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Hi Neighbour!

Happy International Women's Day

This morning I had the opportunity to speak at an International Women's Day (IWD) celebration at the Barbra Schlifer Clinic that provides critical support and guidance to women escaping intimate partner violence. Sadly, I have had to refer countless women to the clinic for advice as women reach out to me for support as they make critical decisions about their relationships and safety. I spoke about my own journey as a survivor of abuse and how we all have an opportunity to turn the suffering we have faced into a gift to others as we support those around us with our own experiences.

IWD is an opportunity to celebrate the many things women have achieved in equity and representation. I am grateful to be serving on a council that is comprised of 11 diverse women including a mayor who is a woman of colour. Earlier this year, St. Paul, the capital city of Minnesota, celebrated an [all-women city council!](#)

At the same time, we see the many gaps that still exist across our country. According to [Statistics Canada](#), "In 2020, women occupied just over one-fifth (20.5%) of the 17,996 seats on boards of directors, edging up 0.3 percentage points over the proportion of women recorded in 2019. The majority of boards of directors did not have any women directors: 59.7% of the 5,810 boards of directors included in the dataset were only composed of men."

In 2023, a study found the share of women in management - including middle management - was 35 per cent. And the higher up the ladder, the fewer women the report found, with women making up less than one quarter of boardroom seats in corporate Canada. [Click Here](#) for more details on the study.

We are grateful to have passed the motion to declare Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) an epidemic in our city. However, we acknowledge there is still much work to be done. As the champion on this issue at City Hall, I am working with a group of agencies to ensure our efforts to support women facing IPV are well supported across divisions.

SEE YOU TOMORROW! Hope to see you at Willowdale Celebrates Nowruz!

Launch your March Break with a festive exploration of Iranian culture at our [Willowdale Celebrates Nowruz](#) event in partnership with **Tirgan** at the **North York Centre Atrium from 10am-5pm!** Last year I had so much fun dancing in the atrium to live music! There will be **free Persian Tea and pastries** served along with many free activities including:

- Dress up in traditional clothing for a photo with a beautiful professionally designed Haftseen (special table arrangement that celebrates Spring and the meaning of Nowruz)
- Haftseen Display
- Nowruz Bazaar
- Amu Nowruz & Hajji Firuz Puppet Greeting
- Experience Carpet Weaving
- Egg Decorating
- Creativity Wall
- I2CRC Seniors Choir
- Dream Dance and Workshop

There are still some workshop spots left including:

- Make a Nowruz Postcard
- The Stories of Shahnameh (Farsi)
- Painting and collage
- Storytelling Workshop
- Farsi Song & Circle Time

Click Here to **RSVP:** www.lilycheng.ca/nowruz

In the evening, Yonge North York Enchanted Lights will offer diverse Iranian music performances, ranging across various styles. Witness captivating dance performances, spanning from traditional folkloric to contemporary, and indulge in an array of Iranian food specialty.

Mel Lastman Square Main Stage Highlights:

- **5:30 PM** Make Some Noise with DJ Yari and Emcee Fardad

- **6:30 PM** Opening Remarks

- **6:35 PM - 8:00 PM**

Vocal & Keyboard by Yari and Galavizh

Solo Dance by Anahita Nayebi

Solo Dance by Paromita Kar

Azari Dance by Hoor Group

Modern Iranian Dance by Ensemble Topaz

Joonubi Dance by Hoor Group

Gilaki Dance by Ensemble Topaz

Kurdish Dance by Hoor Group

Kuridish Dance by M. Nosrati

FREE Admission, [Click Here](#) for more information.

Super Town Hall Week!

It was a week of town halls! On Monday, we had our Willowdale Community Safety Town Hall. On Wednesday, we co-hosted a consultation on a new shared park with St. Cyril and on Thursday, I participated in a Town Hall organized by our TDSB Trustee Dr. Pei. I am always grateful for the opportunity to meet with constituents. Thank you to all who came out. Creating a better future for our community begins with showing up!

[Click Here](#) to view our community safety town hall video.

[Click Here](#) to view the slides that were shared including information about crime rates in each area of Willowdale.

[Click Here](#) to see Gil Penalosa's presentation at the St. Cyril consultation.

Community Safety

"Please do something." "Community Town Halls don't solve the problem."

"Things are getting worse, not better. What are you doing about it?" "Crime has gotten worse since you were elected. Why aren't you doing anything about it?"

