



# LILY CHENG

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## Dear Neighbour!

While voting is important, it is a drop in the bucket of democratic activities in which we can participate to shape the world around us. This weekend, as we consider all that we are grateful for, I would like to invite you to express your gratitude for the democratic country in which we live by choosing to participate in one or all of the opportunities we have planned to ensure our community voices are heard. Here is a list of how you can participate!

### JOIN US IN ACTION!

**1. DEADLINE: October 11.** Send a letter to [FIGHT for Cummer Station](#) to be funded and built. Fighting for a transit station for future density to me is like fighting for water delivery. By sending a letter, we are fighting for the future residents of Willowdale, reducing our carbon footprint and preventing gridlock! [Click Here](#) to take action. As the city negotiates a new deal with the province, we want Cummer Station to be included!

**2. October 12, 8am.** Join us for an early morning [Fight for Cummer Station Rally](#) before my motion is moved at Toronto City Council. Come by before work and help us fight for funding for this important investment in infrastructure.

**3. DEADLINE: October 11.** Send a letter to [Re-Open North York Civic Centre on evenings and weekends](#). For decades North York Civic Centre has served as a meeting place for community groups, a location for community consultations and a pathway for people to access groceries, pharmacies, dining and transit. We are advocating that the building be reopened as a critical part of our community. [Click Here](#) to send a submission for my motion that will be debated on October 12.

**4. October 12, 6pm. Willowdale Climate Action Roundtable.** Join us in starting community-based initiatives including advocating for better policies. [Click Here](#) to RSVP.

**5. October 16, 6:30pm. Willowdale Safety Town Hall (online).** We have heard there has been a significant rise in break-ins and auto thefts in the neighbourhood. As a result we have invited 32 Division to speak to this spike and discuss what can be done. [Click Here](#) to RSVP.

**6. 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.

**7. 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.

**8. 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.

### Upcoming AGMs

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

[Silverview Community Association](#) AGM - **October 24, 7-9pm, Cummer Ave. United Church.**

I encourage all to attend their neighbourhood association AGMs to connect to your community! You can also find out more about membership by attending.

### Declaration of Woman, Life, Freedom Day

Sunday, October 8 marks the birthday of Mahsa Jina Amini whose murder last year sparked the women-led Woman, Life, Freedom movement around the world.

As such, on behalf of Toronto City Council, Mayor Olivia Chow proclaims October 8, 2023, as "Woman, Life, Freedom Day" in the City of Toronto. We celebrate the profound impact of this movement, which has inspired women and individuals across the globe to champion human rights and liberties.

As we honour this movement we also celebrate Narges Mohammadi who was recently announced as the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize recipient recognizing her relentless struggle against the oppression of women in Iran and her unwavering commitment to advancing human rights and freedom, even from prison.

The Iranian-Canadian community is an integral part of our city's rich cultural tapestry. We stand in solidarity with Iranians here in Toronto and around the world who carry the banner and dreams of the Woman, Life, Freedom Movement.

### Why are we talking about Cummer Station again?

As you will have noted, we are currently mobilizing a campaign to advocate for [Cummer Station](#) to be built (which we hope you will join). This gust of activity is a result of the "New Deal" discussions happening between the [City of Toronto](#) and the [Province of Ontario](#). Because the province is set to begin the procurement process for the [Yonge North Subway Extension \(YNSE\)](#) it will soon be too late or too costly to revisit this decision. This is our last opportunity to advocate with a loud voice that funding this critical infrastructure is the right thing to do. It will:

- Encourage 10K+ new residents moving near the intersection to take transit
- Prevent gridlock
- Support future density from the Yonge Street North Secondary Plan

30 years from now when the area is built out, having a subway station there will be proven to be the right thing to do. Are we willing to advocate to plant this seed under whose shade we may never sit? I hope you will join me!

### Crime in Willowdale

Many of you may have seen CBC coverage of a recent break-in in our community. [Click Here](#) to watch. In response to the marked increase in burglaries in our neighbourhood, we are planning an Urgent Willowdale Community Safety Townhall. 32 Division will be present to share updates, crime prevention tips and answer questions. We will also discuss establishing community-based neighbourhood watch. See you (virtually) on October 16!

### Ride-a-long with 32 Division

This past week I had the privilege of participating in a "Ride-a-long" with Sergeant Janz of 32 Division. A striking moment was seeing cars rush to a call regarding "gunshots heard." Regular civilians get to run away if they hear gunshots. But our courageous officers rushed to the scene. Luckily it turned out to be a potential noisy muffler. I was grateful to be wearing a bulletproof vest.

Every day as we go about our regular activities in our community, there is a team of officers actively working to respond to emergency situations. In many of my conversations with officers, they are regularly stretched thin for various reasons including high numbers in retirements, officers who are on training or sick, officers on leave and officers who leave to work in other jurisdictions.

