



# LILY CHENG

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Dear Neighbour,

**Happy Rosh Hashanah** to our Jewish neighbours who will be celebrating this evening until Sunday at sunset. You can greet people by saying “shanah tovah umtukah,” which means “may you have a good and sweet new year!”

Community voices are a high priority for me. I hope you will join me tomorrow morning at a **Community Brunch Potluck at Silverview Park**. City staff will be present to discuss potential ideas for a park re-design! Hope you can join us 10am-12pm! [Click Here](#) to RSVP.

Thank you to **NeighbourLink North York** and **Street Eats Market** for kicking off the first ever **Taste of North York** this past weekend! It was a wonderful celebration of international food that reflected the diversity of our city. More importantly, people got a taste of our community through the beautiful performances along with the 25 community organizations that hosted booths to invite people to connect, participate or volunteer! From dancing with **Earl Haig students' K-Pop Dancing**, Willowdale schools **Toronto Dance Salsa** and **Star Dance**, Willowdale-based **Rashmi Dance School's** Indian dance performances, to local Willowdaler Helen Shumilova who brought **Desna** dancing to teach and present Ukrainian dancing...and so much more! One of my favourite moments was dancing with our Iranian neighbours! It is truly wonderful to see the passion and diverse talents of our neighbourhood.

Many years ago I helped to co-found **We Love Willowdale** as a movement during the Yonge Street Tragedy. It was so exciting to see **Mayor Olivia Chow** holding up our “**We Love Willowdale**” T-Shirt and getting the crowd to yell in unison, “**We Love Willowdale, We Love North York, We Love Toronto!**” Let us keep these chants in our heart and not let the cynicism and polarization of politics overtake us!

### Developing our Office Team and Infrastructure

When I ran to be city councillor I knew I could not serve such a large ward without a great team, infrastructure and processes. This has very much been a work in progress from day one. The city does not provide a case management or database system and we have had to try a few to figure out how we will best manage our cases and data.

I have an incredible team that reflects the diversity of our city. Each member is so passionate and dedicated. We took a short staff retreat this week to do some facilitated team-building and strategic planning. I stand in awe of this wonderful group of people and am humbled by their support in serving not just Willowdale, but the entire city through my many committee responsibilities.

### Toronto Police Services Board

Yesterday we welcomed Deputy Mayor Morley to the Police Board and await Councillor Burnside who will join us at the next meeting.

During our meeting we discussed the different pathways that have been developed within the Police Service and by our city to better support our community including:

1. **Gerstein 9-1-1 Crisis Call Diversion Pilot**. This program situates a crisis worker in the TPS Communications Call Centre that can provide an option of support to those calling in or officers on the field.
2. **Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT)**. Mental health nurses and a specially trained police officer work together on 9-1-1 calls involving individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.
3. **Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS)**. The service (run by the City of Toronto) provides an alternative to police enforcement, creating a community-based, client-centred, trauma-informed response to non-emergency crisis calls and wellness checks.

All 3 of these programs provide important support and/or alternatives to police enforcement especially during a time when mental health challenges have been on the rise. I moved a motion to request a report on the data collected for the Gerstein Pilot thus far to help us better determine the path forward while we extend the pilot one more year.

### Premium Pay

Every year, a percentage of the police budget is allocated to premium pay for the following reasons:

- extended tours of duty (e.g., when officers are involved in an arrest at the time their shift ends), (25% of premium pay);
- court attendance scheduled for when the officer is off-duty (25% of premium pay); and
- call-backs (e.g., when an officer is required to work additional shifts to ensure appropriate staffing levels are maintained or for specific initiatives). (50% of premium pay)

Due to the way shifts are organized as well as collective agreements, it is unavoidable to have to pay premium pay for extended hours and court attendance. Having more available officers would not prevent this from happening as all officers inevitably have to extend their shift or attend court beyond their scheduled hours.

The only potential savings in the future would be to increase staffing such that the need for call backs is decreased. However, there has been a multi-sectoral labour shortage which has also impacted policing. It will be difficult to strike the right balance between staffing and premium pay. It is always something that gets attention during budget time, so stay tuned! This year's police and city budget will be 2 mountains I will have to climb as a member of both the Budget Committee and Toronto Police Services Board.

There will be a **Special Police Board Public Meeting** on the budget on **September 25, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30am**. I will share how you can participate as well as other opportunities in the next newsletter.