These are some of the messages sent to me by constituents as the marked increase of break-ins, robberies and car thefts have left people feeling unsettled and unsafe. As a fellow resident, I too am alarmed at the degradation of safety and increased brazenness of criminality. Unfortunately, these challenges are not unique to Willowdale as major crimes have increased across the city. How I wish I had the magic wand that could return us to pre-Covid Willowdale. I confess I am merely mortal and do not have supernatural powers to return us to the days of being a sleepy suburb. However, that does not mean that I am not listening to everyone's concerns and taking action where I can.

Policing is an important part of the puzzle - but not the entire picture

Police play an important role in community safety and I advocated throughout the budget process that they be supported to maintain the health of their complement strength. The role of the Police Service Board is to ensure the city has adequate and effective policing. We need enough police officers to respond to Level 1 Emergencies faster than the current 22-minute response time. Police play an important role, not only in responding to emergencies, but also in dismantling organized crime, collecting evidence to catch criminals and ensure they are brought to justice.

People often ask me for more police patrols in our community. Getting the **Yonge Street Foot Patrol** was a big win for our community. Unfortunately, there is currently not enough budget and therefore staffing capacity for car patrols across the neighbourhoods. Frontline officers spend all of their time responding to emergencies. Unless there was a substantial change to the number of police officers the city is able to pay to hire, there will be no neighbourhood car patrol in the foreseeable future. That being said, I am committed to working with Toronto Police Services to improve policing in our city. I will share more about my goals as a board member in a future newsletter.

The other puzzle pieces

The city has a cross-sectoral roadmap to increasing safety and wellbeing called [SafeTO](#). Identifying risks and opportunities through data is one part of taking a whole system approach to increasing safety. I will keep the community apprised of any developments as they put together the data.

Many of the perpetrators being caught for car thefts and break-ins are youth. When young people have challenges developing pathways for education and careers, it is easy to be lured into participating in organized crime. I previously worked with young people in an under-resourced community and continue to be upset to see youth lured into drug trafficking and dropping out of school. I strongly believe in the importance of youth workers as an upstream investment we can make towards community safety and wellbeing. Two organizations that

are helping youth are [NeighbourLink North York](#) and [Youth Assisting Youth](#). Please consider supporting their work in our neighbourhood either by volunteering or making a donation.

Many families living in community housing are single-parent families often working shift work, leaving youth unattended and without support during a critical period in their lives. I once heard a youth worker say, "Good choices are a privilege," as he described some young people having to choose between hunger and shoplifting.

My sister spent a season of her life as a youth worker in Regent Park. She made a difference in the lives of one generation of girls in her program. They often came to her after school, even when there was no official program because she was their safe space. Imagine what could happen if all university graduates were invited to invest in one generation of youth in vulnerable neighbourhoods across our country! Imagine if all youth in under resourced communities had access to one youth worker who was their mentor and support.

We need to work together

[Mississauga](#) has a community-led organization that supports community members working together towards increasing safety. While Toronto does not yet have such an organization, there is much we can do.

Actions you can take include:

- Getting to know your neighbours and building or joining a Neighbourhood Watch cluster.
- Sharing crime prevention tips provided by the police.
- Identifying a neighbourhood cluster representative to participate in the Community Police Liaison Committee at 32 Division to maintain 2-way communications between the community and our police.

What can a city councillor do about safety?

1. Keep constituents informed of what is happening in the community.
2. Work with Toronto Police Service to improve accountability, work culture, coverage and efficiency of operations.
3. Work with the local police division to respond to community feedback and data.
4. Educate and empower community members on crime prevention and the importance of reporting incidents to create data that informs resource allocation.
5. Advocate for resource allocation.
6. Work with community members to create Neighbourhood Watch networks to build safety and potentially strengthen social cohesion.
7. Strengthen investment in young people, in particular those living in under-resourced communities to ensure there are good education and career development opportunities.
8. Advocate for Federal and Provincial policies that impact safety which can include:
 - Bail reform
 - Advocating for programs that foster rehabilitation among those who have been convicted, especially youth.
 - Advocating for policies that increase affordability (including housing, rates of support for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support etc..)
 - Advocating for programs and supports for mental health and addiction
 - Advocating for investments in drug use prevention including how opiates are prescribed

I cannot overemphasize the importance of knowing your neighbours. In a critical moment, the people who can reach you the fastest or share information with you are your direct neighbours. I went door to door in my area right before the COVID lockdown kicked in. We created a WhatsApp group and have responded collectively to situations on our street, including incidents involving police. In May we will be holding a webinar with tips around creating a **Neighbourhood Watch** cluster. **DiDi Cameron** started her network when a stabbing occurred on her street near Yonge and Lawrence. Her network now has over 300 members and she has helped to start over 40 networks across the city. She recommends a cluster can be a street of 20-30 houses or an area of up to 300. Those living in high rises can consider a floor or the entire building. [Click Here](#) to watch a Global News report about her efforts. We look forward to her workshop in May!