Toronto is considered a more dangerous and complex policing environment with a higher cost of living. When comparing job offers between Toronto and other jurisdictions that have similar pay, it is easy to understand why some officers choose to work elsewhere. It continues to be an uphill battle to ensure we have enough policing staff.

### COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

#### Civic Appointments Committee

Civic Appointments Committee considers and recommends to Council the names of citizens to appoint to agencies. This was the first time I chaired a meeting with great support from City Clerks and the Civic Appointment team. If you tuned in, you would not have seen much because most of the meeting happened in-camera as we interviewed candidates for the Exhibition Place Board and Toronto Zoo Board.

It was amazing to meet so many passionate and talented people who want to contribute to our city in this meaningful way. Choosing who would get the



appointments was difficult between lots of strong candidates. I look forward to continuing this work with Councillors Moise, Perks, Burnside and Myers.

Here are upcoming opportunities with deadlines you can apply to:

- [Heritage Toronto](#) – October 23
- [Housing Rights Advisory Committee](#) - October 13
- [Sign Variance Committee](#) - October 20
- [Toronto Atmospheric Fund Board](#) - October 16
- [Toronto Parking Authority Board](#) - October 20
- [Toronto Preservation Board](#) - November 1
- [Yonge-Dundas Square Board](#) - October 13

### General Government Committee

The General Government Committee's primary focus is on the administrative operations of the City, with a mandate to monitor and make recommendations on the procurement and management of City government assets and resources. This means reading over detailed briefs about different budgetary decisions.

This past week's meeting included:

- New Management of Play, Pro Shops and Food and Beverage Services at Five City-Operated Golf Courses.
- Amendment to Coca-Cola Coliseum Lease and Sublease
- Declare Surplus of City Walkway Between 19 and 23 Lord Roberts Drive
- Amendment to Purchase Order for Legal Services involving Union Station
- Amendment to Contract with Salivan Landscape Ltd., for the delivery of tree planting services for the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

Here is a sample of some of the questions I asked:

- Why were there unforeseen soil conditions in a project if soil testing was done before the project began? Answer: They spot check before a project begins. The spot checks done did not find the contaminations.
- Why are we surplus land that is still being used as a walkway? Answer: We are surplus land underground which Enbridge will be using for their infrastructure. The walkway will still be owned by the city.
- Why are we outsourcing legal services on a multi-year project which means we are missing the opportunity to grow a specific skill within our legal team? Answer: The project is time-limited and expected to end soon. Therefore, it does not necessitate in-house capacity.

I ask a lot of questions because I consider my role on any committee to be a learning journey that is not just about the issue at hand, but bringing greater understanding to how contracts are negotiated and signed. This can better inform my participation on Budget Committee and overall governance in my role across different committees.

### Happy Thanksgiving!

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us. -Albert Schweitzer

Sometimes this work is daunting and grueling, but your participation helps to keep my flame from going out! Thank you for spending time with me each week by reading these notes. I look forward to seeing you at one of the many opportunities to engage coming up.

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



It was a privilege to dine with Chief Demkiw along with Deputy Mayor McKelvie and Deputy Chief Johnson at the 29th Annual Community-Based Policing Dinner, hosted by the Chinese Community Consultative Committee and East Asian Internal Support Network of the Toronto Police Services.

### Scroll down to find out more about:

#### ~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- Fight For Cummer Station Rally
- Willowdale Climate Action Roundtable
- Willowdale Safety Town Hall
- Holmes Park Grand Opening and Park Consultation
- Willowdale TTC Townhall

#### ~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- Call for Participants: North York Local Advisory Committee
- Newtonbrook Creek Restoration and Water Infrastructure Protection Study
- Small Business Forum

#### ~ COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

- FREE Bachata & Salsa Dance Lessons
- Celebrate Oktoberfest with Reach North York
- 100th Anniversary of St. Edward Catholic School

### 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

Legend:  
 Existing Apartment Buildings  
 Proposed/Approved/Under-construction Developments

[Email Now!](#)

**FIGHT FOR CUMMER STATION! RALLY**

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

**5,000+** PEOPLE CURRENTLY LIVE THERE\*

**ACT NOW!**

\*0.8km radius surrounding Yonge and Cummer

[Register Now!](#)



PLEASE REOPEN

# NORTH YORK CIVIC CENTRE

WILLOWDALE NEEDS OUR CIVIC CENTRE

## ACT NOW!

WRITE A LETTER OF SUPPORT BY: October 11!

Evening/Weekend Community Gatherings & Consultations  
Safe winter passage to TTC, Library and Groceries



Email Now!



