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Dear Neighbour!

Yonge Street Tragedy 5 Year Commemoration

Last Sunday we marked the 5th anniversary of the Yonge Street Tragedy that left a scar on many of our hearts. At the Commemoration and Concert of Hope we remembered and honoured the victims and reminded their families that our community has not forgotten them. Grief is always easier to carry with community support. Thank you to all who joined us.

Special thanks to Sarah Murley Hauser, Lillia & Diana Dobrovolska, and Neekta Eskandari who touched us with their musical gifts. Our gratitude to Rabbi Zilbershtein and Pastor Puiras for their messages that lifted our spirits. Thank you to We Love Willowdale, NeighbourLink North York and the Yonge Street Tragedy Steering Committee for putting together a thoughtful and moving commemoration. We also thank Boston Pizza, Chipotle, Domino's Pizza, Starbucks, Jack Astors and Yonge Cafe. Their contribution of refreshments gave our community the opportunity to linger and connect. I cherished the opportunity to catch up with the D'Amico family who join us every year. They continue to honour Anne Marie D'Amico (one of the victims of the tragedy) by raising money for women and children escaping domestic violence. They are hosting an afternoon tea on Sunday, June 4. [Click Here](#) to register.

Willowdale Manor Seniors Listening Session

On Monday night we hosted the first ever Seniors Listening Session. Many will know that the proposed modular supportive housing is currently pending an Ontario Land Tribunal Appeal filed by the Bayview Cumber Neighbourhood Association. As the project is still uncertain, the seniors continue to have a sense of anxiety especially because they have never been able to participate in a community consultation in person. We are grateful the seniors finally had the opportunity to have their voices heard. The session included multiple language translations which required a lot of patience and courage on the part of the seniors.

We are grateful for Housing Secretariat Abi Bond, Toronto Seniors Housing Corporation CEO Tom Hunter and Toronto Community Housing Corporation CEO Jag Sharma who made time out of their busy schedules to be with us and hold space for the seniors.

There were three main areas of discussion:

- **Safety.** Recently there was a new tenant who assaulted a few of the residents. There is a great deal of concern regarding the lag in response between the first assault and the eventual removal of the tenant.
- **Accessibility Renovation.** The seniors were recently presented with floor plans which they could barely read. The proposed renovations are to fulfill AODA ([Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act](#)) requirements. The plans include the removal of the stage which is well used for seniors to have clear sight-lines to programs run for their mental health, as well as a front soft-seating area where the seniors connect with family and friends with a view of the front yard. The seniors are requesting changes to the renovation plans to preserve both of these important amenities.
- **Proposed Modular Supportive Housing.** In light of recent safety issues, the seniors have a palpable sense of anxiety for the unknown status and potential impact of the proposed housing. They have three main areas of concern:
 - Safety. The seniors feel vulnerable and unsure what would happen should any circumstances arise, especially without a concierge or security on site. Due to a situation that arose during our meeting, we called security who arrived one hour later.
 - Green space. The seniors spoke fondly of the green space in front of their building. It is used for family visits, Tai Chi during warmer months, a place to walk around as well as enjoy the view when seated in front of the building. They are sad about the potential loss of this amenity, especially since many have mobility challenges and could not easily find an alternative space.
 - Impact on their lives. The unknown nature of the overall impact leaves them with ongoing anxiety.

All of the leaders responded they had heard the concerns of the seniors and would take their input into consideration. My team will continue to work with all parties to ensure the best outcome. I know this is a complex issue especially with the urgent need for housing for the unhoused. We feel tremendous compassion for both the seniors and those in need of housing and hope we can find the best possible way forward - which will surely be a journey.

Adventure to Ottawa

On Wednesday night I drove to Ottawa for the opportunity to oppose the proposed redistribution of federal electoral districts on Thursday. Given the rapid growth, diversity, and complexity of issues Toronto faces, we need more not less representation. Special thanks to MP Michael Coteau for inviting me to stand in solidarity with him at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs alongside MPP Adil Shamji and Alim Lila (community rep from Don Valley East).

It was my first time speaking at the National Press Gallery. Due to a miscommunication, I ended up speaking without my notes 😞. [Click Here](#) to see how I did (from 11:00 to 15:00). Luckily this is a subject I am passionate about and spoke from my heart.

Community Liaison Committee for 5800 Yonge St.

On Thursday night the committee of almost 20 community members gathered for a tour around the shelter with many asking questions about the operations of the shelter answered by Ryan Evershed - Manager of Community Engagement & Client Programming at Homes First. We will be sharing minutes from our meetings in the coming weeks to capture what is being discussed. This was an initial meeting to see the overall environment and connect with members of the CLC over pizza. I am grateful to see so many committed residents who want to work together to serve our community.

Let's Move Willowdale - Move-a-thon

On Saturday, May 6, NeighbourLink North York will hold the 2nd annual Move-a-thon and Community BBQ. Many community businesses and residents have donated food and performances to make for a wonderful community event that will support a mobile food support program for seniors, neighbours with disabilities and single moms! [Click Here](#) to register.

Mayoral By-Election

This is a critical moment for Toronto as we select our next mayor. We need a visionary candidate with proven leadership and integrity to steer us through some significant challenges. Many residents have expressed an overwhelming feeling as they try to select a candidate among the [59 who are running](#). As debates are announced and election portals comparing platforms are launched, we will be sharing them on my email newsletter. We are also drafting a list of questions to send to top candidates, some of which are Willowdale specific, which I will share in this newsletter as I receive them. Let's get engaged, support candidates and vote for a better future for Toronto.

