

# Dear Neighbour,

It is hard to believe I am approaching the completion of my 2nd year in office. I remain deeply grateful for the privilege and opportunity to be your representative. I hold this responsibility with great care. My focus is to strengthen the opportunities and pathways for the voices of our community to be heard. My team and I put great effort into reaching out to the community through events, e-newsletters, social media, surveys, billboards, flyering, and connecting with local groups. As a community, we may not always agree with each other, but it is through listening to each other and sharing the journey that we can achieve the best outcomes. Democracy is messy. At times it seems inefficient, but it can lead to beautiful results if we commit to an authentic process.

Every day I am the **squeaky wheel for Willowdale** fighting for equitable investment. Whether it's fireworks for Canada Day, Cummer Station, or equitable funding for economic and cultural development, I approach every meeting ready to advocate for our fair share. It is frustrating to be designated as a high-growth area and therefore receive an ongoing river of development applications while not receiving parallel investment to ensure Willowdale can be a great place to live, work and play.

Newmarket, with a population of 90K, has 7 Ward Councillors, 1 Regional Councillor and a Mayor. Meanwhile, Willowdale has a population of 120K and only 1 City Councillor. Torontonians do not get the same level of representation compared to most Canadian cities. Furthermore, most of the people designing solutions for our community do not live here. This is why I go to great efforts to arrange consultations to ensure City staff build a connection with our community.

Changes in provincial planning policies mean we no longer have the same resources to build complete communities with daycares, community centres, libraries and parks, to serve our rapidly growing community. Sometimes the challenges of this work can feel daunting. However, I go to work every day with great passion because I still have hope. I have hope because I know there are so many kind, generous, intelligent, thoughtful and creative people in Willowdale. I have hope because I believe in the power of people coming together. Every day there are fresh opportunities to catalyze new ways of doing democracy - Spaghetti Town Halls are one of our inventions. Change can happen when we work together!

I invite you to turn hope into action by participating in the plethora of invitations my team and I set before you including 3 upcoming Spaghetti Town Halls. Democracy can only be as strong as the effort we all invest. If you haven't done so already, please sign up for my weekly e-newsletters. It is your gateway to hope for our community. Our world needs people who still believe their

Sincerely,

陳伶俐

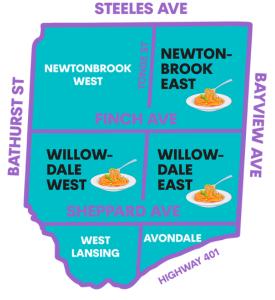
Lily Cheng City Councillor • Ward 18, Willowdale

kor Volunteers efforts can make a difference. Won't you join me?

> Help us in building a more connected

community! Cheng.ca/volunte

# **LET'S CONNECT**



\*This is not an official designation. This has been created by Councillor Cheng's office to best communicate areas of our neighbourhood based on a hybrid of city, real estate and police maps.

# **CONSTITUENCY OFFICE**

North York Civic Centre 5100 Yonge St. North York, ON M2N 5V7

Do you need help dealing with ..

Property Taxes

**胎** Housing Garbage

Police

Water

😭 Transit 🤲 Parks & Rec

Road Safety

We provide multi-lingual assistance 我們提供國語和廣東話服務 저희는 다국어 지원을 제공합니다 خدمات این دفتر به زبان فارسی نیز ارائه میشود. हम अपनी सेवाएँ हिंदी भाषा में भी प्रदान करते हैं।



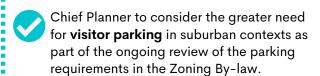
Receive regular updates on local projects, consultations, community events, the latest from City Hall and ways to get involved!



\*Due to cost, we can only mail out updates twice a year. Our email newsletter is sent out 5-6 times a month to give you the most up-to-date information on what is happening in our community.

