



LILY CHENG

Toronto City Councillor
Ward 18 Willowdale

Councillor_Cheng@toronto.ca

416-392-0210



@LilyChengTO

LilyCheng.ca

Hi Neighbour!

Happy December! Thank you to all Willowdale residents who have been showing up! Your participation helps us shape a better future for our community. I saw many people come to our City of Toronto Budget consultations, the North York at the Centre consultation and our Willowdale East Spaghetti Town Hall.

NEXT TUESDAY, we will host our **Avondale Neighbourhood Association Creation** meeting to see who is interested in working together to build a stronger, more connected and animated community that can have a strong voice to advocate for the neighbourhood. [Click here](#) to register.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT - Cummer Station Business Case coming to Executive

[CLICK HERE](#) to view agenda item. You can also [REGISTER TO SPEAK](#) at the meeting (this can be done virtually or at City Hall) [OR SUBMIT COMMENTS](#). See the buttons at the top of the page.

Why are we fighting for this station? This is a fight for future generations and not just for this moment in time. There will be almost 14K people living in the area by 2051. Can you imagine Willowdale without North York Centre station? It will disadvantage businesses outside the walk shed of Cummer Station to the north, making our community less accessible and vibrant.

Here are some highlights from the business case:

Business Case Summary

Originally, YNSE included 6 transit stations from Cummer to Richmond Hill. However, due to budget Metrolinx descope 2 stations and then re-scoped one of those, leaving only Cummer Station on the chopping block of their March 2021 Initial Business Case.

City planning and transit expansion staff objections to Metrolinx business case

1. Did not fully reflect the scale of development planned and in the pipeline
2. Narrative focused on the 800-metre distance from Cummer to Finch Station while not adequately emphasizing the additional catchment around Cummer Station
3. Emphasis on time-delay to existing customers ignores the city's core values of advancing the station from a policy and city-building perspective.

The Case

- **23,000 boardings and alightings during typical weekday in 2051** (similar to Wilson, Eglinton West, Wellesley, Keele, or Main Street stations) (2019 pre-COVID data)
- **Forecasted to meet population and employment density** generally accepted to support higher-order transit and prescribed by the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe for Major Transit Station Areas*.
- **Land use planning framework** in the Official Plan supports the intensification
- Official Plan Amendment 615 recently increased the amount of land designated **Mixed Use Areas around Cummer Station**, and the Yonge North Secondary Plan provides a framework for developing a **node of tall and mid-rise buildings** at Yonge and Cummer.
- **Already 7,900 residential units and 27,000 metres square of non-residential** Gross Floor Area at various stages of the development pipeline across 17 applications around Cummer Station.
- **Population** within 500m of Cummer Station is projected to increase from **4,800** people in 2021 to **13,800** people by 2051, while employment for the same area and timeframe is projected to increase **from 4,500 to 5,700 jobs**.

Your support for this motion will encourage our mayor to advocate on behalf of the future of our neighbourhood! Even if you don't live near the area, your advocacy can help us build a better future for our neighbourhood.

GREAT NEWS FOR TORONTO

You may have heard the announcement - the DVP and Gardiner are being uploaded to the province! Here is what was secured:

- \$7.6 Billion in capital relief in the upload of the expressways
- \$1.2 Billion including \$330 million in operating funds for Eglinton Crosstown LRT and Finch West LRT. This includes \$300 million for transit safety, recovery and sustainable operations.
- \$758 million for 55 new subway trains to replace TTC's Line 2 Fleet
- \$600 million in additional operating support for non-refugee shelter and homelessness prevention conditional on federal funding for refugee and asylum claimants.

There was also a joint request for Ottawa to provide \$2.7 billion in additional support for Line 2 subway, shelter infrastructure and other projects.

While this does alleviate some of the \$1.5 Billion operating shortfall for the 2024 budget, it does not solve the entire problem. Further, we have not heard anyone mention the \$9.5 Billion State of Good Repair Backlog that has likely grown since it was reported last January. What Toronto really needs are revenue tools that grow with our population and economy. I will reiterate once more, Toronto is provincial in size of population and complexity. We are bigger than Newfoundland, PEI, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan and not far behind Alberta. But we do not have the authority and budget to do what is needed to be the world class city that we can be.

