



# LILY CHENG

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## Dear Neighbour!

Great News! [Motion Passed for Cummer Station](#)

Prior to being elected, I promised in my campaign platform that I would fight for Cummer Station. My motion for the city to prepare a business case to be presented by our Mayor to the Premier passed! [Click Here](#) to read the motion. Most importantly, the voices of our community have been amplified! Here are some highlights from our advocacy.

- In an email to CBC Toronto on Thursday, the [Ontario Ministry of Transportation](#) said the province is working "collaboratively with the city to explore the possibility of including the additional station located at Cummer Avenue." This is the first positive message we have heard from the provincial government about Cummer Station.
- Over 500 letters of advocacy have been received for Cummer Station. This is a great flexing of civic muscles that we hope continues to grow. It is not too late to add your voice. [Click Here](#) to send a letter too!
- We held our first [Fight for Cummer Station Rally](#) at 8am. It was great to see so many community members come out on a weekday morning to take a stand. We will keep fighting together for the future of our neighbourhood! Thank you to all who joined us!

### [The Impact of Terrorism and War on Willowdale](#)

It has been a heavy week. In the aftermath of the shocking attack by Hamas terrorists on civilians in Israel, many neighbours who are grieving, scared, and angry have been in touch. I proudly stood with my fellow councillors and our mayor at Mel Lastman Square to let the Jewish community know that they are not alone.

Sadly, experts expect that the war will last for at least a few weeks, and maybe much longer. As we have done far too often in recent years, when members of the Willowdale community are in pain, we stand together. We offer a shoulder for our neighbours to lean on, and ask how we can help.

This is a difficult time as we face graphic images of war that are traumatizing. Images of human suffering pierce our hearts. We must acknowledge the pain of community members who are grieving the deaths or kidnappings of loved ones. What do we do with our pain? Here are some things that helped me journey with community members as the war in Ukraine unfolded:

1. Take mental health breaks from social media. It can be so easy for us to find ourselves "[doomscrolling](#)" as we watch war unfold in unprecedented ways.
2. Check in on friends, family and community members who are personally connected to the war. A short email or text message that says, "how are you today? I just want to check in with you" can take only two seconds but be very meaningful.
3. Pray. I believe in the power of prayer, especially in the face of challenges over which we have no control.

I know that many forms of bigotry are on the rise in Canada, including antisemitism and Islamophobia, and recognize that when violence escalates in the Middle East, expressions of such bigotry become more commonplace in Toronto. I have been in close contact with 32 Division and Toronto Police Services, whose officers are maintaining a heightened presence around mosques, synagogues and other locations that are significant for members of our Jewish and Muslim communities to deter hate crimes. Earlier this week our Chief of Police met with leaders from Jewish and Palestinian communities to discuss the Toronto Police Service's (TPS) role as law enforcement, public safety in our city, and how TPS can help our residents over the coming days and weeks.

When we see intense suffering, it is only natural for us to feel rage at injustice and in this case the evil that unfolded. It is important that we allow ourselves to feel our feelings. However, my hope is that as we process our rage here in Canada, we can also find compassion, healing and hope as we stand together in our shared humanity. Let us not dehumanize one another. Our tendency in such intense pain is to see an 'us' and a 'them.' To find a path forward there must be a journey towards a shared 'we.' This will not be automatic, nor will it be easy. The generational trauma that has been experienced cannot easily be healed. But healing is our only path to peace.

Many in our midst carry deep wounds and so, let us be gentle with each other and with ourselves. In challenging moments, let's try to take a deep breath and give space to one another. We cannot see the burdens and wounds others are carrying.

That being said, there is no room for hatred within our community. We can wrestle with the hard truths and images of war, but we must always choose not to hate each other. Our greatest challenge is to live out the peace we hope to see in this world.

### [Toronto City Council](#)

There were 191 items on the agenda which we covered over 2 days. [Click Here](#) to see the details. I do admit when meetings go past 6pm, there is a loopiness that appears among all my colleagues which did happen last night! You'll have to watch the YouTube video to see what happened. Here are some highlights:

#### [EX 8.2 Capital Variance Report for the Six months Ended June 30, 2023](#)

We are slated to underspend \$1.13 Billion in Capital Expenditures this year. This means a lot of stalled or stopped projects. While it may sound like money saved, the unspent money that is allocated to a project gets added to next year's budget. Unfortunately, staffing challenges mean we always have a finite capacity to spend and manage projects. Furthermore, the cost of a project that is not completed this year will likely have cost increases next year. Supply chain and staffing shortages continue to be a challenge on our city operations and budget.