Jewish Safety in our City

This past week I met with a young man who is a representative of a Jewish organization. He shared the fear many members of the community, including himself, now feel navigating our city. I felt the pain, stress and vulnerability of this young man and know the profound impact recent acts of anti-semitism have had on the Jewish community. We must not normalize hatred towards Jews. I will be speaking at the Toronto Police Service Board about this matter to see how we can improve our response and clarity on what is acceptable protest.

Several members of the Jewish community were upset when I voted against a motion tabled by Councillor Pasternak on creating a city framework for protests. This is not because I do not believe we should establish parameters. It is because I feel the responsibility for this lies with the police. The city does not have by-law enforcement officers equipped or trained to take on larger groups of protestors nor do we have the capacity to enforce something complex like this that would likely lead to challenges in court on freedom of expression and Charter rights. We see with E-bikes, that council often passes by-laws that are not enforced and therefore rendered ineffective. I have connected with Councillor Pasternak since that vote and offered to bring his concerns and ideas to the Police Board which is an ongoing conversation between us. I look forward to continuing to work with him to see what is possible to improve the situation.

Tensions are very high and many are afraid to tread into the waters of discussions on geopolitical issues that are complex and feel unsolvable. That being said, the antidote to hate is love and compassion. We cannot accept the continued killing of innocent women and children, the starvation of children, nor the keeping of hostages. Given the daunting complexity of the situation, I would like to hope for peaceful bridge-building to happen here in Canada. While tensions and feelings are still very raw, especially as lives continue to be taken and hostages continue to be held captive, we await a window where leaders in our city from both sides of the conflict can reach out to the other side, with an expression of compassion and understanding of the experiences of each perspective. I hope for the opportunity for Canada to be the change we wish to see in the world. We can decry the hostage taking and killing of innocents without condemning a people group.

Toronto Prayer Breakfast

This past week I had the opportunity to invite faith communities to consider how they can help the city support the influx of refugee claimants that has created a crisis in our shelter capacity. **Pastor Sandra Ryan** from **Peoples Church** shared about the model they have created in renting houses as a church that provides transitional housing where volunteers and staff help provide a warm welcome. The size and scale of these houses are far better than the industrialized scale of city shelters where there is often no access to a kitchen to prepare food, and no clear bridge to building friendships with people outside of the shelter. Gord Tanner, Director of Toronto Shelter and Support Services shared about the difficulty for the city of responding to the refugee crisis which continues to grow exponentially.

Mayor Olivia Chow shared at the breakfast how the stresses of the immigration journey on her parents resulted in an abusive situation and how Toronto Chinese Baptist Church is where she learned about unconditional love that propelled her into serving refugees which eventually led her into politics. Her message was very much a sermon and reminder to faith communities of our shared goal of taking care of the most vulnerable.

Ontario Prayer Breakfast and a Sobering Perspective

I attended the Ontario Prayer Breakfast with our Mayor and some of my councillor colleagues. It was a meaningful morning with an opportunity to share breakfast with a constituent who hosted a table. I was deeply moved by the keynote presented by **Anu George Canjanathoppil**. She is the **CEO of [International Justice Mission](#)**, an organization that has rescued thousands of people from slavery around the world.

She talked about what we accept as normal in this world. As she shared about the plight of one of the victims she has helped to rescue, a woman who at 15 was sold for sex over 150 times a month and the incredible work that has changed the "normal" for this woman who is now a lawyer. There are millions of people around the world whose current experience of "normal" is horrific and should not be acceptable to any human being. It was a sobering moment as I grappled with the battles I take on as a city councillor which pale in comparison to the important work of those who are serving people whose "normal" is truly a living nightmare.

What can we do with such a difficult truth? We speak out against injustice, we donate to organizations on the front lines, and we remember to be grateful. The puzzle of trying to build a more equitable and compassionate world is a goal in which we all play a role. We may not all get to rescue people from human trafficking, but we can all find ways to contribute our piece of compassion and justice to the world.