BAD NEWS FOR NORTH YORK & ONTARIO PLACE

In exchange for this "new deal," Mayor Chow has agreed to completely relinquish Ontario Place to the province's plans including moving Ontario Science Centre to Ontario Place. This is a big loss to families in North York and Scarborough who are grateful to have a destination in our area without having to trek downtown with our kids. Community organizers will continue to advocate for Ontario Place, but we should also consider how Ontario Science Centre is repurposed. I think a Children's Museum would be a great choice. Many families across the GTA drive to Rochester for their Museum of Play which is both educational and fun. [Click Here](#) to learn more. [Click Here](#) to sign a petition to keep the Ontario Science Centre where it is.

Civic Appointments Update

Next Monday we will be interviewing and appointing candidates to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Board. We will also be shortlisting candidates for the Toronto Parking Authority and Yonge-Dundas Square Board. I am currently in discussions with fellow councillors and the Civic Appointments staff team to examine how we can make the interview process more accessible - to put people at ease, so we can get the best candidates and not only those who perform well under pressure.

The conflict in Gaza

Since the horrific attacks by Hamas, the ensuing conflict has been difficult on so many levels. For the Jewish community, it has triggered trauma from the holocaust where many have felt abandoned by the world. Their identity and nationhood has come under attack and several women have shared with me that they have been left wondering, "where can my children be safe in this world?" It is truly heartbreaking to know that community members in our midst no longer feel safe or welcome. This is not okay.

I have also had Palestinian residents reach out who feel their pain has not been seen or validated as horrific numbers of innocent civilian lives have been lost. They too have felt their identity and hope to have their own nation be questioned or made invisible.

When people are in pain, sometimes the best thing we can offer is, "I see you, I feel for you, I care about you." And that is what I would like to say to those who have loved ones suffering on either side of the conflict. Let us hold space for each other with compassion and understanding and try our best not to bring the anger and trauma of what is transpiring into our own hearts and communities. It is very emotional to watch this conflict unfold and to see the ripple effects into our own communities.

I struggle with the sheer number of innocent lives lost and wonder if this is the best path to peace and safety for all. When we take away everything people have to live for - their family, their dignity, their home - is it all the more likely we have now given them something to die for? What will happen to all the children now orphaned and living with severe trauma from this war?

A week ago, I had the opportunity to join 200+ women in a Challah Bake, where bread was made as a form of prayer for the hostages. It was so beautiful to see the community come together in such a meaningful way. I could see it brought comfort to the many participants who have been left reeling since October 7. One mom from the Jewish community and I talked about organizing a multicultural bread bake for peace. I think this would be a powerful event to bring people together. If you would like to help organize one with me, please contact my office.

The Legend of Huli (狐狸)

I met with Willowdaler Nina Zaslavsky - a passionate arts professional who is bringing a magical intercultural dance and music performance to the Meridian Arts Centre on January 20 and 21. Along with composer Roman Smirnov, they are bringing a fusion experience that includes world-class performers from China and Ukraine to bring a mythical story accompanied by original music. This is no easy feat and the high cost of renting Meridian Arts Centre has been a challenge. If you are interested in learning more about her project and potentially helping her secure some sponsorship - this is a great opportunity to support the arts. You can contact Nina here: nina@zaslavsky.org.

Magical Holiday at the Square

You may have noticed beautiful lights are filling Mel Lastman Square. STARTING THIS WEEKEND! **Holiday Fair in the Square** is bringing holiday cheer to our neighbourhood from Dec. 1-23, all in support of Epilepsy Toronto!

What to Expect:

- **Winter Wonderland:** Immerse yourself in a magical winter wonderland that's sure to fill you with holiday cheer.
- **Santa's Village:** Share your holiday wishes, snap photos with Santa, and find out if you've made his nice list!
- **65+ Artisans:** Discover unique creations from over 65 artisans, perfect for gift-giving and indulging in the festive spirit.
- **Polar Point Bar:** Raise a toast to the season with delightful holiday drinks like Mulled Wine, Spiked Hot Apple Cider, and Hot Chocolate.
- **Holiday Midway:** Take a spin on a ride or try your luck at a game to win a prize!
- **Roaming Performers:** Be entertained by enchanting performances that bring the festive spirit to life.
- **Fireside Lounge:** Cozy up by the fire with a warm drink, savouring the season's ambiance.
- This event is dog-friendly! Bring your four-legged friends along for special photo opportunities.

Kindness Advent Countdown

It has been a difficult time in our community grappling with global conflicts and how they impact our local residents. I think we can all agree, our world needs more kindness. With that in mind, my team put together a **Kindness Advent Countdown** that we will be releasing every day on social media. Please **FOLLOW ME** on Instagram to take part. Let's all try to sprinkle a little more kindness into our community!

