



YMVA Newsletter

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Editor: Jan Kosick
Tel. (416) 481-9799
Email: jankosick@rogers.com

YMVA Membership

The YMVA urges you to consider renewing your membership. It will allow you to get an updated valley directory and a chance to vote at the December AGM on key issues in your neighbourhood. We use the funds to pay for the printing of the newsletter and support other activities with supplemented funds where needed.

**Membership = Community
Join Today!**

We continue to offer 2 methods of payment for your membership, by cheque or online. Please submit your money by May 21st either by dropping off a cheque at 14 Knightswood Road or by e-money transfer by clicking on our Membership tab on our www.hoggshollow.net website.

Thank you,
Susanne Holland - YMVA Membership Chair.

Yonge York Mills Channel Maintenance Program

By Louise Sugar
lsugar@sympatico.ca
(416) 483-6614 (416) 788-5922

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has finished the first phase of channel maintenance along the flood control channel between Donino Avenue and the Rosedale Golf Club at the end of Knightswood Road. This maintenance has included the removal of sediment that has accumulated within the

channel and vegetation (trees/brush) that have rooted along the banks. The sediment and vegetation reduces the cross-sectional area of the channel. This restricts the amount of water that can pass through and increases the risk of flooding. The removal of the sediment and vegetation will restore the original capacity of the channel and reduce the risk of flooding through Hoggs Hollow.

The channel has now been cleaned from the end of Knightswood to the Donino bridge. The Knightswood Parkette has been restored and all river debris has been removed to “clean landfill” sites. It is important to note that the soil, which was removed from the riverbanks, was tested by and met the Ministry of the Environment requirement for “clean fill”. The only issue with the soil was salt content from street run-off.

The second phase of the project will consist of concrete repairs in the Mill Street / Donino area, as well as river cleanout to Yonge Street. This will commence in the summer of 2012, pending budget approval.

BACKGROUND: The channel is lined with gabion baskets comprised of stone contained in a steel mesh similar to chain link fence. The gabion baskets extend to the top of bank and are designed to prevent erosion from the velocity of water flowing through the channel. The excavator dug out the sediment down to the gabion basket lining. The soil left in between the stone on the banks is high in organic material and will eventually become vegetated with grasses. It will take several months for the channel to become vegetated.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the TRCA conducted a tree survey of the project area. Several trees of significance were discovered during the survey. These include five hybrid Butternuts and a Black Walnut. These trees were marked and were not removed during the maintenance of the channel.

A buffer area was maintained around these trees to ensure that their root systems were not damaged. The TRCA has created a 1 metre buffer zone below the top of bank to provide shade for the river and for aesthetic purposes.

All other trees below the 1 metre buffer zone were removed as part of the channel maintenance process. The majority of trees removed were Manitoba Maple. These are considered an invasive species and will out-compete native trees for habitat.

In order to remove the trees in the channel, the TRCA obtained a permit from the City of Toronto’s Urban Forestry Department. The TRCA, with assistance from Urban Forestry, will select local sites where native trees can be installed. Urban Forestry requires that 3 trees be planted for every tree removed.

To maintain privacy along the channel, the TRCA encourages residents along the channel to use native species to replant the area around the top of bank.

For more information on this project please check our website at www.trca.on.ca/yymcc

Contact :

Craig Mitchell, Supervisor - Flood Infrastructure and Hydrometrics, Ecology Division
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Cell 647 212-2410
EMERGENCY 24/7
Fax 416.661.6898
cmitchell@trca.on.ca

Hogg’s Hollow Infrastructure Upgrade Update

By *Simon Levy*
simplylevy@rogers.com

Louise Sugar, Christine Acconcia and I have been working diligently to try and alleviate the

untenable situation with the roads. Whilst we do feel that the individual city departments have been diligent in their efforts on our behalf, there have been a further series of unfortunate circumstances that have delayed the project even more.

We have campaigned with the City for regular watering to alleviate the dust, and received a commitment that it will now occur on a daily basis.

Given our frustrations at the lack of progress we have been pushing for more active involvement. We recently met once again with Jaye Robinson and she has agreed to be regarded as the “quarterback” on the resolution of these items. If you have any questions, comments or observations, it would be worthwhile to send her office a note to articulate same. Please copy the three of us on your correspondence so that we are aware of your individual circumstance.