Happy Irish Heritage Month!

March is Irish Heritage Month which includes St. Patrick's Day next weekend! Beginning in the 17th century, Irish immigrants left their homeland to settle in Canada, fleeing famine and extreme poverty. Despite countless challenges, Irish people shared their knowledge, traditions and values with the inhabitants of their new home. Their perseverance and hard work have greatly enriched the fabric of our society and helped shape the country we know today. [Click Here](#) to find out about the parade happening on Sunday, March 17.

Happy March Break!

To all families enjoying March Break next week, may you have a joyful week filled with good memories! Perhaps I will see some of you at **North York Central Library** for their March Break programming. Or perhaps we'll see you at the **Ontario Science Centre** - which I believe should stay in its current location! We will be taking a hiatus from our newsletter next week and will resume the following week.

Coming Up:

Toronto Police Board will be meeting on March 18. [Click Here](#) to see the agenda.

The agenda for City Council March 20-22 will be released next Friday. [Click Here](#) to view the materials once they are released.

Thank you for reading this newsletter which is part of how we build a connected community. Hope to see you tomorrow!

Warmest Regards,

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Councillor Lily Cheng

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

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- [Willowdale Nowruz Celebration](#)
- [Where to go for Children's Health Care in North York](#)
- [Park Update: John McKenzie Parkette Expansion](#)
- [Ceremonial Naming Survey](#)

~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- [Activities with the City of Toronto this March Break](#)
- [Artificial Ice Rinks Update](#)
- [The Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw](#)

~ COMMUNITY UPDATES

- [Enchanted Lights, a Celebration of Culture at Mel Lastman Square](#)
- [Open Mic at the Library: North York Edition!](#)
- [North York Central Library Program Calendars](#)
- [Hangar Skate - March Break](#)
- [Change Make-her Program](#)
- [Make Your March Break Matter!](#)
- [Young Urban Forest Leaders \(YUFL\) Program](#)
- [Community Helath & Information Fair](#)
- [Caregiver Family Day](#)
- [The 2024 CPAC Career Fair](#)

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

WILLOWDALE NOWRUZ CELEBRATION

**MARCH 9th, 2024
10AM to 5PM**

**North York Centre,
5150 Yonge St.**

**North York Central Library,
5120 Yonge St.**

RSVP lilycheng.ca/nowruz

INDOOR

**NYC Library Programs
10:30 am - 4:30 pm**

- Yoga Journey to the Sun
- The Stories of Shahnameh
- Farsi Song and Story Circle Time
- Music Workshop
- Tell a Tale - A storytelling workshop
- Printmaking
- Nowruz Postcard
- Painting and Collage Workshop

**North York Centre Programs
10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

- Haftseen Display
- Traditional Iranian dress try-on
- Persian Teahouse
- Amu Nowruz & Hajji Firuz Greeting
- Weaving Dreams: Crafting Carpet and Kilims
- Haftseen and Egg Coloring
- Creativity Wall
- I2CRC Seniors Choir
- New year Beats
- Dream Dance and Workshop
- Nowruz Bazaar

OUTDOOR

**Enchanted Lights, a Celebration of Culture at Mel Lastman Square
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

- A line up of music and dance performances
- Food and cultural items for sale

Learn more at: yongenorthyork.com/enchantedlights

Presented by the Yonge North York BIA in partnership with the Iranian Fire Festival

Co-hosts:
Councillor Lily Cheng

Partner:
GWL REALTY ADVISORS

YONGE NORTH YORK

WILLOWDALE NOWRUZ CELEBRATION

CELEBRATE NOWRUZ THIS WEEKEND with WILLOWDALE! Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes **Nowruz, the Persian New Year!** Did you know that this year's vernal equinox (one of two moments in the year when the Sun is exactly above the Equator and day and night are of equal length) occurs at 11:06 p.m. on March 19th? To celebrate, we're hosting a community event on March 9th and extending a warm invitation to all! Join us at **North York Centre** (5150 Yonge Street) and **North York Central Library** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as we embrace this cultural heritage. Afterward, head outside to **Mel Lastman Square** where the **Iranian Fire Festival** in collaboration with **Yonge North York BIA** presents, **Enchanted Lights, a Celebration of Culture at Mel Lastman Square!**

For a list of indoor programs please visit: www.lilycheng.ca/nowruz
[Click here](#) to RSVP for the **FREE** programs!

