
Trustee - Maria Rizzo: Toronto Catholic Board  
Trustee - Weldon Pei: Toronto District Board

Join me and Trustees Dr. Pei and Rizzo for Bayview Cummer Neighbourhood Association (BCNA) Annual General Meeting next Monday (April 24th), 7PM, at **St. Agnes Catholic School - Gymnasium** (280 Otonabee Ave.)

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES:

**Basement Flooding Protection Program Sanitary and Storm Sewer Upgrades**  
Expected Timeline: November 1, 2022 - March 2024

The City of Toronto's work to upgrade the sanitary and storm sewers is progressing. This work also involves replacing the City-owned portion of substandard water services and sanitary sewer laterals. This project is part of the Council-approved 2022 Basement Flooding Protection Program to improve the water distribution system; renew our aging infrastructure and reduce the risk of sewer collapse or blockages that cause sewer backups and flooding.

**Click Here** for information on: **Byng, Elmwood, Estelle, Hillcrest, Wedgeport and Wilfred.**

**Click Here** for information on: **Holcolm, Hounslow, Park Home, Stafford, Stafford Park Trail, Tamworth, Wallbridge, Yorkview, Altamont, Christine, Cloebury, Dromore, Eilerslie, Finch Ave. West, Finchurst and Fleetwell.**

Learn More

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

OPENING OF SEASONAL PARK WASHROOMS AND WATER FOUNTAINS

The City of Toronto has accelerated the opening of seasonal park washrooms. Staff are now in the field daily, accompanying plumbers and technicians who are flushing pipes and activating water infrastructure. Seasonal park washrooms and the drinking water fountains, and bottle filling stations connected to them should be ready and open to the public by May 5. The remaining standalone water fountains in parks will be open by late May.

TTC LINE 1 (YONGE-UNIVERSITY) - YORK MILLS TO ST CLAIR - FULL WEEKEND CLOSURE APRIL 22 AND 23

There will be no subway service on Line 1 between **York Mills and St Clair** stations on Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23, 2023 for construction work on Line 5 Eglinton. Shuttle buses will operate. Regular subway service will resume at approximately 5 AM, Monday, April 24, 2023. **Learn more.**

ST. CYRIL'S PARENT COUNCIL RECEIVED POLLINATE TO GRANT

Congratulations to **St. Cyril's Parent Council** for receiving the **2023 PollinateTO grant!** They will be enhancing the school yard by creating a home and a safe space for insects. This project will teach, not only students but also the larger community, about the benefits of planting native species, how to care for and maintain such a garden. The goal of this project is to create new dialogue about insects and what it takes to help protect them. The team will be using native plants as well as perennials and creating a "drinking station" for insects. We look forward to seeing the results of their hard work!

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING NETWORK PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) has released an Expression of Interest (EOI) to seek partners to shape the future of the city's EV Public Charging Network. As North America's largest municipally owned commercial parking operator, TPA aims to provide top-notch service and promote EV adoption. The EOI seeks partners for infrastructure, operations, marketing, analytics, and brand leadership. Register and schedule a consultation by April 28. **Learn more.**

URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS AND INCENTIVES

The City is investing in tree planting and stewardship on private land to enhance urban forest and improve the environment. Bayview Village Association will host a **Tree Giveaway** at Forest Grove United Church (43 Forest Grove Dr) on **June 10, 10 AM to 12:30 PM. Register now! & Learn more about grants and incentives.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

- Check out our community events page including:
- **Welcome Tea for Newcomers THIS SUNDAY** afternoon
  - **Willowdale Lawn Bowling Club** Open Houses
  - **Friday's Tea & Entertainment** at North York Central Library
  - Canadian Citizenship Education Mentoring Circle at North York Central Library
  - May Calendar for Computer & Library Training (Registration begins Apr 24 at 9 AM)
  - **Let's Move Willowdale - Move-a-thon & Community BBQ** at Hendon Park - May 6
  - **Mitchell Field Community Centre** is hosting an **Adult & Seniors Painting Workshop** on Monday, May 8th 12:30pm-2:30pm. Registration at 416-396-7378. You will need your client number, pin number, and workshop barcode: 4207201.
  - **Police Week 32 Division Community BBQ** - Sat, May 20, 4pm - 8pm

Learn More about Community Events!

Let's Connect on Social



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Building a Connected Community in Willowdale.