### Beyond the Blue 2nd Annual Champions of Change Awards Gala

Last night (after 8 hours at Toronto Police Services Headquarters for our board meeting), I had the privilege of attending this gala that celebrates people bringing mental health support to police and their families across Canada.

**Beyond the Blue** was co-founded by **Dilnaz Garda** who lost her brother, a Toronto police officer, to suicide. You can read more about her and co-founder **Kristal Jones** by [clicking here](#). There were many tears and inspiring stories shared!

THIS SUNDAY, enjoy delicious food and wonderful performances at the **16th Annual Kurdish Heritage Festival** at **Mel Lastman Square**! I'll be presenting a congratulatory scroll at 5:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm Regards,

*Lily Cheng* 陳伶俐  
لولى چنڭ

Councillor Lily Cheng

Ward 18 Willowdale / Councillor\_Cheng@toronto.ca / 416-392-0210



A big shoutout to NeighbourLink North York, Street Eats Market, and Yonge North York BIA for their outstanding efforts in organizing the Taste of North York event last week! Thank you to Mayor Chow, Deputy Mayor Colle, and MP

Ehsassi for joining us. And thanks to every resident who joined us, making it a memorable event for our community.

## Scroll down to find out more about:

### ~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- Silverview Park Community Consultation
- Weekend Work on Finch Ave W from Lorraine Dr to Senlac Rd

### ~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- Relief Programs for Property Tax, Water and Solid Waste
- Apply for a PollinateTO Grant
- Application for New Housing Rights Advisory Committee
- Noise Bylaw Public Consultations

### ~ COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

- A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Enjoy Live Music on Yonge
- Unity and Freedom Exhibition
- Hendon Park Tree Pickup Day
- Lansing Open Market
- Kurdish Heritage Festival
- Performing Artists Industry Connections
- Freedom Day
- Common Ground Dance Festival
- RBC Race for the Kids
- York Arboretum and Notable Burials Tour
- Full Moon Festival: Celebrating East Asian Heritage
- North York Seniors Centre Fundraiser

## COUNCILLOR UPDATES



Meet your  
City Councillor  
Lily Cheng



Saturday, September 16th, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

## SILVERVIEW PARK COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



Join **Councillor Cheng** and the **Silverview Community Association** for a park potluck!

Bring your culinary creations and ideas for the future of Silverview Park. Let's connect to help shape our community together.

RSVP TODAY!  
[lilycheng.ca/events](http://lilycheng.ca/events)



[www.lilycheng.ca](http://www.lilycheng.ca)

[@LilyChengTO](#)

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[Register Now](#)

### WEEKEND WORK ON FINCH AVE W FROM LORRAINE DR TO SENLAC RD

This Saturday, September 16, from 9 a.m. to approximately 7 p.m., the City's contractor will be working on Finch Avenue West. They want to complete the milling and paving on Finch Avenue as soon as possible so that they can reopen all lanes on Finch Avenue West between Senlac Drive and Lorraine Avenue. We understand the inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience and cooperation.

## CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

### RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR PROPERTY TAX, WATER, AND SOLID WASTE

City of Toronto relief programs are available for low-income seniors and low-income people with disabilities. Property owners can apply for relief programs online or by submitting a paper-based application. You must reapply annually for the relief programs – even if you have applied for and received a cancellation, deferral, water and/or solid waste rebate for the previous year. **Apply by October 31, 2023.**

[Learn More](#)

### APPLY FOR A POLLINATETO GRANT

The City is accepting applications for the next round of [PollinateTO Grants!](#) Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to support community-led initiatives that create or expand pollinator habitats in Toronto's public and private lands.

Funding projects in Toronto's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas is a priority this year. Community groups, not-for-profit organizations, student groups, parent councils and other resident-led groups are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted until Wednesday, **October 25**, with gardens to be planted in 2024.

[Register Now](#)

### APPLICATION FOR NEW HOUSING RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Are you passionate about housing in Toronto and committed to advancing the right to adequate housing? Help shape your city by joining the new Housing Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC). The deadline to apply is Oct. 13.

[Learn More](#)

### NOISE BYLAW PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The City is reviewing the successes and challenges of implementing the Noise Bylaw, which was amended in 2019. Residents are invited to provide feedback at public consultations.