#### [EX 8.8 ConnectTO Program Update: City Assets for Efficiency and Connectivity](#)

This is a project around digital equity - ensuring city assets are leveraged to maximize access to wifi and internet for residents, especially equity seeking groups. While free wifi in community centres and other public spaces is great; it is still important for low-income households to have adequate and affordable internet access. In my past work serving families in Toronto Community Housing, I heard from many residents who struggled with the \$10/month internet plans mandated by the Federal government. I moved a motion to ensure the research the city is doing is leveraged to advocate for better internet for low-income households. Here is the motion:

1. City Council direct the Chief Technology Officer to include the digital access needs, including adequacy of affordable internet currently in place, for residents in low-income housing, such as Toronto Community Housing Corporation, in the research initiatives as set out in Attachment 1 to the Report (September 19, 2023) from the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services and the Chief Technology Officer, and to make requests to other levels of government for support, based on research outcomes.

#### [EC6.6 Transitioning the Vehicle-for-Hire Industry to Net Zero Emissions by 2030](#)

This turned out to be a controversial item that began as a subsidy to incentivize conversion of Vehicles for Hire (Uber, Taxis, Limos) to EV towards meeting Toronto's Net Zero goals. It turned into intense debate around capping the total number of Rideshare drivers allowed in Toronto starting from yesterday. Mayor Chow shared about meeting an Uber driver who only made \$7/hr and that capping the number of drivers would increase the chances for drivers to earn higher wages with less competition. While I agree that the Rideshare system should provide drivers with dignified wages, this motion arrived as an amendment without any supporting data or plan for execution. Here are my concerns:

- I've known some people who have turned to Rideshare driving in a moment of crisis or transition. It is one of the easiest jobs to get, without requiring an interview. If people are reluctant to let go of their now valuable licenses, this pathway that has helped a few people that I know could become inaccessible.
- Unintended consequences of commoditizing rideshare licenses. Once a cap is in place, people might hold on to their licenses or find ways to monetize them.
- This sudden cap would unfairly benefit Uber which has the lion's share of the market while limiting the growth of any competitors.
- Other councillors raised concerns that this motion could result in a lawsuit. The city solicitor agreed with this risk assessment.

When I ran for city council, I promised that I would make data-based decisions. I could not support a sweeping decision like this which did not have any research or plan attached to it. I was one of 7 councillors who voted against the motion.

The motion to cap passed and rumblings have already been heard about a potential lawsuit from Uber.

### [MM11.34 Appointment to New Service Excellence Committee](#)

I am excited to be joining a new committee established by our mayor to improve service delivery in our city. I look forward to working with Councillors Stephen Holyday, Paul Ainslie, Gord Perks and Jaye Robinson.

### [MM11:22 Extension of the Alcohol in Parks Pilot](#)

The pilot has ended and a member's motion was passed to extend until a study has been done. This is where you get to tell me - Should we extend our participation in the pilot at Lee Lifeson Park? Parks staff have said they got more alcohol-related complaints in non-pilot parks. I also heard from neighbours that there were some adult members of our community who took advantage of the weekly concert series to share a bottle of wine.

[Click Here](#) for our pilot extension survey.

Other decisions you may be interested in:

- [On-Street Paid Parking Pilot - Mobile Only Zones](#)
- [Citywide Approach to Dogs Off-Leash Areas](#)
- [ST3.1 - 2024 Schedule of Meetings](#)

Some of you may be wondering - what happened to my motion for North York Civic Centre re-opening on evenings and weekends? With the assurances by staff that a reasonable solution would be established for the winter. Sometimes simply proposing the motion helps us get things done! I will make sure that staff fulfill their promises to me. We will keep the community posted.

Next Week I will be attending [North York Community Council](#) and [Toronto Police Service Board](#). Click to read the respective agendas.