# YOUR COUNCILLOR IN ACTION!

# **COUNCILLOR CHENG'S MOTIONS**



- Chief Financial Officer to conduct jurisdictional research on intergovernmental funding relationships for comparable cities around the world regarding municipal fiscal frameworks.
- City staff to report with recommendations for equitable funding and distribution of Canada Day events across all boroughs.
- City staff to report on the timelines to achieve equitable funding across the Local Arts Service Organizations.
- Toronto Police Service Board's Executive Director to support the board's Anti-Racism Advisory Panel (ARAP) to host a strategic planning consultation with community stakeholders on the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.

# **SUMMER STUDENTS**

Our summer programming could not have happened without our wonderful diversity fellow, Angeli and summer students, Deana and Allen who supported our many Fun Fairs, Summer BBQs, picnics, Movie Nights, data management, casework, outreach and more! We are so grateful for Angeli, Allen and Deana's incredible work on our team!





# **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) SECTOR CONSULTATION**

On Sep 16, over 60 organizations gathered for an important sector consultation, led by the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) working group I created in Sep 2023 to identify next steps following the City declaration that IPV violence is an epidemic. The group includes leaders from the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, Native Women's, Resource Centre of Toronto, White Ribbon, WomanACT, Women's Habitat of Etobicoke, and YWCA Toronto.

30% of all women aged 15 or older report they have experienced sexual assault at least once since turning 15. Indigenous women are 4 times more likely to be victims of violence.

The working group presented a draft vision and implementation recommendations for consultation towards a plan for next steps for the City. I am grateful to play a small role in bringing change to how women facing gender-based violence are supported in our city.

This country's leadership at large is at a huge disarray, but what you did restores faith that those we elect to represent us at various government levels do not lose touch and sight. -Willowdale Resident

# YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATES

Since the March launch of Willowdale Youth Council, the group has met monthly, elected a leadership team and formed committees based on three priority issues identified by the students: Community Connectivity, Community Safety and Mental Health Supports. In partnership with TNG Community Services and NeighbourLink, the students are mentored and supported in their visionary projects. All Willowdale youth 16-25 years old are welcome to join. Please contact willowdaleyc@gmail.com for details.



# COMMITTEES & APPOINTMENTS

- Budget Committee
- Civic Appointments Committee, Chair
- North York Community Council, Vice-Chair
- Board of Directors of TO Live, Vice-Chair
- Toronto Police Services Board (TPSB)
- TPSB Anti-Racism Advisory Panel, Co-Chair
- **General Government Committee**
- Service Excellence Committee Yonge North York BIA

When Toronto City Council was reduced to 25 seats, it meant fewer councillors to sit on the many committees that govern our city. Serving on these committees along with Toronto City Council alone can

take up to 10 business days per month. It is a lot to juggle!





# **EDITHVALE POLLINATOR GARDEN**

together at the Edithvale Pollinator Garden to plant almost 500 plants of 13 different species in the wetland area! It was backbreaking hard work and they did a splendid at Earl Haig SS and Centerpoint Mall! This job! Photo Credit: Anne McConnell



# **ENVIRONMENT DAY x 2**

An energetic group of Willowdalers worked We appreciate all who donated gently used furniture, household items, clothes, and non-perishable food items at our Annual Willowdale Environment Days and Eco Fairs year we also added a book swap.



# WILLOWDALE ENTREPRENEURS CONNECT

We brought together entrepreneurs to network, support each other's ventures and learn about the many resources provided by the Toronto Public Library. Our inaugural event held with Club Win was a success!



### TTC, PARKS & FARMERS' MARKET POP-UPS

My team and I have been hosting pop-ups across Willowdale for the past few months to connect with constituents, garner more ideas for Participatory Budgeting and to visit different parts of the community.



# **SUNDAY SERENADES IS BACK**

Sunday Serenades returned to Mel Lastman Square after 6 years! Congratulations to the Willowdale Arts Collective on the wonderful revival of this event. One senior remarked that the concert was far more enjoyable than watching TV home alone.



# COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHTS x 3

So much fun watching movies with our neighbours at Avondale, Goulding Community, and Edithvale Park! Thank you to everyone who joined us and the community members who shared their talents with us! Thanks to PFR and CUPE Local 416 for their support.