**General noise (Virtual):** Tuesday, September 19, 7 to 9pm

**Amplified sound (In-Person):** Thursday, September 21, Metro Hall, 55 John St., Room 308/309, 7-9pm

**Motor vehicle noise (Virtual):** Monday, September 18, 7-9pm

**Construction noise (In-Person):** Wednesday, September 20, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St., Meeting Room 101, 5:30-7:30pm

[Register Now](#)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS WILLOWDALE

a  
midsummer  
night's  
dream

JOHN MCKENZIE HISTORIC HOUSE  
September 14th & 15th @ 7pm  
September 16th @ 1pm

Visit  
[www.panoplycollective.com](http://www.panoplycollective.com)  
for tickets!

[Learn More](#)



# Yonge North York BIA Presents Live Music On Yonge

In Partnership With:

**Sept. 7**  
**Until Sept. 23**  
Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday



[yongenorthyork.com](http://yongenorthyork.com)  
Visit us along Yonge St. | HWY. 401 - Bishop Ave.  
Join our E-Newsletter for local events, contests & more!



## FREE ADMISSION

Enjoy our sidewalk performances!  
Visit restaurants and shops in the area! Support emerging artists!

	Sheppard Centre (Thurs/Sat) Mel Lastman Sq. (Fri) 5000 Yonge St.	5409 Yonge	North American Centre
Thurs. Sep 7 12 - 2 pm	Harry Bartlett Trio	Roshane & the Good Vibes	Jacob Soucy
Friday, Sep 8 8 - 9 pm	Emmett Hodgins Coast Group	Nezzwik	Geraden Smith
Sat. Sep 9 8 - 9 pm	Ori Dagan Trio	Emmett Hodgins Coast Group	Nezzwik
Thurs. Sep 14 12 - 2 pm	Ryan Gazzola	Harry Bartlett Trio	Roshane & the Good Vibe
Friday, Sep 15 8 - 9 pm	Geraden Smith	Ale Nunez	Emmett Hodgins Coast Group
Sat. Sep 16 8 - 9 pm	Ori Dagan Trio	Ryan Gazzola	Manigold
Thurs. Sep 21 12 - 2 pm	Jacob Soucy	Ryan Gazzola	Harry Bartlett Trio
Friday, Sep 22 8 - 9 pm	Ryan Gazzola	Ori Dagan Trio	Jacob Soucy
Sat. Sep 23 8 - 9 pm	Matt Austen Quartet	Roshane & the Good Vibes	Ori Dagan Trio

Toronto Undergraduate Jazz Festival is a non-profit organization that creates developmental and continuing opportunities for emerging musicians in Canada. For full performance details visit our website at [www.yongenorthyork.com](http://www.yongenorthyork.com)

The dates and performances are subject to change and/or cancellation. There are no rain dates for this event. Please check our website for updates. All buskers are licensed. Photography, video, and audio recording may occur at this event, and by participating you consent to such recordings. If you do not agree to be recorded as part of this event, please stay out of the area when recording is taking place.

[www.yongenorthyork.com](http://www.yongenorthyork.com)

Yonge North York BIA, 4711 Yonge Street, 10th Floor, Toronto, ON M2N 6K8



[Register Now](#)



## UNITY AND FREEDOM EXHIBITION

Experience the "Unity and Freedom Exhibition" by Parvaneh Radmard at North York Civic Centre, September 14th to 26th. This stunning mural installation pays tribute to the unwavering spirit, resilience, and determination of Iranian women in their quest for justice and freedom. Join us and be inspired.



## HENDON PARK TREE PICKUP DAY

Announcing the Hendon Park Tree Pickup Day on September 16th!

We're promoting ServiceBerry (or SaskatoonBerry) – a true food producer with long-lasting downy blooms in early spring. Here's a fantastic lineup of tree varieties available for pickup:

- Swamp White Oak
- Eastern White Cedar
- Common Hackberry
- Sugar Maple
- Eastern Hemlock
- Serviceberry
- Blue Beech
- Meadowsweet
- Carolina Rose
- Witch Hazel
- Purple Flowering Raspberry
- Bush Honeysuckle

Don't miss this opportunity to green up your neighborhood!

[Register Now](#)

September 16, 2023, 11AM-5PM

# LANSING OPEN MARKET

LIVE MUSIC - 40+ LOCAL VENDORS - PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS

49 Bogert Ave., North York

Visit Eventbrite, we're looking for vendors!