Hope you enjoy your weekend. Maybe I'll see you at one of the following:

- **3rd Annual Artisan Holiday Market** - Historic John McKenzie House - Sat-Sun, Dec. 2-3, 10am-4pm
- **Noel Bazaar at St. John's Rehab** - Sat, Dec.2, 10am-2pm
- **Avondale Neighbourhood Association Discussion Meeting** - Lansing United Church - Tues. Dec. 5, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- **Menorah Lighting** - Mel Lastman Square - Thurs. Dec.7, 6pm
- **Lansing Holiday Market** - Lansing United Church - Sat. Dec. 9, 12-5pm

It's the most wonderful time of the year...

Warmest Regards,

Lily Cheng 陳伶俐
Lily Cheng 陳伶俐

Councillor Lily Cheng

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



THANK YOU to everyone for coming out and joining us at our Willowdale East Town Hall. Thank you for sharing your ideas, concerns and feedback. Many thanks to the city staff who also came to support this important opportunity for democratic participation. Also, special thanks to all the volunteers who prepared a delicious meal for us!

Click On The Links Below or Scroll Down To Learn More About:

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- [Avondale Neighbourhood Association- Discussion Meeting](#)
- [Fight For Cummer Station](#)

~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- [Yonge North Subway Extension Announcement](#)
- [EHON- Major Street Study Consultation Survey](#)
- [Ontario Rental Registry](#)
- [Cycling Network 2025-2027 Public Input](#)
- [City of Toronto Warming Centres](#)
- [Restoring Library Services](#)
- [Yonge Street Traffic Restrictions](#)
- [Douglas Snow Aquatic Centre Scheduled Improvements](#)

~ COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

- [Danish Lutheran Church Christmas Bazaar](#)
- [Holiday Fair Supporting Epilepsy Toronto](#)
- [Holiday Artisan Market & Community Fair](#)
- [Noel Bazaar at St. John's Rehab](#)
- [Light Up The Night- Public Menorah Lighting](#)
- [The Art and Craft Book Cover Design](#)
- [Lansing Holiday Market](#)
- [Willowdale Youth Band's Riposo](#)

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

LET'S JOIN

The DISCUSSION to START an
**AVONDALE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

Help build a
friendlier and safer
community!

Share your
ideas

Meet your
neighbours



**IN-PERSON MEETING AT
LANSING UNITED CHURCH**
49 Bogert Ave, North York



DEC 5, 2023
Tuesday, 6:30pm - 8:30pm



HOSTED BY:
LILY CHENG
CITY COUNCILLOR WARD 18, WILLOWDALE

RSVP AT
[LILYCHENG.CA/EVENTS](https://lilycheng.ca/events)
Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP Now!

FIGHT FOR CUMMER STATION!

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

5,000+ PEOPLE CURRENTLY LIVE THERE*

ACT NOW!

*0.8km radius surrounding Yonge and Cummer

Existing Apartment Buildings
 Proposed/Approved/Under-construction Developments

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

[Email Now!](#)

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

YONGE NORTH SUBWAY EXTENSION ANNOUNCEMENT

The extension is moving forward with 5 new stations (Steeles Station, Clark Station, Royal Orchard Station, Bridge Station and High Tech Station) along an approximately 8 km route. The YNSE is one of the largest and most ambitious infrastructure projects in Canada and will put thousands of people and jobs in Vaughan, Markham, Richmond Hill and Toronto closer to rapid transit.

Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario evaluated submissions received through last spring's request for qualifications and shortlisted 3 teams to submit proposals for delivering the advance tunnel contract. CrossTransit Group, North End Connectors, and Toronto-York Tunnel Connectors have been selected. Within their proposals, teams will submit their plans for tunnel design and construction, financing, as well as tunnel boring machine delivery and underground station support works.

We are targeting to award the contract to the successful team in late 2024. Tunnelling work will begin after a detailed schedule is finalized, however construction of this project is already underway at Finch Station, where early upgrades to accommodate future subway service are nearing completion.

[Learn More](#)



EHON Major Streets

The public consultation period for 'The Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods: Major Streets Study' has been **extended to December 14, 2023.** [Click here](#) to participate in the **online survey** or [Click here](#) to participate in a citywide **virtual consultation** event on December 6, 2023, from 6 to 7:30pm.

Details on the Major Streets Study:

The report proposes official plan and zoning by-law amendments to permit townhouses and small-scale apartment buildings citywide, in Neighbourhoods, along Map 3 Major Streets. The amendments propose to permit townhouses and small-scale apartment buildings on all properties, along major streets, designated Neighbourhoods across the city and set out built form criteria in policy and zoning. The proposals contribute to the 2023 Housing Action Plan goals to remove exclusionary zoning and to increase housing opportunities in a range of housing forms.