HOSTED BY:  
COUNCILLOR  
LILY CHENG

## WILLOWDALE CLIMATE ACTION ROUNDTABLE

EDITHVALE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
OCT 12, 2023 6:00PM - 8:30PM  
LILYCHENG.CA/EVENTS

Join us for our second Climate Action Roundtable! We'll be celebrating the successes of our first roundtable and discussing next steps including: **Environment Day, WAAT (We Agree About Trees)**: Willowdale's new Neighbourhood Planting Program, and the **Summer Station campaign**. We'll also be diving into exciting upcoming community-driven initiatives brought forth by our dedicated residents. Refreshments will be served!

RSVP Now!

## WILLOWDALE SAFETY TOWN HALL

ADDRESSING RECENT SPIKE IN ROBBERIES AND AUTO THEFTS.



- Crime update in neighbourhood
- Setting up community based neighbourhood watch
- Theft mitigation



ONLINE MEETING



MON. OCT. 16, 2023  
6:30-8:30pm

HOSTED BY:  
LILY CHENG  
CITY COUNCILLOR WARD 18, WILLOWDALE

RSVP AT  
LILYCHENG.CA/EVENTS

RSVP 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/45g1V8>

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

RSVP Now!

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES



THE CITY OF TORONTO  
PROCLAIMS

OCT 8,  
2023  
as  
WOMAN  
LIFE  
FREEDOM  
DAY



**NEWTONBROOK CREEK RESTORATION AND  
WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION STUDY**

The City is carrying out a study to identify sewer and watermain infrastructure within Newtonbrook Creek that is at risk of damage due to erosion impacts as a result of high flows from storms and snow melt. This study looks at how the City's storm sewer and watermain infrastructure can be protected within the creek using recommended solutions to help reduce or prevent future impact.

Residents are encouraged to visit the study area with the project team or drop-in to discuss the study recommendations and ask questions.

Upcoming meeting details:

- Wednesday October 18, 2023 (rain or shine)
- Drop in from 9 – 11am
- Site walk begins at 9am
- Meeting point and parking at Forest Grove United Church (43 Forest Grove Drive, M2K 1Z4)
- Drop-in information table will be hosted at the church from 9 – 11am
- Please note that the trail to the creek is steep. The drop-in information table at the church is wheelchair/mobility device accessible. If you have a specific accessibility need or require other accommodation, please contact [newtonbrook@toronto.ca](mailto:newtonbrook@toronto.ca) or call 416-338-2985

Residents are also encouraged to complete [online survey](#) or request a printed copy by **Friday, November 3, 2023**. Submit comments by email, mail or phone.

Click [HERE](#) for the translated notice of public consultations in Korean, Chinese, and Farsi.

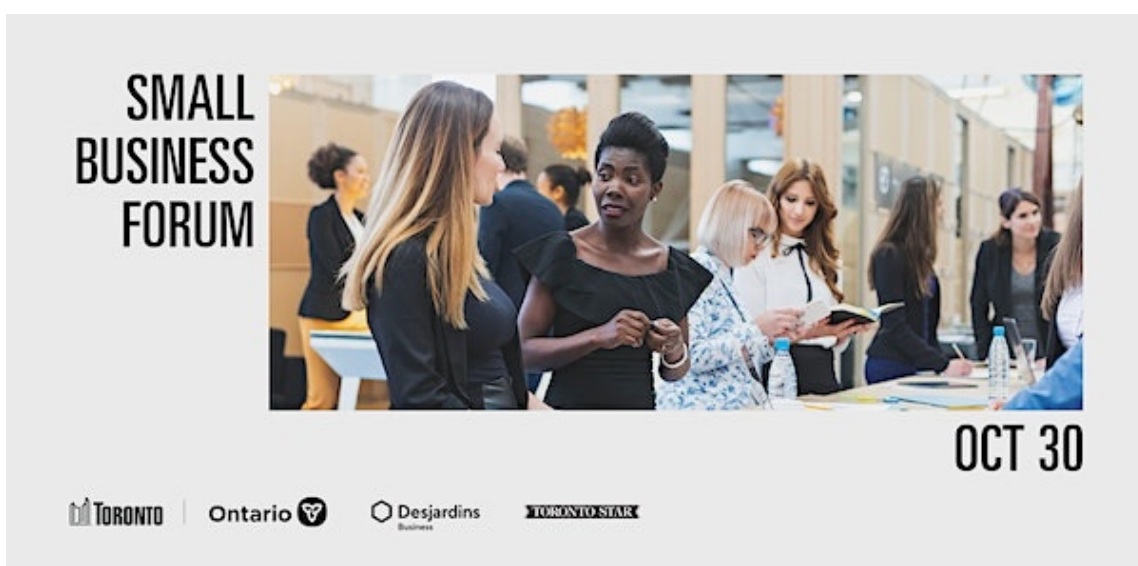
[Learn More](#)

**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!](#)



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**





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](#)

*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>

# 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.

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