# **BCNA YARD SALE**

Wedgewood Park was alive with community spirit at Bayview Cummer Neighbourhood Association's yard sale event. Residents brought out their treasures, turning the park into a lively marketplace filled with many neighbourly conversations!



# WILLOWDALE COMMUNITY PARTNERS THURSDAY NIGHT CONCERTS

We gathered leaders from across Willowdale for a networking meeting and created a dedicated communication channel Boyle for an amazing Concert in the Park to foster collaboration and build capacity! We also held a community partners potluck with lawn bowling. Each of these leaders are atmosphere enjoyed by all. Photo Credit: heroes in our community!



# MITCHELL FIELD DOG SWIM

Many thanks to City staff who ran a funfilled end-of-season Dog Swim after our office advocated for this program to return to Willowdale. There was a festive feeling as dog owners laughed over the antics of our furry neighbours.



Congratulations to the WCRA and Steve Series at Lee Lifeson Art Park! The musical lineup was fantastic, creating a vibrant Bruce Greenaway



# **TORONTO KOREAN FESTIVAL**

The turnout at the Toronto Korean Festival at Mel Lastman Square was phenomenal! The crowd went wild for Purple Kiss! Many thanks to the tremendous efforts of the Korean Canadian Business Association. This is truly the marquee event for our square.



# **GRAFFITI JAM HOSTED BY CITY LIGHTS**

Thanks to the group of talented artists who brought their graffiti and breakdancing skills to Mel Lastman Square. It was great to watch live art! The art was auctioned off to support the 415 Food Hub. Photo Credit: **Amy Fernandes** 



# **PARKS & REC UPDATES**

# SMALL WIN! SOLAR **LIGHT AT LISSOM PARK**

A Solar light was installed by the gazebo at Lissom Park last month. Thank you to Parks City staff for responding to this community need.



# **SILVERVIEW PARK**

The City has conducted a survey and two rounds of community consultations at our co-hosted brunch potlucks that brought the Silverview Community together. A detailed park design is expected to be finalized by the end of winter, and consultation completed by summer 2025.



# **FUTURE GLENDORA DOG PARK**

Although 62% of City survey respondents supported the staff-selected location (baseball area), we also received tremendous feedback from nearby residents at a Park Pop-up and Avondale Movie Night. Thus, City staff are considering a couple of other options including the possibility of fencing off the toboggan hill and closing the dog park in the winter for toboggan use.

Full report can be viewed here: www.bit.ly/glendoradog





# **GOULDING PARK EXPANSION**

Goulding Park is ready to grow thanks to a parkland dedication by a developer nearby. We await the conveyance of the parkland before the issuance of the first above-grade building permit to the developer.

# PARKVIEW NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN **EXPANSION**

Our office is arranging a garden expansion pop-up event at John McKenzie House during the fall and Construction Phase is to commence in spring 2025.

### **HENDON TENNIS COURT ENHANCEMENT**

The City's Tennis and Pickleball Court Program has selected Hendon Tennis courts as a top candidate for refurbishments and enhancements.

- Consultation and design phase Q3/Q4 2024
- Enhancements implemented Q2 2025

Other tennis courts in the community remain on the waitlist for enhancements.



### **HOLMES PARK PHASE 2**

Holmes Park is set for expansion. Valuable feedback from residents is helping to shape the final design. Construction is anticipated to be finished by fall 2025.

# **CONACHER BASKETBALL COURT**

The new half court opened to the public in July 2024.



# **TRANSIT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

# **DORIS EXTENSION, BEECROFT EXTENSION &** TRANSFORM YONGE

The Doris Extension RFP was re-issued due to a lack of bids on the first round and closed on Sept 16. We anticipate having a consultant onboard by the end of the year. Doris and Beecroft extensions will pave the way for the Transform Yonge project.