RSVP



Where to go for children's care in North York

Health 811

Call 811 / TTY: 1-866-797-007 for health advice from a registered nurse. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Or visit

nygh.on.ca/KidsHealthNorthYork or scan the QR code:



If your child is experiencing a medical emergency such as difficulty breathing, severe pain or is very drowsy, confused, or call 911 immediately.

WHERE TO GO FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE IN NORTH YORK

If your child needs medical attention, contact your family doctor, community pediatrician, or nurse practitioner, as many offer after-hours care. In case of a medical emergency, such as difficulty breathing, severe pain, or confusion, please visit the local emergency department or call 911 immediately. Your child's health and well-being are always top priority.

Learn More



PARK UPDATE: JOHN MACKENZIE PARKETTE EXPANSION

GREAT NEWS! 37 Norton Ave. has been demolished in preparation for an expansion of John McKenzie Park and Parkview Neighbourhood Garden. The City is expanding John McKenzie Parkette by approximately 390 m2 (a bit smaller than a full basketball court) as a result of acquiring the land at 37 Norton Ave. Just this past week, the demolition of the existing building at 37 Norton Ave to expand John McKenzie Park/Parkview Neighborhood Garden has been completed. The contractor will soon lay sod in the area. The next step is to work on getting a landscaping consultant on board for the actual expansion. We look forward to this new community space which will also provide some gardening opportunities for students from McKee!

CEREMONIAL NAMING SURVEY LET'S HONOUR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS



Many of us remember the Yonge Street Tragedy that was a dark moment in our community where many lives were lost. During that moment and for the months following, we were well served by our First Responders including our Fire Department, Paramedics and 32 Division. One of our community members, Diane Broom, has been working hard these past 6 years to honour their heroic efforts and show gratitude for all they do to serve our neighbourhood. One of her efforts is to pay tribute to First Responders by giving Canterbury Place (the road) a ceremonial name: Hero's Way.



We would like your feedback on this matter. This would NOT be a re-naming. No addresses would change. Instead, an additional sign plate would be added with the ceremonial name. This proposal has officially received support from our MP Ali Ehsassi, MPP Stan Cho, and City Councillor Lily Cheng. We are now receiving community feedback to make an official submission. Thank you for your participation and consideration.



PLEASE TAKE THE SURVEY!
bit.ly/herosway
DEADLINE: APR 16, 2024



LILY CHENG

CITY COUNCILLOR WARD 18, WILLOWDALE

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CEREMONIAL NAMING SURVEY

Share your thoughts on honoring our community's First Responders by adding a ceremonial name, "**Hero's Way**," to **Canterbury Place**. This tribute, spearheaded by Diane Broom and supported by **MP Ali Ehsassi**, **MPP Stan Cho**, and **City Councillor Lily Cheng**, aims to commemorate their heroic efforts without changing any addresses. Your feedback is important. Please complete the survey by **April 16, 2024**. Thank you for participating!

[Take the Survey](#)

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

ACTIVITIES WITH THE CITY OF TORONTO THIS MARCH BREAK

There's something for everyone this March Break as the City of Toronto offers many affordable – and many free – activities for students and their families between **Monday, March 11 and Friday, March 15**.

Click to learn more about the activities:

- [Drop-in programs](#)
- [March Break CampTO](#)
- [Swimming](#)
- [Riverdale Farm](#)
- [High Park Animal Display](#)
- [Toronto Island Park](#)
- [Conservatories](#)
- [Skating](#)
- [Toronto History Museums](#)
- [Toronto Public Library](#)

ARTIFICIAL ICE RINK UPDATE

Some of the City's artificial ice rinks closed as scheduled on February 25, with the rest expected to stay **open until March 17, 2024**. However, due to early spring weather and unusually warm temperatures, there may be early closures. City staff are working hard to keep the ice in good condition for as long as possible. Skaters are advised to **check the status** of their local rink at [Toronto.ca/skate](https://toronto.ca/skate) before going.

[Learn More](#)

THE SINGLE-USE AND TAKEAWAY ITEMS BYLAW

The **Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw**, which **takes effect March 1, 2024**, includes the following requirements for **retail business establishments**:

Ask-First/By-Request

- Prior to distributing a single-use accessory food item, either (i) ask a customer if they need the item, (ii) have a customer request the item, or (iii) make the item available to customers at a self-serve station.
- Prior to distributing a single-use paper shopping bag, either (i) ask a customer if they need the bag or (ii) have a customer request the bag.

Accept the use of Reusable Items

- Accept the use of reusable shopping bags and reusable beverage cups brought by customers.