Upcoming Ways to Get Involved

1. **POSTPONED due to current community policing needs. Willowdale Safety Town Hall (online).** Due to policing resource allocation to respond to the Israel/Gaza War, we are postponing our safety town hall. Please stay tuned for a new date.
2. **Tues. October 17, 3:30-6:30pm. Holmes Park Grand Opening and Park Consultation for Phase 2.** Join us for a GRAND OPENING and Neighbourhood Playdate! There will be refreshments (rumour has it an ice cream truck may visit) and live music with local singer/songwriter Matt Gerber. Parks and Recreation staff will be on hand to hear your ideas for the second phase of this park. Do you dream of a dog park, splash pad, ping-pong tables, or something else? Share your ideas and help shape the future together! [Click Here](#) to RSVP.
3. **Wed. October 18, 5-7:30pm. EHON Major Streets Study Consultation Drop-In at North York Centre Atrium.** The Major Street study is one component of the City's Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods (EHON) initiative. This study focuses on permitting gentle density – missing middle housing – on major streets in low-rise neighbourhoods across Toronto. This could bring greater density to Finch, Bayview, Bathurst, Sheppard and Steeles. [Click Here](#) to read more about the study.
4. **Sat. October 28, 2pm. Willowdale Bike Share Grand Opening & Community Bike Ride.** [Click Here](#) to register.
5. **Fri. November 24, 6pm. TTC Townhall for Willowdale.** The TTC is working on a 5 year strategic plan. This is our opportunity as Willowdale residents to share our thoughts and suggestions. I have previously heard complaints about summer weekend closures and frequency of buses. We want to ensure Willowdale voices are part of the decisions being made! [Click Here](#) to RSVP.

### [SAVE THE DATE! Spaghetti Dinner Town Halls](#)

We are excited to be collaborating with local faith communities and neighbourhood associations to create an opportunity to share a dinner with neighbours followed by a town hall where community members can ask questions and make suggestions to Toronto City Staff. Tickets for these events will be launched next week. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm. Town halls will begin at 7pm.

[Willowdale West](#) - Tentatively, Thursday, November 16

[Newtonbrook East](#) - Thursday, November 23

[Willowdale East](#) - Thursday, November 30

### [Upcoming AGMs](#)

[West Lansing Homeowners Association](#) AGM - October 30, 7-9pm. Lansing United Church.

**POSTPONED** [Silverview Community Association](#) AGM - Cummer Ave. United Church.

I would like to thank [Toronto Police Services](#) and [32 Division](#) for their hard work in responding to the terrorist attack on Israel and resulting war. Their organized and intentional presence helped to maintain stability during an incredibly difficult time. Many members of the service dropped their Thanksgiving plans and were called back into action.

Let us continue checking in with each other, taking care of each other, and when we need to, have hard conversations. Hold space for each other with kindness. I am truly sorry for anyone who has lost loved ones this past week or is awaiting news. Our hearts are with you.

Warmest regards,

*Lily Cheng* 陳伶俐  
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### **Councillor Lily Cheng**

Ward 18 Willowdale / [Councillor\\_Cheng@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Cheng@toronto.ca) / 416-392-0210



Thank you to all who came out to support our 'FIGHT FOR CUMMER STATION' RALLY Thursday morning, and to all those who sent their Cummer Station Advocacy Letters to our provincial officials.

## **Scroll down to find out more about:**

### **~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

- Fight For Cummer Station
- Holmes Park Grand Opening and Park Consultation
- North York Major Street Study Consultation
- TTC Townhall for Willowdale
- Edithvale Pollinator Garden Updates
- Go Bus Station Updates
- Save Ontario's Science Centre- Petition

### **~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES**

- Douglas Snow Aquatic Centre: Scheduled Closure Oct 14 & 15
- Public Consultations: Short-Term Rental Implementation Update
- Call for participants: North York Local Advisory Committee
- Silverview Park Improvement Updates
- Small Business Forum

### **~ COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE**

- FREE Bachata & Salsa Dance Lessons
- Join the fall fair at St. Joseph's Morrow park
- Celebrate Oktoberfest with Reach North York
- 100th Anniversary of St. Edward Catholic School
- Diwalicious, a Diwali festival at Mel Lastman Square

## **COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

# 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 bright future. **CUMMER STATION NEEDS TO BE BUILT.** Please continue to send your letters!

[Email Now!](#)

## LET'S CELEBRATE! HOLMES PARK OPENING PARTY aka Neighbourhood Playdate

- FREE Refreshments
- Meet Neighbours
- LIVE music (5:00pm)
- SHARE IDEAS for Phase 2 of the park!

