

effectiveness of current de-escalation training. While it is difficult to track, I believe it is important to understand if the policies and training that have been implemented are effective.

Civic Appointment

I ended this week with chairing the Civic Appointments Committee. We interviewed and appointed candidates for Yonge/Dundas Square Board, Toronto Parking Authority Board, Toronto Preservation Board and shortlisted interview candidates for TOLive Board. Every time we get to interview people for the city's many boards, I am amazed at the incredible talent and commitment of community members to participate and give back. I would like to see more diverse candidates join the many boards that govern our city. [Click Here](#) to learn about upcoming opportunities. My hope as chair is to make joining a board more accessible to diverse communities in our city. One hurdle that we face is the necessity for daytime meetings. It is difficult for boards to have ongoing evening meetings due to the staff required to participate and/or run these meetings. This means we will never have a teacher as a board member or anyone working a day job that they are unable to step away from. This is one of many questions I am pondering with the Clerks to envision a process that invites more voices to the table.

What's Next?

Next week is budget week. If you want a fast-forward dive into the nuts and bolts of the city, you can [join me online January 16, 17 and 18](#) as agencies and divisions across our city present their budgets. [Click Here](#) to see the link to view as it is made available.

And while my brain is close to jello for the hundreds of pages I have read and hours of meetings that ate up my week, my weekend awaits with the skate party and a box that contains all the briefing notes for the budget. The job can feel daunting at times as I try to carve out time to have meals with my family. My word for 2024 is "sustainable." The work of a City Councillor is a marathon and not a sprint. I often have to remind myself to pace myself as I have big dreams and big passion that are hard to contain!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our [Skate Party](#) and/or [Budget Town Hall](#). I look forward to the many mountains we will climb together in 2024! Hopefully we'll see some peaks!

Warmest Regards,

 陳伶俐
Lily Cheng

Councillor Lily Cheng

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

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

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- [2024 T.O. BUDGET SURVEY](#)
- [Virtual Willowdale City Budget Town Hall](#)
- [Skate Party 2024](#)
- [Reporting Power Outages](#)
- [Winter Bus Stop Update](#)

~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- [Vacant Home Tax](#)
- [Douglas Snow Aquatic Centre Reopening](#)
- [Avoid Frozen Pipes](#)

~ COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

- [Legend of Huli](#)
- [TD Park People Grants Program](#)
- ["Mud Covered City" Viewing](#)
- [Robbie Burns Tea](#)

COUNCILLOR UPDATES



ACT NOW!

WILLOWDALE ACTION HUB

**YOUR VOICE
YOUR CITY
YOUR BUDGET
WILLOWDALE SURVEY**

willowdaleactionhub.ca

COUNCILLOR CHENG

URGENT - WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

[CLICK HERE](#) to fill out our **2024 T.O. BUDGET SURVEY** in our newly launched **Willowdale Action Hub**. Your answers can help shape my input at the Budget Committee next week (**Jan. 16-18**)! We know many people have strong opinions about this budget so make sure you fill out the survey and join our town hall **NEXT MONDAY** night!

Important links to 2024 BudgetTO launch reading material:

Presentation deck: [Click Here](#)

Presentation appendices: [Click Here](#)

Learn more & get involved: [Click Here](#)

Please note: This is the city staff and Budget Chief proposed version of the budget. The budget is not finalized until **February 2024**.

[Take the Survey Now!](#)



**WILLOWDALE
OUR CITY BUDGET
TOWN HALL**

VIRTUAL

Presentation on the 2024 City of Toronto Budget and Q&A

Hosted By:

Shelley Carroll
Budget Chief

Lily Cheng
City Councillor

Anthony Ng
Interim ED of the Financial Planning Division

Date: Monday, Jan 15, 2024 | **Time:** 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Join us for the **Virtual Willowdale City Budget Town Hall**, a crucial event unveiling the 2024 budget and charting our city's financial path. Featuring **Budget Chief and Councillor Shelley Carroll**, alongside the **Interim ED of Financial Planning Division**, this exclusive session is a unique opportunity for Willowdalers to understand and engage with our city's financial landscape. Let's come together virtually to discuss OUR money and OUR city. Don't miss this chance to be informed, ask questions, and actively participate in shaping the future of Willowdale.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register and be a part of this important conversation!

[RSVP](#)

WILLOWDALE SKATE PARTY

THIS SUNDAY 1-4pm!
FREE Skate Rentals*

JAN. 14 - MEL LASTMAN SQUARE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
MP Ali Ehsassi
MPP Stan Cho
City Councillor Lily Cheng

TREATS SPONSOR:
Tim Hortons

PERFORMANCES:
UPPER CANADA SKATING CLUB
Miyu Aoshima

Interactive & Family Fun DJ
presented by the Yonge North York BIA

Desjardins
Skate Rental Sponsored by Desjardins

Buy a Cup Noodle in support of NeighbourLink North York!

YONGE NORTH YORK

The time has come for our **2nd Annual Willowdale Skate Party** at **Mel Lastman Square**! Join us for a wonderful time of experiencing community on and off the rink on **Sunday January 14, 2024 from 1PM - 4PM**.

Kick off 2024 with us as we skate with family, friends, and neighbours, enjoy jaw-opening ice skating performances and a fun interactive DJ, and warm up with hot chocolate and cup noodles in support of NeighbourLink North York.