The City is exploring a partnership with 8-80 Cities, a renowned organization dedicated to creating inclusive urban spaces to support community feedback. City staff received invaluable and positive feedback from our community at recent pop-ups at the Avondale Movie Night and Taste of North York. There will be more engagement opportunities next year before the launch of community consultations for

# 401/YONGE INTERCHANGE UPDATE

The redesign of the 401/Yonge interchange, a collaborative effort with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), must follow the previously mentioned projects in sequence.

An RFP for Environmental Assessment and 30% design plans will be issued by the end of the year contingent on receiving a signed MOU with MTO expected later this fall. The Transportation team is already procuring materials to expedite the process.

Once the RFP has been released, selecting a consultant will take approximately four months, including a Council decision to approve the budget for the consultant group.

# **PROJECT TIMELINES**

2027 2027/28 2028

**TBD** 

- Doris Extension **Beecroft Extension**
- - Transform Yonge (formerly ReImagining Yonge)
    - 401 Interchange (contingent on completion of above projects)

I wanted to express my appreciation for the follow-up questions that you asked after the TPSB] deputations. They affirmed that you were listening to deputants...set a nuanced tone for the discussion that followed. - Toronto Resident



# **BIKE SHARE INSTALLATIONS**

This year, Willowdale received 7 new Bike Share Toronto stations as part of the cycling network expansion for a total of 9 at the following intersections:

- Talbot Rd / Finch Hydro Corridor (NEW)
- Willowdale Ave / Finch Recreational Trail (NEW)
- Bayview Ave / Finch Recreational Trail (NEW)
- Hendon Ave / Duplex Ave (NEW)
- Kempford Blvd / Yonge St (NEW)
- Empress Ave / Yonge St (NEW)
- Yonge St / Sheppard Ave E (south side) (NEW)
- Yonge St / Bishop Ave (north side)
- Yonge St / Glendora Ave (north side)



We held a Willowdale Community Bike Ride. 80 Participants rode from Willowdale to Downtown Toronto thanks to BikeShare, Toronto Community Bikeways and Peter Low.



# PLAYGROUND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (PEP) UPDATE

PEP is a dedicated capital initiative to upgrade and improve aging playgrounds. Willowdale Updates:

Pemberton Park: The new playground officially reopened this summer!

Caswell Park: Construction commenced in September. Completion expected by the end of fall. This project includes new playground equipment, fitness stations, seating, a ping-pong table, and a shade structure.

Bishop Park: Public engagement will continue with the second survey in 2025 to gather community input on enhancing park amenities and exploring the potential use of expansion with 49 Pemberton Ave. Construction is slated to commence in 2026.

Gwendolen Park: Pop-up community engagement and an online survey will happen in fall, and the project is scheduled for completion in winter 2025.

Wedgewood Park: An online survey will be launched in October to gather community feedback on playground options. We anticipate that the refreshed playground will open in late fall 2025.

Willowdale Park: The City is advancing playground enhancements at Willowdale Park. Join an inperson consultation on Nov 6 during our Spaghetti Town Hall. There will also be an in-person pop-up.

Please sign up for e-newsletter for updates.

# **HOUSING**



**175 CUMMER UPDATE** 

Construction on the Modular Supportive Housing is expected to begin this month with occupancy slated for the end of 2025. An operator will be chosen by the end of the year.

Our office is actively working in partnership with the **Housing Secretariat, Toronto Community Housing** Corporation (TCHC), Toronto Seniors Housing Corporation (TSHC), Cummer Lodge, and Willowdale Manor on the following practical pieces:

- Ensuring that a welcoming and furnished outdoor **space** is provided to both the current tenants and future supportive housing neighbours.
- Expanding the **parking capacity** to make room for new tenants and staff from supportive housing as parking is already stretched.
- Fostering stronger communication channels between agencies for better collaboration.
- Exploring opportunities with the Housing Secretariat for the selected service provider to extend **additional services** to TSHC tenants.
- · Working with the City-hired consultant to create a bridge-building integrated welcoming committee that helps foster a greater sense of inclusion across the campus and community.