Local Singer/Songwriter  
Matt Gerber

**TUES. OCT. 17**  
3:30 - 6:30PM

RSVP AT  
<https://bit.ly/45g1V8d>

Join us for a **GRAND OPENING** and **Neighbourhood Playdate!** There will be refreshments (including an ice cream truck!) and live music with local singer/songwriter Matt Gerber. Parks and Recreation staff will be on hand to hear your ideas for the second phase of this park. Do you dream of a dog park, splash pad, ping-pong tables, or something else? Share your ideas and help shape the future together!

[RSVP Now!](#)

## NORTH YORK MAJOR STREET STUDY CONSULTATION

Consultation for missing middle housing on arterial roads

- NORTH YORK CENTRE ATRIUM**  
5150 Yonge St, North York
- OCT 18, 2023**  
Wednesday  
5:30pm - 8:00pm
- RSVP** | <https://bit.ly/48PJ1rQ>

The City of Toronto is looking at options to add permissions for townhouses and small-scale apartment buildings along the city's major streets. In-person and virtual consultations are happening across the city, including in North York. Your feedback will be used to shape the appearance of new development along the City's major streets.

**In-person drop-in session:**  
October 18, 2023 | 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm | North York Centre Atrium, 5150 Yonge Street

**Webinars:**  
[Wednesday, October 25, from 2:30-4:30 pm](#)  
[Wednesday, October 25, from 6:00-8:00 pm](#)

If you are unable to join these sessions, there are other opportunities to make your voice heard:  
Complete the [Major Streets Survey](#)  
Email your feedback and comments to [EHON@toronto.ca](mailto:EHON@toronto.ca)  
To find out more, please visit the [Major Streets Website](#)

[RSVP 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](http://LILYCHENG.CA/EVENTS)

[RSVP Now!](#)

### EDITHVALE POLLINATOR GARDEN UPDATES

Edithvale Community Centre garden was originally built with participation of an active volunteer group. Over the pandemic, participation had dwindled and the city is now looking to restore the site. At this current time, we are seeking volunteers who can speak into re-designing the space to include replanting of native pollinator plants and for easier maintenance. Please reach out to

[kin.seong@toronto.ca](mailto:kin.seong@toronto.ca) should you wish to participate in helping make a difference to the Edithvale Pollinator Garden.

## GO BUS STATION UPDATES

For those looking to travel to Toronto Pearson International Airport, GO bus was always a convenient choice. In recent months, during the high peak travel season, those looking for GO bus #34 that travelled to the airport was no longer. In the spring of this year, Metrolinx had merged GO bus route #34 and #94 (now known as 94 – Pickering GO) that continues to travel to the airport. The only change is that the pickup stop for this route is at Yonge & Poyntz instead of the GO bus terminal at Yonge & Bishop.

[Know More](#)

## SILVERVIEW PARK IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

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!](#)

## SAVE ONTARIO'S SCIENCE CENTRE- PETITION

Save Ontario's Science Centre needs your help to send a message that Ontarians care about the Ontario Science Centre. **Send a letter** to the provincial officials, the City of Toronto's Mayor and City Councillors today. 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

### DOUGLAS SNOW AQUATIC CENTRE: SCHEDULED CLOSURE

The Douglas Snow Aquatic Centre will be **closed on Saturday, October 14th and Sunday, October 15th** due a scheduled power outage with Toronto Hydro.

Signs have been posted at the facility; a service alert has been posted on our webpage; and we are in the process of contacting all swim lesson participants to ensure that they are aware of the cancellation.

Lessons will be extended by one week, ending on Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd respectively.

We genuinely apologize for any disruption this may cause and want you to know that we've done our best to prevent this outage from affecting our program times. Thanks for your understanding, and we can't wait to welcome you back to the pool soon!

### PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS: SHORT-TERM RENTAL IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Short-term rental regulations are one of the many initiatives to increase and preserve rental housing supply across Toronto. The bylaw aims to limit short-term rental activity in Toronto to principal residences and to protect critical rental stock by maintaining access for tenants to long-term accommodation. We are now evaluating the implementation of the short-term rental bylaw to examine its progress and identify areas for improvement.