Ensure Compatibility of Bags

- Only distribute single-use paper shopping bags that are compatible with the City's waste diversion programs to customers.

Customers are encouraged to:

- Plan ahead and bring reusable accessory items and clean reusable cups and shopping bags with them.
- Only take single-use items, such as utensils, napkins, condiment packages, stir sticks and straws, that they really need.

[Learn More](#)

COMMUNITY UPDATES

SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024



5:30 PM MAKE SOME NOISE
with DJ Yari and Emcee Fardad

6:30 PM OPENING REMARKS

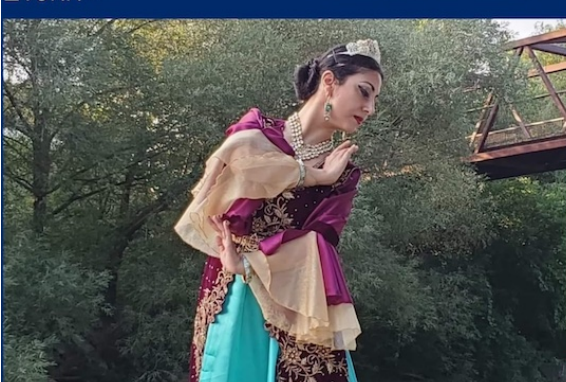
6:35 PM - 8:00 PM PERFORMANCES & PARTY BEGINS
Vocal & Keyboard by Yari and Galavizh
Solo Dance by Anahita Nayebi
Solo Dance by Paromita Kar
Azari Dance by Hoor Group
Modem Iranian Dance by Ensemble Topaz
Joonubi Dance by Hoor Group
Gilaki Dance by Ensemble Topaz
Kurdish Dance by Hoor Group
Kurdish Dance by M. Nosrati



YARI AND GALAVIZH
SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024



ANAHITA NAYEBI
SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024



PAROMITA KAR
SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024



ANAHITA NAYEBI & HOOR GROUP
SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024



ENSEMBLE TOPAZ
SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024



M. NOSRATI
SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024

ENCHANTED LIGHTS, A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AT MEL LASTMAN SQUARE

Celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Iran at **Yonge North York Enchanted Lights** this **Saturday**! Join us at **Mel Lastman Square** for an enchanting evening featuring diverse Iranian music performances, captivating dance showcases, and a tantalizing array of Iranian food specialties. Experience the magic of cultural performances by Yari and Galavizh, Anahita Nayebi, Paromita Kar, Hoor Group, Ensemble Topaz, and M. Nosrati at the Main Stage. Admission is **FREE**, so don't miss this opportunity to immerse yourself in the beauty and joy of Iranian culture. See you there from **5 PM to 10 PM**!

[Learn More](#)

CULTURE, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**Open Mic at the Library: North York Edition!
(Music, Poetry & Storytelling)**



Image licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0 ("a little color" by rockyradio) ©TSSO

OPEN MIC AT THE LIBRARY: NORTH YORK EDITION!

Join us for a vibrant evening of creativity at the **North York Central Library Open Mic** on **Friday, March 8th, from 6pm to 7:30pm**. Whether you're a seasoned performer or simply love to appreciate music, poetry, and storytelling, this event promises something special for everyone. Bring your talents to the stage or sit back and enjoy the diverse array of performances. 7 minutes per performance. Acoustic guitar and piano will be provided, and sign-up begins at 5:30pm. No registration required!

Sessions (2024)
Fri, Mar 8, 6-7:30pm
Fri, Apr 12, 6-7:30pm

For more details, reach out to the **Language, Literature & Fine Arts Department** at **416-395-5639**. Don't miss out on this enriching cultural experience at **5120 Yonge St., North York Central Library Auditorium (2nd Floor)**.



NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY PROGRAM CALENDARS

Attention parents of children and teens! **North York Central Library** is the place to be this March Break, offering an exciting lineup of programs for all ages. From adult programs to children's activities, and from the Creation Loft to the Youth Hub, there's something for everyone. Whether you're looking for educational workshops, creative projects, or simply a fun day out, North York Central Library has you covered. Don't miss out on these fantastic opportunities for family-friendly entertainment and enrichment!