Defending rent affordability is everyone's responsibility.

The Ontario Rental Registry is an online database where tenants can anonymously register their rents. The purpose of the registry is to track rising rents across the province. This will lead to better, publicly-available housing data that can help protect and create more affordable housing. Click the button below to access the registry.

[Register Now!](#)

CYCLING NETWORK 2025-2027 PUBLIC INPUT

The City wants to hear from you to help make recommendations on which bikeways to build, upgrade and study in 2025 to 2027. [CLICK HERE](#) to read about why the City encourages cycling, what are the different kinds of bikeways, how we prioritize new projects, and other details.

Online Survey ends on December 10, 2023. [CLICK HERE](#) to take the survey.

CITY OF TORONTO WARMING CENTRE

WARD 18 WILLOWDALE

WILLOWDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
15 Olive Ave, North York

NOV 15, 2023 - APR 15, 2024

COUNCILLOR CHENG

[Learn More](#)

RESTORING LIBRARY SERVICES

Following a cybersecurity attack in late October, Toronto Public Library is gradually restoring library services. Their team has been working diligently to ensure the security and integrity of each system before bringing them back online. Their aim is to have our website and public computing services available in January.

While they work to restore our website to full functionality, they have created a temporary solution that provides a list of available library services and includes links to their extensive online resources. They have also added a new feature that allows customers to search programs, events and workshops by topic, location and age group.

[Learn More](#)

YONGE STREET TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Yonge Street will be reduced to one northbound lane of vehicle traffic on Saturday, December 2, 2023, for a crane removal hoist from 7 am to 5 pm. Two paid duty officers, along with traffic control persons, will be on site to ensure traffic flow and pedestrian safety. December 3, 2023, will be used as a rain date.

Reason of closure: Tower Crane removal
 Location: Fronting 4917 Yonge St
 Lanes restricted: 2 N/B Lanes
 Work Date(S): 12-02-2023 (12-03-2023 Rain Date)
 Work hours: 7am to 5 pm

DOUGLAS SNOW AQUATIC CENTRE PLANNED CLOSURE

The Douglas Snow Aquatic Centre will be **CLOSED** for maintenance and repairs from **Monday, December 4th, 2023 to Sunday, January 7th, 2024**. Pool will re-open on **Monday, January 8th, 2024**. Visit toronto.ca/swim for schedules at nearby locations.

Scheduled Improvements Include:

- Installation of new mirrors, benches, countertops, bathroom partitions, sinks, and faucets in both change room areas.
- Grout-work completion in the pool basin, therapeutic pool, deck, and throughout change room areas.
- Painting and maintenance in shower areas, as well as the second-floor viewing gallery.
- Replacement of lighting in the pool and accompanying areas.
- Repair of the slide in the main pool.
- Enhanced cleaning of all areas.
- Our team is eager to embark on these projects and create an upgraded and refreshed space for our valued members!

Closure Information:

Signs have been posted in the facility to notify clients of the temporary closure. During this period, members have the option to:

- Utilize their membership at alternate facilities.
- Suspend their membership, with the expiry date extended accordingly.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

DANISH BAZAAR TORONTO

Order your Danish Candy, food and more on their webshop, and you can pick it up at the Church in Toronto at their upcoming planned activities/events ([Click here](#) to see the Calendar). They can also ship your order to you via Canada Post.

[Order Now!](#)

JOIN US FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

HOLIDAY FAIR
mel lastman SQUARE
Supporting Epilepsy Toronto

DEC 1 - DEC 23

Fairinthesquare.ca

The most wonderful time of the year is just around the corner, and Epilepsy Toronto is thrilled to invite you to the spectacular Holiday Fair in The Square, right here in our community! The event promises to be the most enchanting holiday event in North York.

What to Expect: Winter Wonderland, Santa's Village, 65+ Artisans, Polar Point Bar, Holiday Midway, Roaming Performers, Fireside Lounge.

