

Connected Community March 24, 2023



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Dear Neighbour!

Happy Nowruz!

I hope everyone enjoyed the first week of spring! The warmer temperatures are definitely welcome after the last recent snow. With the start of spring, comes our Persian neighbours' celebration of Nowruz. Wishing all of our Willowdale families a very Happy Nowruz, نوروز مبارک! It was wonderful to meet so many of you at our first Willowdale Celebrates Nowruz event last weekend in partnership with NeighbourLink North York and North York Central Library Children's Department. Such a joyous celebration of Persian culture, complete with a Haft-Sen display, Persian Tea House, arts and crafts for the kids and some incredible performances by our local Persian musicians. I had so much fun dancing to the festive tunes being performed live. What an uplifting day to celebrate the start of spring and Persian New Year. One senior said to me it reminded her of being back home!

Ramadan Mubarak

I also want to wish our Muslim neighbours a Ramadan Mubarak رمضان مبارك. Ramadan commences after the first sighting of the crescent moon and is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. Wishing those observing a meaningful month ahead.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

And of course, last but not least, a cheers to our Irish neighbours (or those who lean Irish one day of the year). I hope you enjoyed a fun and festive St. Patrick's Day last weekend! I had the pleasure of joining our Deputy Mayor McKelvie and fellow councillors at the Toronto St. Patrick's Day parade. It was lots of fun to see all the green outfits and festivities!

Affordable Housing

Back at City Hall, we had our Executive Committee this past Tuesday, where I addressed the lack of truly affordable housing. Low wage workers should be able to afford to live in Toronto. The rate we are currently building condos paired with current immigration policy will not result in housing that is affordable for all. There was a burst of building co-ops and social housing in the 70s and 80s which we need to repeat if we want to build a city where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. The lack of affordable housing is one of the key factors contributing to the rapid growth of homelessness. The city has approved 19,756 affordable housing units, however, 15,175 have yet to be constructed! (This can be seen in the newly launched [Toronto Housing Data Hub](#)) Factors like the impact of inflation on cost of building materials and labour shortages have created bottlenecks. We need all levels of government to work together to get past this hump.

City of Toronto Budget

The other difficult issue is the sustainability of the [City of Toronto Budget](#). We had a \$484 million COVID impact shortfall from 2022 (of which the province has pledged \$235 million), paired with a \$933 million COVID impact shortfall for 2023. The province has committed to contributing \$48 million to cover the supports needed for 2000 supportive housing units, but the remainder of this funding gap which is currently being covered by our reserve, has yet to see any commitments from the provincial or federal government. [The City of Toronto Financial Update and Outlook](#) was shared at Executive Committee with the bad news that "Over the next 10 years, the City of Toronto faces known operating and capital fiscal pressures of \$46.5 billion that, without serious attention from City Council to address, are likely to threaten the City of Toronto's fiscal stability and the sustainability of its service levels."

Why this matters

I share this difficult news with you because there is a **Mayoral By-Election** coming up on June 26 and how each candidate will work towards dealing with the sustainability of our city should be an important consideration at the ballot box. The City is currently exploring advocating for additional revenue streams so we do not have to spend every budget cycle begging from other levels of government to balance our budget. Our situation is not unique, many municipalities around the world are struggling with the same issue. The World Economic Forum published an interesting paper entitled "[Rethinking City Revenue and Finance](#)" last year. The start of the paper says: "It is critical for cities to have sustainable and diversified sources of financing to meet future infrastructure demands." As the fastest growing city in North America, I couldn't agree more.

Faced with these mounting pressures can seem daunting - but we must all stay engaged and informed so we can work collectively towards the best solutions to ensure Toronto can grow as a world-class city.

Warmest regards,

陳伶俐

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Scroll down to find out more about:

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- [Community Environment Day - Sat, Apr 15](#)
- [Willowdale BIA Celebrates Earth Day - Fri, Apr 21](#)
- [Deployment of CCTV in the Yonge Street Corridor](#)
- [NEW Park Update - 21 Holmes Ave.](#)
- [Mitchell Field Updates](#)
- [New Warming Centre in Willowdale](#)
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~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- [Residents Are Urged to Refrain from Feeding Local Wildlife](#)

~ 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. Please also send us any updates of local community news and events that we can share.

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

WILLOWDALE Environment Day

Saturday, April 15, 10am-2pm
Centre Point Mall (6464 Yonge St.)

Drop off:
• hazardous waste, and
• donate items for reuse.
Free compost available!

Also:
• Participate in a Seed Exchange
• Drop off non-perishable food items for local food bank.



Councillor Cheng

Our office in partnership with City Staff from Solid Waste Management Services are organizing two Environment Days in Willowdale. These Community Environment Days aim to reduce the amount of reusable or recyclable waste going to landfills and provide a safe disposal option for household hazardous waste. You can pick up free compost or bring your unwanted items, household hazardous waste or electronic waste for donation, safe disposal or recycling.

We will also be hosting a local **seed exchange!** Gardeners can share seeds they have saved from their own plants, excess seeds from their stash, or even seeds from another region. Don't miss out on a chance to connect with fellow plant lovers!