Click to learn more about the programs:


- [2024 March NYCL Adult Programs](#)
- [2024 March NYCL Children's Programs](#)
- [2024 March NYCL Creation Loft Programs](#)
- [2024 March NYCL Youth Hub Programs](#)



HANGAR SKATE - MARCH BREAK

Get ready for an action-packed March Break at Northcrest! From **March 11 to March 15**, join the daily from **1pm to 4pm** for free drop-in programming in partnership with North York Arts. Enjoy open skating for all skill levels, with two kid-friendly arts activities each day led by local artists. Plus, two skating instructors will be on the ice to assist and ensure a fun experience for everyone. Skate rentals are available for \$5 for adults and free for children under 12 years old. Register now for a week of fun-filled activities!


[Register Now](#)



COHORT 5

CHANGE MAKE-HER PROGRAM

FREE | VIRTUAL | LIVE | 8 WEEKS | ENGLISH LANGUAGE



APPLY

Contact Program Manager, Arezoo at an@goodtobegood.ca by March 17, 2024

All program workshops will be on a Saturday at 10:00 am EST.

COHORT DATES

Applications Open: Monday, February 19
 Applications Close: Sunday, March 17, 2024
 Cohort Announced: Friday, March 22, 2024
 Program Starts: Late March
 Program Ends: Early June

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Change Make-Her is an interactive capacity-building program for women, non-binary, and gender-diverse people from gender equity-deserving groups pursuing entrepreneurship skills, which provides low-barrier mentorship, training, community-building, resource-sharing, peer support, and other development opportunities. This program strives to bridge the gap for women and gender-diverse folks with entrepreneurial endeavours who face systemic obstacles and barriers by leading them through comprehensive, inclusive economic-readiness workshops and resources.

LEARN

- Business Planning
- Brand and Marketing
- Financial Literacy
- Audience and Community-Building
- Entrepreneurship Fundamentals and more!

COHORT BENEFITS

- Comprehensive Mentorship
- Peer and Wraparound Supports
- Up to \$300 Micro Grant
- Networking Opportunities
- Templates and Resources Access
- Optional additional 1:1 mentorship upon completion


PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Change Make-Her program will provide support to women and gender-diverse individuals who lack formal business training or are in the early stages of their endeavours. The program's curriculum is informed by culturally responsive and developmentally-appropriate educational business theories and lived experiences. We are committed to working within trauma-informed, anti-oppression, feminist, and intersectional frameworks.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

- Must be in the planning stages for launching a business (freelance, service provider, start-up, gig worker) or a working micro business that is based in Canada.
- Self-identify as a woman, non-binary, or gender-diverse person.
- Be over the age of 18 years.
- Have an active email address to communicate with the program team and access to a laptop/computer/tablet with supporting video calls to participate virtually. *Technology supports/accommodations are available upon request.*
- Attend one 30-minute orientation and all six live sessions on a Saturday morning.
- Comfortable engaging in a virtual group setting using a camera and microphone.
- You can commit fully to the requirements of an 8-week long program.

This program aims to be inclusive, low-barrier, and equity-driven. As a non-profit organization with a mission to serve marginalized communities, we prioritize women, non-binary and gender-diverse people from underserved, under-resourced, and under-represented communities, including those who identify as Indigenous, Black, Two-Spirit, racialized, newcomer, survivors of gender-based violence, migrant, refugee, landed immigrant, LGBTQ2IAA+, low-income, unemployed or underemployed, living with mental health conditions or disabilities, or facing multiple systemic barriers to economic and social participation and lack of access to resources.



Rochelle
Program Mentor and Facilitator

CHANGE MAKE-HER PROGRAM

The 5th cohort of the Change Make-Her program offers a free, interactive virtual experience for women and gender-diverse individuals interested in developing their entrepreneurship and leadership skills. **Applications are open until March 17**, providing mentorship-based training workshops, community building, peer support, and resource-sharing opportunities. The program aims to empower participants with the fundamentals of growing a micro or small business in the mainstream economy, tailored to their terms. Successful participants can receive up to \$300 in micro-grants.

Register now by emailing **Arezoo Najibzadeh** at an@goodtobegood.ca or sign up using this link: <https://forms.gle/LuPLtsiWVDL5618u6> . Don't miss out on this empowering opportunity!

[Register Now](#)



Make Your
MARCH BREAK Matter!

Monday
Youth Committee Online Info Session

Tuesday
"Tech & Tea" Assist Seniors with Electronics

Wednesday
Poster the Neighbourhood

Thursday
Senior Event Celebrating Nowruz!

Friday
Willowdale Park Clean Up

Student Volunteer Opportunities March 11-15
Learn more & sign up! Email lily.su@neighbourlink.org

MAKE YOUR MARCH BREAK MATTER!