Open doors  
Open market  
Everyone welcome!

**spaces united**  
Connecting spaces to the community

[Register Now](#)

**KURDISH HOUSE**  
THE GREATER TORONTO AREA

THE UPCOMING 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**Kurdish Heritage Festival**

*Peace, Unity and Freedom for Kurdistan*

COME DANCE WITH US  
TO KURDISH MUSIC

**5 100 YONGE ST NORTH  
MEL LASTMAN SQUARE**  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023, 5 PM - 10 PM

SEE PERFORMANCES BY  
**DILAN DANCE COMPANY**

Food and souvenir vendors on the site

**NYA** NORTH YORK ARTS

**GROW NORTH**  
industry connections

**TOES FOR DANCE**

**TORONTO**

**PERFORMING ARTISTS INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS**

Date: Wed, Sep 20, 2023  
 Time: 2-6pm  
 Location: Gibson House Museum (5172 Yonge St, at North York Centre subway station)  
 Spots available: 30

Are you a performing artist learning to navigate the arts sector? Do you want to connect with peers and learn how to talk about your work? Are you seeking access to professional development opportunities to expand your artistic practice?

Join **North York Arts'** Industry Connections event, to participate in an in-person meet-and-greet with performing artists, arts organizations, and funders to gain access to information about opportunities to take your performing arts career to the next level.

[Register Now](#)

FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER PRESENTS

**FREEDOM DAY**

THIS EVENT IS HYBRID! STREAMING ON YOUTUBE FROM THE LIVE EVENT AT MEL LASTMAN SQUARE IN TORONTO, ONTARIO

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023      MEL LASTMAN SQUARE      1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT

- RICK CAMPANELLI**  
TV PERSONALITY  
PROGRAM MC
- NOTORIOUS CREE**  
SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER AND TRADITIONAL HOOP DANCER  
GUEST SPEAKER
- HEDY BOHM**  
HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR  
GUEST SPEAKER
- KAIRO MCLEAN**  
JUNO AWARD-WINNING ARTIST  
MUSICAL GUEST
- SONYA KOVTUN**  
SPEAKER'S IDOL FINALIST  
GUEST SPEAKER

For more information or to register,  
<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Freedom23>

[Learn More](#)

# COMMON GROUND DANCE FESTIVAL

September 21-23

NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY  
LEE LIFESON ART PARK



Photo and design by Kandra Epik, featuring Zoe Kwan, Monique Pascal, Priya Doobay, Genevieve John.

[Learn More](#)

[Register Now](#)

## STEP FORWARD FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Walk • Run • Fundraise  
Join us September 23, 2023 • Mel Lastman Square

[Register now!](#)



[Learn More](#)



Presents

# THE ARBORETUM & NOTABLE BURIALS TOUR!

With Tour Guides:  
Daniel Chevalier, Lisa Williams, Mathew Chesney,  
Imre Szabo & Jennifer Gregson-Jaime

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023  
11:00 AM Funeral Centre Parking Lot  
Rain or Shine, Dress for Outdoor Comfort

[Learn More](#)



## Full Moon Festival: Celebrating East Asian Heritage

Sunday, October 1, 2 pm-6 pm  
North York Centre

Join us for a free celebration with food demonstrations, family-friendly activities, and prizes! All are welcome.

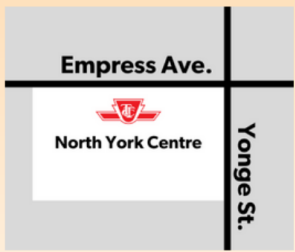
**Food Demonstrations:**  
Matcha  
Songpyeon

**Activities:**  
Origami  
Calligraphy

Hear community recipe stories and learn about East Asian food heritage.



Register early to receive a free mooncake at the event!\*



Follow @heritagetoronto on social media for event updates and the chance to win prizes!



月見 Mid-Autumn Festival

\*Offer only available to the first 200 registrants. Limit of one mooncake per person.

[Learn More](#)



**BETTER WITH AGE:**

**RELIEVE THE MOMENT!**

**ABBAMANIA**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023  
Doors Open at 5:30 pm

 **Bayview Golf and Country Club**

**TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!**  
**Ticket prices will increase on**  
**September 1st.**



**CALL THE ALC PROGRAMS TEAM AT 416 733 4111**  
**TO GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**

[Learn More](#)

**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.***

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