[Learn More!](#)

Hosted By: Jack Pine Gallery
Supported By: OHS

Artisan Market & Community Fair

DECEMBER 2 & 3
Historic John Mackenzie House
34 Parkview Ave. 10 am - 4 pm

FEATURING:
Artisan Vendors | Food & Drinks
6-7ft Christmas Trees | Family Photographer

PRE-ORDER A TREE AT
www.neighbourlink.org/tree

\$35 PRE ORDER **\$40 IN PERSON**

Fun Zone & Christmas Tree Sale
Supported by Sunnyside Camp

Proceed Support Local Food Bank

NeighbourLink NORTH YORK

[Learn More!](#)

NOËL BAZAAR

10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

SATURDAY	MONDAY
02	04
DECEMBER	DECEMBER
<i>For the community</i>	<i>For Sunnybrook staff</i>

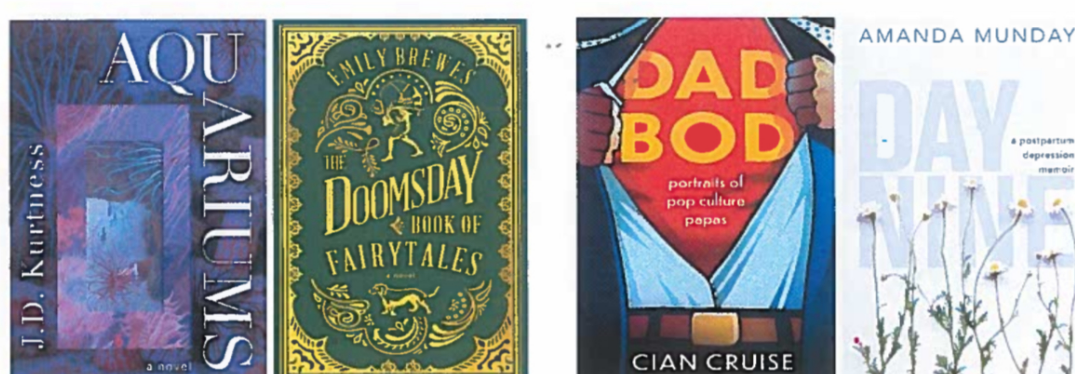
St. John's Rehab
285 Cummer Avenue, Toronto
Grasett Hall, First Floor

GREAT DEALS & SELECTIONS!
Baked Goods, Preserves, Books, China,
Glassware, Houseware, Jewellery, Holiday
Décor, Raffle Table

The St. John's Rehab Volunteer Association is a proud supporter of the St. John's Rehab program at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

The Art and Craft of Book Cover Design

Saturday, December 2
2pm to 3 pm
North York Central Library, Auditorium



Curious what goes into designing covers for the books you know and love?

Laura Boyle, Art Director at Dundurn Press, joins us to talk about trends in book cover design within specific genres, the process and techniques used in designing a book cover, as well as some of the challenges that designers face when trying to visually interpret the contents of a book.

To register call the Language, Literature, & Fine Arts department at 416-395-5639.

tpl toronto public library

tpl.ca

- Hot drinks
- Entertainment
- Chanukah music
- Elected officials greetings

PUBLIC MENORAH LIGHTING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 | 6:00 P.M.
MEL LASTMAN SQUARE
ЖЕЛАЕМ ВАМ СЧАСТЛИВОЙ ХАНУКИ!

Kids entertainment with Rabbi B

Еврейский Центр Русскоязычной Общины Ontario | Jewish Russian Community Centre of Ontario

Light up the Night
www.jrcc.org/Chanukah

[Learn More!](#)

LANSING HOLIDAY MARKET

DECEMBER 9, 2023, 12-5PM
LOCAL VENDORS | PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS | BAKE SALE
INDOORS AT 49 BOGERT AVE. NORTH YORK

spaces united
Connecting spaces to the community

[Register Now!](#)

WILLOWDALE YOUTH BAND PRESENTS

Riposo

Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto
72 Finch Avenue West, North York

Saturday December 9, 2023
7:00 PM
Admission: \$15

TICKETS AT WILLOWDALEYOUTHBAND.COM

[Buy Tickets!](#)



CALL OUT FOR COATS...AND HATS AND SWEATERS AND WARM BOOTS- ESPECIALLY LARGER SIZES FOR MEN

Every Wednesday, Cummer Avenue United Church Drop Inn offers a hot meal, a shower, and when possible, fresh clothing to a significant number of our un-housed neighbours, many of whom are from already under-served, marginalized, or vulnerable populations.



These friends need our help to stay warm this winter, so we're asking Willowdale to donate clean, warm clothing, blankets, and sleeping bags in good condition for distribution through the Drop Inn. Sweaters, hats, scarves, ski pants, and gloves/mitts are also welcome. **New unwrapped socks and underwear** are also in very high demand, as are hand-warmers.

Items can be dropped off at Cummer Avenue United Church (53 Cummer Avenue) any Wednesday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Parking is available on the west side of the building and a sign will guide you to the Drop Inn. 😊

LET'S CONNECT ON SOCIAL



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