RSVP: willowdalegreenday1.eventbrite.ca
You can learn more at: www.toronto.ca/environment_days.



WILLOWDALE BIA CELEBRATES EARTH DAY!

In Support of Clean Toronto Together
Friday, April 21, 2023

WE INVITE YOUR BUSINESS TO JOIN US - 12:30PM

Recruit Your Co-workers & Spare 20-Minutes For An Exterior Clean Up At

Gibson House Museum (5172 Yonge Street)

Enjoy Refreshments, Receive A FREE Gift & Tour

The 19th-Century Farmhouse Located Within Our District!

willowdaleBIA.com
Visit us along Highway 7, HWY 403, Bishop Ave.
Join our E-Newsletter for local events, contests & more!

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

FIRST 50 PARTICIPANTS TO ARRIVE ON-SITE
WILL RECEIVE A \$5.00 STARBUCKS GIFT CARD

1. Scan the QR code or call 416.432.6998 ext.0
2. Fill-out our registration form
3. Register by April 17, 2023 to reserve your team experience

We thank our generous event partners



Clean Toronto Together is a City of Toronto initiative that brings more than 200,000 Toronto residents, community groups, schools and businesses together to help clear litter from public spaces.

www.willowdalebia.com
Willowdale BIA, 4711 Yonge Street, 10th Floor, Toronto, ON M2N 6K8



Deployment of CCTV in the Yonge Street Corridor

Toronto Police Service (TPS) is starting applications for CCTV deployment in the Yonge Street Corridor (YSC), specifically at five intersections. The following locations were chosen based on TPS analysis of Crime, Disorder and Road Safety and feedback from community businesses and organizations:

- Yonge St & Bishop Ave
- Yonge St & Finch Ave
- Yonge St & North York Blvd
- Yonge St & Sheppard Ave
- Yonge St & Avondale Ave

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact Sergeant Sean Cosgrove from 32 Division: Sean.Cosgrove@torontopolice.on.ca

[Learn More About the CCTV Deployment](#)

NEW PARK UPDATE

The City is on track to complete and deliver the park located at **21 Holmes Avenue** by July 2023. The park will feature a shade structure with distinctive seating, a playground for both junior and senior ages, a water bottle filler, bike rings, and lush surrounding planting materials.

MITCHELL FIELD UPDATES

Renovations at Mitchell Field Community Centre are underway. While the gym floors are being refinished, the weight room and track will remain open. They plan to reopen for Spring 2023 programming on April 3rd, 2023. For information about course offerings, please visit etm.toronto.ca or call the Mitchell Field Community Centre at 416-395-0265. Mitchell Field Community Centre will host a **GRAND RE-OPENING** on **Friday, April 14**. Save the date and stay tuned for more details to come.

NEW WARMING CENTRE LOCATION IN WILLOWDALE

Address: Willowdale Baptist Church, 15 Olive Ave
Operational during Extreme Cold Weather Alert, until April 15, 2023

[Learn More About the New Warming Centre](#)

ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL (OLT) HEARING

172,176, 180 Finch Ave W, 1-33 Grantbrook St & 303-313 Hendon Ave

Date/Time: March 30, 10am

[Click here](#) to join the online meeting, access code: 719-383-509

*Once you enter the access code, click the black button that says **join in this browser**.

[Click Here](#) for further details about the hearing.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Yonge North Subway Extension: [Hendon Avenue](#)

Toronto Hydro Overhead Civil & Electrical Upgrade: [Finch - Grantbrook](#); Finch Avenue West and Ancona Street

Watermain Replacement and Local Road Resurfacing: [Eilerslie Ave.](#)

[Learn More About Construction Updates](#)

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO REFRAIN FROM FEEDING LOCAL WILDLIFE

The City of Toronto is prohibiting the feeding of wildlife, starting April 1. The City has launched a public education campaign to inform residents about the new regulations and why it's important for safety. Residents who see someone feeding wildlife should report it to 311.

[Learn More](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

UPCOMING WEEK:

[Community Safety Meeting: Elder Abuse and Harm Reduction](#)
Mar 24, 7pm @ 175 Cummer Ave.

[Learn How to Protect Yourself!](#)
Mar 25, 11:30am @ 175 Cummer Ave.

[Willowdale Community Dining Event](#)
Mar 25, 12:30pm @ 175 Cummer Ave.

[Income Tax Clinic](#)
Mar 25 & Apr 1, 10am - 4pm @ Room 101, North York Central Library

[Gimeno Concert: Beethoven 5](#)
Mar 26, 3pm @ George Weston Recital Hall, Meridian Arts Centre

[Business Inc.](#)
Mar 30, 6:30pm @ Meeting Room 1, North York Central Library

[Willowdale Welcome Tea for Newcomers from Ukraine](#)
Apr 26, 4-6pm @ Spring Garden Church

[Let's Move Willowdale Move-a-thon & Community BBQ](#)
Supporting NeighbourLink North York & North York Seniors Centre
May 6, 11am-2pm @ Hendon Park

[Get Details & the Full List of Events!](#)

Let's Connect on Social



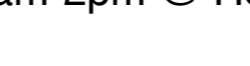
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Building a Connected Community in Willowdale.

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