March Break is just around the corner and here's your chance to make it matter! Neighbourlink is calling all high school students looking to make a difference next week while earning volunteer hours! It all begins **Monday March 11** with a Youth Committee Info Session! **NeighbourLink** is forming this committee to engage and support youth leaders in making their envisioned impact in our community! Join them to brainstorm and dream up ideas for the months ahead! You can also participate in their Tech & Tea, poster, senior events and a park clean up!

To learn more and sign up, email their Volunteer Coordinator Lily at lily.su@neighbourlink.org



Young Urban Forest Leaders
Virtual Information Session
March 12 | 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Funded by


YOUNG URBAN FOREST LEADERS (YUFL) PROGRAM

Join the **Young Urban Forest Leaders (YUFL) Program** to gain valuable skills in urban forestry and community engagement! Open to **Toronto youths (18 – 29 years old)**, this four-month program runs from late April to August, offering networking opportunities with industry professionals, leadership development, and community connections. **Applications** for the 2024 program are open until **March 29th**, with a **Virtual Information Session** on **March 12th at 6:30pm**. Apply now for this free, hybrid training and mentorship program to make a difference in your community!

[Learn More](#)

Community Health & Information Fair

In partnership with
Flemingdon Health Centre



Friday, March 15, 2024 | 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. |
Flemingdon Health Centre, 5 Fairview Mall Drive, Suite 359, North York

Get your:

- Pap test if eligible
- Referral for colorectal and/or breast cancer screening if eligible
- Primary care services
- Blood sugar checked using a glucometer

Talk to a health care professional about:

- Pap tests (for cervical cancer screening) and other cancer screening (breast and colorectal cancer) programs

Get referred if eligible to:

- Mental health programs
- Home & long-term care services
- Primary care services
- Food support
- Other community services

To book an appointment
Call **647-862-1552**
or
book online:
<https://nythp.simplybook.me/v2/>



Walk-ins are welcome until 2:30 p.m. (depending on availability)

• Please bring your OHIP card (Ontario Health Card) if you have one and you are interested in getting a Pap test.
• Health care services & referrals are free.



COMMUNITY HEALTH & INFORMATION FAIR

Take advantage of free health services including Pap tests, colorectal and breast cancer screening referrals, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, and consultations with health care professionals. Learn about various health programs and services available, including mental health programs, home and long-term care services, primary care services, food support, and other community services.

Date : **Friday, March 15, 2024**

Time: **1:30pm - 4:30pm**

Location: **Flemingdon Health Centre, 5 Fairview Mall Drive, Suite 359, North York**

Walk-ins are welcome until 2:30 p.m. (subject to availability), or book an appointment by calling **647-862-1552** or online at <https://nythp.simplybook.me/v2/>

[Book Now](#)



CAREGIVER FAMILY DAY



April 2 2024 | 2 PM - 4 PM | 21 Hendon Ave

FREE

Calling all caregivers!

Discover "A Caregiver's Secret Key" with **Stephanie Muskat at the North York Seniors Centre.**

Don't miss out on this **enlightening presentation and enjoy light refreshments. See you there!**

SPONSORED BY FORESTVIEW



Please RSVP to
Stacy Hilliman at 416-733-4111ext.310
OR Jimmy Ho 416-733-4111ext.324



CAREGIVER FAMILY DAY

Join us for Caregiver Family Day, a free event open to the public, dedicated to commemorating and educating caregivers for their hard work. The speaker, Stephanie Muskat, an award-winning registered social worker and psychotherapist, will share tips and tricks to fill the gaps in the public system, enhancing the lives of your loved ones and improving your mental health as a caregiver. Don't miss this opportunity to connect and learn.

Date: Apr 2, 2024

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Location: North York Seniors Centre (21 Hendon Ave.)

Please **RSVP** to

- Stacy Hilliman at 416-733-4111 ext. 310

- Jimmy Ho at 416-733-4111 ext. 324



THE 2024 CPAC CAREER FAIR

The 2024 CPAC Career Fair is set to take place at the North York Memorial Community Hall on May 7, following the success of the previous year's event. With over two decades of experience, CPAC's job fair brings together professionals from diverse backgrounds and industries across the Greater Toronto Area. Save the date and don't miss out on this golden chance to advance your career!

Date: May 7, 2024

Time: 10am - 4pm

Location: North York Memorial Community Hall

[Learn More](#)

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