This is a **free event** sponsored by **Tim Hortons** and **Yonge North York BIA**, and brought to you by **Councillor Lily Cheng** and **MP Ali Ehsassi**. Free rentals made available by the Skate Lending Library.

See you at the rink!

RSVP

REPORTING POWER OUTAGES

For residents experiencing power outages, reach out directly to Toronto Hydro at power_quality@torontohydro.com and provide them with your address so that they are able to determine the feeder that your home is serviced from to better address the issue. You can also call **416-542-8000 (press 6)** from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to report the outage.

WINTER BUS STOP UPDATE

As winter approaches, we would like to provide you with an update on our [Severe Winter Weather plan](#). Fifty-six bus stops are being updated in various locations across the city with new permanent winter weather information signs indicating that the stop may be taken out of service during snow and freezing rain storms. These stops are located in known trouble spots such as hills or areas that make it difficult for a bus to travel during heavy snow and freezing rain. Here is the list of stops that will be affected in our ward:

Route	Stop #	Location
42 Cummer	Stop #1803	Cummer Ave at Bayview Ave
53 Steeles East	Stop #8225	Steeles Ave East at Henderson Ave
353 Steeles East Night Bus	Stop #8225	Steeles Ave East at Henderson Ave

Learn More

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

VACANT HOME TAX

In Toronto, owners of residential properties must declare their occupancy status annually, even if they live there. The Vacant Home Tax (VHT) applies to properties not serving as the principal residence, occupied by tenants, or eligible for exemptions for six months or more in a calendar year. Access the online portal for declarations now; the deadline is **February 29, 2024**.

Learn More



DOUGLAS SNOW AQUATIC CENTRE REOPENING

The Douglas Snow Aquatic Centre is set to reopen tomorrow, Saturday, January 13th, 2024, for all regularly scheduled programs and permits. However, please be aware that the centre is currently facing heat-related issues in the change room areas, and the slide remains closed pending inspection by TSSA. It is expected that the slide inspection will take place in the coming week, with ongoing efforts to promptly address and resolve the heating issues in the change room areas.

Updated information has been posted on the centre's webpage, and signs have been displayed within the facility to inform the public about these developments.

Learn More

AVOID FROZEN PIPES

Frozen pipes can leave you with no water or cause your pipes to burst. Get tips to protect your home at toronto.ca/frozenpipes



AVOID FROZEN PIPES

As winter continues, ensure your pipes are protected from freezing! Did you know that during winter, the City receives regular calls of "no water" due to frozen pipes on residents' private property? Take steps to protect your pipes from freezing and learn what to do if they freeze by visiting the City's Prevent or Thaw Frozen Pipes webpage.

Learn More

COMMUNITY UPDATES



'The Legend of Huli' (狐狸的传说) is coming to the Meridian Arts Centre on **January 20 and 21!** Willowdaler and producer Nina Zaslavsky and Artistic Director Roman Smirnov presents a mythical story of the east-asian celestial fox portrayed by world class performers from China and Ukraine. Experience a fusion of contemporary dance, light show and music ranging from baroque to flamenco, jazz, world and modern classics.

[Get Tickets](#)

TD Park People Grants

Building Vital Connections Between People & Parks

APPLY BY FEBRUARY 27

parkpeople.ca/opportunity/td-park-people-grants

TD READY COMMITMENT | park people amies des parcs

TD PARK PEOPLE GRANTS PROGRAM

TD Park People Grants Program launched on January 10th, and the application deadline is **Tuesday, February 27, 2024!**

This year, the \$2,000 grants will support 70 groups hosting park events in 21 urban areas across Canada ([see eligible cities here](#)). Successful applicants will use the grant to host two events supporting the ongoing care and protection of green spaces through environmental education, sustainability and stewardship initiatives.

[Learn More](#)

MUD COVERED CITY VIEWING

VENICE IFF 1963 WINNER

Discover an Evening of Art and Cinema with WCRA Arts Collective! You are invited to a special screening of the Venice IFF short film winner, "**Mud Covered City**" This cinematic gem is a testament to **Václav Táborský's** directorial skills in crafting short satirical documentaries. Join on either January 24th or 27th, from 7-9 pm at the iconic John Mckenzie House for an unforgettable experience.

Secure Your Spot:

- RSVP for January 24th: [CLICK HERE](#)
- RSVP for January 27th: [CLICK HERE](#)

Immerse yourself in the magic of cinema and become part of the WCRA Arts Collective's mission to foster and celebrate the arts in Willowdale. An enchanting evening awaits you!

50 North York SENIORS CENTRE

Robbie Burns Tea
Wednesday, January 24th
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm In the Café

Let's celebrate the life of the famed poet, Robert Burns, and all things Scottish. We'll drink tea and nibble on scones and sweets.

\$10 Member, \$12 Non-Member Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 17th

Call the Programs Office at 416 733.4111

Food provided by **Rayoak Place** RETIREMENT LIVING

Let's come together to celebrate the life of the renowned poet, Robert Burns, and immerse ourselves in all things Scottish! You're cordially invited to join for a delightful gathering at the **North York Seniors Centre's Robbie Burns Tea**.

Date: January 24th

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Indulge in a cozy afternoon filled with piping hot tea, delectable treats, and the joy of shared moments. To ensure your spot, please **RSVP** by calling the Programs Office at **416-733-4111**.

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. 😊

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