# **ENCAMPMENTS**

Many residents are concerned about the growing number of encampments across our community and City. This is a complex issue requiring more space what is available here. A more fulsome discussion of this important issue will be provided in an upcoming e-newsletter.

# **REOPENING EVA'S YOUTH SHELTER**

In the first quarter of 2025, Eva's Shelter for Youth will reopen its shelter for youth experiencing homelessness at 25 Canterbury Place. The shelter, which closed in 2021 for renovations, will provide critical wrap-around support services to help youth achieve stability and move toward permanent housing.

A Community Liaison Committee (CLC) will be formed where representatives from the local community (e.g. condo boards, residents' associations, businesses and other local community organizations) can meet regularly with staff from Eva's and the City to share information, ask questions, and work together to support the program's success. More information about the shelter can be found at toronto.ca/25Canterbury. If you are interested in joining the CLC or wish to learn more about the shelter, please email

canterburyplace25@gmail.com.

# COUNCILLOR & COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS **Bachata Classes by BCNA** TUESDAYS at St. Agnes Cathólic School

Art Classes by Willowdale Group of Artists at Edithvale Gwendolen Pizza Plavdate

Park Consultation **Newtonbrook East Spaghetti** Town Hall at Brebeuf College

Willowdale West Spaghetti Town Hall at St. Edwards Church

**EngageFest! Community Building** Conference

Sunnyside Up Haunted House at St. Cyril

Ooo'Oulahen Halloween Night

**Pumpkin Parade at Edithvale by EYCA** 

Willowdale East Spaghetti Town Hall at Willowdale Baptist Church

Live Lounge at Novotel • Nov - Mar Willowdale Arts Collective Follow @NorthTorontoLive

Willowdale TTC Consultation

Willowdale Group of Artists Art Show

Silk Road Canvas Arts Event at **Lansing United Church** 

Willowdale Leadership Symposium

Willowdale Lunar New Year Celebration

Willowdale Celebrates Nowruz

# THERE IS NO POWER FOR CHANGE **GREATER THAN A COMMUNITY** DISCOVERING WHAT IT CARES ABOUT." -MARGARET WHEATLEY Join community members in person to share a virtual learning experience bringing together 500 changemakers and social innovators to learn about building stronger communities. RSVP: lilycheng.ca/events **Printable** Calendar! **NOV 16** Danish Fall Bazaar Willowdale Christian School **Annual Christmas Bazaar** St. Luke's Christmas **NOV 29-30 Craft Market Artisan Holiday** Market at John

McKenzie House

PLEASE NOTE: Events and times are subject to change.

**ENGAGEFEST!** 

THE POWER OF PEOPLE AND PLACE

MARGARET

**OCTOBER 29 & 30** 

**NORTH YORK** 

**CENTRAL LIBRARY** 

TAMARACK

# **MEL LASTMAN SQ. UPCOMING EVENTS**

**OCT 19-20 NOV 30 DEC 6-22 DEC 25 Jan 11 /25** 

**OCT 10 &** 

**OCT 15** 

**OCT 17** 

**OCT 29** 

**OCT 29-30** 

**OCT 25-27** 

**OCT 31** 

NOV 1

NOV 6

NOV 6 &

NOV 7

NOV 9

**NOV 16** 

**FEB 8 / 25** 

**MAR 8 / 25** 

**EVERY THU** 

**NOV 9-23** 

**EVERY THU** 

North York Diwali Fest

NeighbourLink Christmas Market & Walking Parade w/ Yonge North York **BIA Festive Tree Lighting** 

**Holiday Fair in the Square** by Epilepsy Toronto

Hanukkah - Light Up The Night

Willowdale Community Skate Party

www.lilycheng.ca/events for updates, google calendar & printable calendar.