Thank you for reading my newsletter. If you find it helpful, please share with your neighbours and invite them to sign up. Please contact me if you have anything to share or have feedback about our newsletter. Thank you for helping us build a connected community!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Warmest regards,


Lily Cheng 陳伶俐

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Scroll down to find out more about:

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- Road Closure for Toronto Marathon - May 7th
- Water Pooling
- Jane's Walk Toronto: Who Walked in Willowdale
- Construction Updates: AODA Bus Stop Improvements

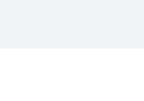
~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- Hiring: Election Officials
- Reserve a Free Tree
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- Youth Week Events

~ 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

ROAD CLOSURE FOR TORONTO MARATHON

Please be advised that the Annual Toronto Marathon will run through our neighbourhood on May 7th. Marathon and Half Marathon starts at Yonge & Sheppard at 7:30 AM and 8:30 AM, respectively. Below is the scheduled road closure in Willowdale. [Learn more.](#)

Street Closed	Direction	From	To	Closes	Reopens
Yonge St.	S/B	Churchill Ave.	Hwy 401	7:00	9:00
Yonge St.	N/B	Elmhurst Ave.	Sheppard Ave.	6:00	9:00
Beecroft Rd.	ALL	Sheppard Ave.	Churchill Ave.	7:00	8:30
Beecroft Rd.	N/B	Sheppard Ave.	Poyntz Ave.	7:00	9:00
Beecroft Rd.*	ALL	Elmhurst Ave.	Churchill Ave.	7:00	9:00
Poyntz Ave.	ALL	Beecroft Rd.	Yonge St.	7:00	9:00
Churchill Ave.	ALL	Beecroft Rd.	Yonge St.	7:00	9:00
North York Blvd.	ALL	Beecroft Rd.	Yonge St.	7:00	9:00
Elmhurst Ave.	ALL	Beecroft Rd.	Yonge St.	7:00	9:00
Park Home Ave.	ALL	Beecroft Rd.	Yonge St.	7:00	9:00
Hwy 401/Yonge St.	S/B RAMPS	-	-	7:00	10:00
Yonge St.	S/B	Hwy 401	York Mills Rd.	7:00	10:00

WATER POOLING

Do you have water pooling on your street after rain? Are the catch basins on your street clogged with debris? Please notify our office along with pictures so that we can help address these issues with Toronto Water and Transportation Services. [Learn more about the sewage systems on our streets.](#)

WHO WALKED IN WILLOWDALE

Multiple Dates and Times from May 5, 2023 to May 7, 2023
Start Location: Cumber Burial Grounds 2 Church Avenue / northeast corner of Yonge Street and Church Avenue. (Walk leaders will be wearing red t-shirt)

Explore Willowdale's captivating history with Jane's Walk Toronto and Toronto History Museums. Discover rebels, rock stars, authors, architects, and a famous mayor who has called our neighborhood home. From rebellious farming settlement to the "Miracle on Yonge Street," experience Willowdale's vibrant transformation. [Learn more about details here.](#)

AODA BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS

To make transit accessible to all, the TTC will be upgrading existing bus stops across the City. Here is the list of bus stop locations scheduled for improvements in Willowdale:

- Bayview Ave. at Cumber Ave. N/B
- Bayview Ave. at Hillcrest Ave. N/B
- Finch Ave. W. at Senlac Rd. E/B
- 350 Steeles Ave. W. W/B
- Steeles Ave. E. at Emerald Lane W/B
- Willowdale Ave. at Wedgewood Dr. N/B
- Finch Ave. E at Bayview Ave. W/B.

[Learn More](#)



CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

HIRING: ELECTION OFFICIALS

The mayoral by-election is upcoming on June 26, 2023. Recruitment for job opportunities to work as an election official in the upcoming by-election will begin on May 1. You can apply if you are at least 18 years of age and eligible to work in Canada. Multilingual applicants are encouraged. [Learn more and apply today!](#)

RESERVE A FREE TREE: HELP GROW THE URBAN FOREST

In partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation, you can reserve free trees to plant on private property using the Community Canopy Program, an online mapping tool that helps you plant the right tree in the right place to help maximize the air, water, energy, and carbon benefits. [Register today](#) to help Toronto reach its 40% canopy cover target. Registrations closes on May 26, 2023. Trees available while supplies last.

GET PROTECTED AGAINST MEASLES

Toronto Public Health is investigating a lab-confirmed case of Measles that are travel related. With Measles spreading around many parts of the world, check your vaccine records to make sure you are up-to-date with your Measles vaccine. [Learn more.](#)

YOUTH WEEK EVENTS

From May 1 - 7, free youth events will take over Toronto. From sports to cooking to dance and art, there's something for everyone during this fun and exciting week. In Willowdale, [Gibson House Museum](#) will host a Youth Week Trivia on Thursday, May 4th, from 4 PM to 4:45 PM. Youth teams will test their knowledge on local history, culture, and film. Treats will also be provided. [Learn more.](#)



COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

Upcoming community events next week:

- **TOMORROW:** Garage Sale & Bake Sale at Willowdale Presbyterian Church (38 Ellerslie Ave.)
- **SUNDAY,** Secondhand Sunday
- **FRIDAYS,** Tea & Entertainment at North York Central Library
- Mondays, Canadian Citizenship Education Mentoring Circle
- May 4, Youth Week Trivia with Gibson House Museum
- May 6, [Let's Move Willowdale - Move-a-thon & Community BBQ](#) at Hendon Park
- May 6, [Accord Saxophone Orchestra](#)
- May 8, [Willowdale Lawn Bowling Club](#) Open Houses
- May 8, [Adult & Seniors Painting Workshop](#) at Mitchell Field CC

[Learn More about Details!](#)

Let's Connect on Social



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Building a Connected Community in Willowdale.