Residents are invited to share their feedback at two public consultations:

- **Virtual meeting:** Tuesday, October 17, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- **In-person meeting:** Tuesday, October 24, Metro Hall, 55 John St., Room 308/309, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

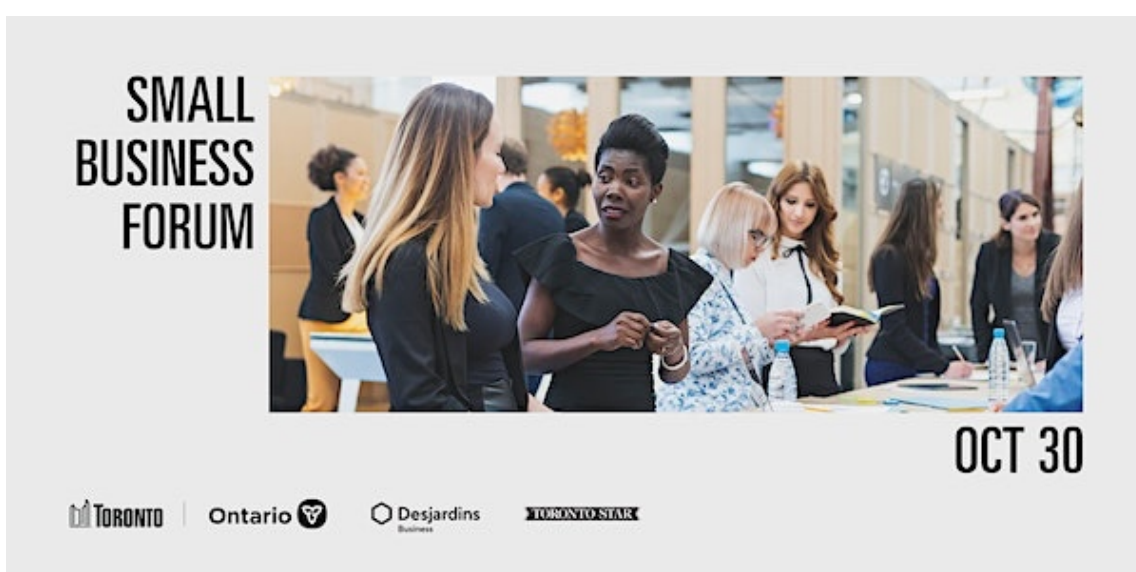
[Learn More](#)

### CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS: NORTH YORK LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The City is continuing its launch of **North York at the Centre** (a review of the North York Centre Secondary Plan) with the release of a Preliminary Background Report. The report catalogs historical, current, and planned conditions for the area along Yonge Street from Highway 401 to Cummer Avenue. Topics covered in the report include people and housing, employment, land use, mobility, public realm, built form, community services and facilities, environment and climate, and more. The report will be used as a resource for community engagement in Phase 1 of the project. **CLICK [HERE](#)** to read the report and sign up for e-updates on the project.

Applications are also now opened for the **North York Local Advisory Committee**, which will include representatives from local organizations that are champions for residents, businesses, heritage, arts, culture and other topics, and individual residents who represent equity-deserving and vulnerable community members. Applications are open until **October 20, 2023**.

[Learn More and Apply Now!](#)



The banner features a photograph of several people in a professional setting, engaged in conversation. On the left, the text 'SMALL BUSINESS FORUM' is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. On the right, the date 'OCT 30' is shown in a large, bold font. At the bottom, there are logos for the City of Toronto, Ontario, Desjardins, and the Toronto Star.

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!](#)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE



The banner features a stylized white line-art illustration of a festival scene with a central building, trees, and mountains under a sun with rays. The word 'Oktoberfest' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the middle. Below it, 'October 14' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background is a solid blue color with a decorative border at the bottom consisting of a repeating pattern of white diamonds.

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](#)

**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**

If you are interested in having a vendor table at the St Joseph's Morrow Park Fall Fair for \$25, contact Kristine McHugh at [mchughk@tcdsb.ca](mailto:mchughk@tcdsb.ca)

*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!](#)

INDO-CANADA ARTS CO-OP NCIL  
CANADA DIWALI RAZZMATAZZ

**Diwalicious**

FOOD FESTIVAL

**TORONTO NORTH YORK**

**Oct 21 & 22, 2023**

[Know More](#)

**NeighbourLink**  
NORTH YORK

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

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25 AT MEL LASTMAN SQUARE**

[Know More](#)

# 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](http://www.lilycheng.ca)

***Building a Connected Community in Willowdale.***

You are receiving this email as you signed up for our newsletters.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [Unsubscribe](#) or [Update your preferences](#)