Please sign up for our E-Newsletter or visit

# DEVELOPMEN WHAT IS A SECONDARY PLAN?

A City of Toronto Secondary Plan is a legally binding policy that provides detailed guidance for the development and growth of specific areas within the city. These plans address local needs and conditions while aligning with the broader Official Plan and city objectives. Secondary plans speak to Guiding Growth, Infrastructure and Services, Public Spaces and Urban Design Standards

All secondary plans must conform to the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS). The current PPS directs growth and intensification within major transit station areas. Major Transit Station Areas (MTSA) are defined as areas within a 500 to 800-metre radius of a transit station, representing a 10-minute walk. This covers many areas within our ward.

An updated PPS 2024 will come into effect October 20, 2024. The updated PPS maintains the current MTSA planning framework. Developers that appeal staff direction point to the density encouraged around MTSAs.

We currently have 3 secondary plans that are in different stages of renewal:

Yonge Street North Secondary Plan (northern part of Willowdale) was adopted in 2022 due to future transit node at Yonge/Steeles with expanded areas of density. It is currently being appealed by several developers.

North York at the Centre (area around Yonge St. from 401 to Drewry/Cummer Ave.) is a review of the current outdated secondary plan. A Phase 1 report is expected in spring 2025. We are still a few years away from a final

For more info: toronto.ca/nycentre

ReNew Sheppard East (the south-eastern tip of Willowdale extending east into next ward) The planning review of the Sheppard East Corridor is complete with a chosen draft plan. The team is looking for further public feedback.

Please visit: toronto.ca/renewsheppardeast

# **VISITOR PARKING WILL BE A FUTURE HEADACHE**

We often get applications for 40+ storeys with 500+ units and only 7 visitor parking spots. With a little pressure, I can sometimes get double, but there will still be a future mess when condo dwellers need parking for contractors, PSWs, friends and family.

We do not have sufficient public visitor parking in many areas of Willowdale. This will lead to illegal parking with impacts on safety and quality of life. Developers say building visitor parking is expensive and they want to save their buyers money. My motion to review our parking policies for the inner burbs successfully passed and we await a report towards a better policy.

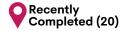
# MAP OF DEVELOPMENT IN WILLOWDALE

There are currently 109 developments. View details of each development: lilycheng.ca/development



Application Process (43)









# JOIN A NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION!

Neighbours building connectivity and addressing issues such as community safety and improvements.

Find one near you: 💙 lilycheng.ca/neighbourhood-associations If your area is not represented, please contact my office and we can help you start a new association.



AVONDALE

Scan the QR to join the whatsapp groupchat for Newtonbrook West and Avondale Neighbourhoods to launch an Association!



# **PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING (PB)**

# **Ping-Pong Tables\***

- ☐ Goulding Park
- □ Moore Park □ Abbotsford Park





\*Sample of some ideas, not the actual ballot.

We are excited to announce the successful launch of Participatory Budgeting (PB) in Willowdale, offering residents a direct say in shaping their community using \$500K in funds from Section 37 and/or Section 42 for each neighbourhood. A big thank you to everyone who submitted ideas and engaged in direct democracy!

# **PB Neighbourhoods:**

**Park Lighting** 

□ Hendon Park

□ Abbotsford Park

2024: Newtonbrook West and Willowdale West

2025: West Lansing and Avondale

2026: Willowdale East and Newtonbrook East

My team and I connected with hundreds of Willowdalers through nearly a dozen in-person events, gathering great ideas!

Information sharing and ideas collection happened through a webinar, various in-person events like pop-ups, and our online community engagement portal WillowdaleActionHub.ca The deadline for online idea submissions is October 29, 2024. If you live in the respective communities make sure you come out for inperson voting in April 2025. Sign up for our email newsletter for updates.

# For more info: www.lilycheng.ca/pb



# willowdaleactionhub.ca

Sign up at our community engagement portal Willowdale Action Hub (WAH) to submit your ideas and receive key updates about our PB process. Check out the great ideas submitted so far under the Participatory Budgeting folder on WAH and show your support by liking your favourites!

# PB Idea Collection Meeting



You must know that your efforts were well worth it as it sets a great example for the younger generation to see what leadership ought to be, how important it is to unite people, to be the force to organize something for the community... - Willowdale Resident