In the meantime, please find here following the most recent update provided by Jaye.

Sewer work on Plymbridge Road, much of Donino Avenue and the two outfalls to the Don River have been completed. Preliminary work to facilitate road construction is in progress

Old Toronto Hydro cables exist at the Donino Avenue and Donwoods Drive intersection, then south for one block in close proximity to the proposed storm sewer. Toronto Hydro has instructed the City not to work in close proximity to the proposed storm sewer. Toronto Hydro has instructed the City not to work near these cables without certain measures. Toronto Hydro has agreed to relocate the power lines and are working on a relocation design, so that the City can complete the work in that area. The rest of the work is on-going and Technical Services estimates that it will be completed by mid-July.

Future construction includes road work, storm sewer work on Donino Avenue from Donwoods Drive due south and on Maytree Road. Road works on all sections have commenced with preliminary work underway. This includes Donino Avenue, Donino Crescent and Plymbridge Road

Hogg’s Hollow Phase 1 completion is expected this summer. Hogg’s Hollow Phase 2 will commence this summer including work on Knightswood Road, St Margaret’s Drive and part of Donwoods Drive, connecting these two streets. Minor road repairs and surface improvements will be made to Donwoods Drive from Yonge Street to Ivor.

Crime Watch

By: Penny O’Rourke 416 486-5060
porourke21@rogers.com

On Friday April 27th, a lot of vandalism took place in the area of Donino, Donwoods and Knightswood. Several real estate signs were removed from private property and placed at random on the wrong properties. Several cars parked in these areas had their windows smashed but nothing was reported stolen. However, it is believed a BB gun was used to damage the windows. Police are aware of the situation.

Cell phone thefts are still happening from people walking to and from subway stations and on trains.

Good locks on doors and reinforced door frames done properly will stop doors from being kicked or pried open. Keep front and back porch lights on and don't leave ladders up against the side of the house. Please remember to lock your cars.

Please report any valley incidents to me as soon as possible.

Late Night Noise

Unfortunately, some complaints have come to the YMVA's attention that there were quite a few late night noises last year. A reminder as summer approaches, if you are planning on having a party that may either be on a grand scale and will run later than 11pm, please let your neighbours know so that they can plan for it, if need be, otherwise respect the City Noise by-law . Thank you.

Valley Clean Up

By: *Christine Acconcia*
caconcia@rogers.com

This year's turn-out was better than ever! We collected about 12 large garbage bags full of garbage. The weirdest thing found was someone's t-shirt and the most precious was a blue "jewel!" A few of us put our efforts into trimming and edging the Millstone Parkette flower beds.

A lot of broken beer and liquor bottles have been found throughout our parks making playing and walking of pets quite dangerous. Please be careful. The City Parks guys can't be responsible for cleaning that up but we can by picking up any glass we happen to come across and disposing of it safely.

Neighbours are still finding doggie poop on their lawns or poop bags in their leaf bags. Please remember to pick up after your dog and remember to drop them in our garbage bins for disposal.

Valley Gardening Tip

We live in an area that supports a great biodiversity of wildlife—birds, butterflies, insects, etc. A very simple way that we can contribute to maintain and protect our unique ecosystem is to: **Allow leaf litter to accumulate under shade trees.**

Not only will this organic material enrich the soil, it will help the soil to retain moisture during dry periods. Healthy soil supports the richest density and diversity of microorganisms on the planet—up to a billion per gram of soil?

This tip from one of our neighbours can save you money on your gardening costs as well as there is no need to blow all the fallen leaves out of your garden!

Doggy Potty Habits

Another neighbour questioned whether or not dog urine can harm the base of trees enough to kill them. Web research has indicted that mature trees are unlikely to be harmed as the urine only reaches a very small area of the root ball. Young saplings, however, are much more vulnerable. So, if you think of it while out walking, encourage Fido to wait for a large tree or, better still, a pole, wall or rock before claiming his territory!

NAG Update

The construction in our Valley certainly can be tedious, but it never gets in the way of us having a good time. Since our last newsletter in February, we've had some great neighbourhood events with very good turn-outs. The skating party saw families come out for a sunny afternoon of fun in a beautiful wooded pine setting. Many thanks to Peter Giacomelli and Chanda Carr for hosting, and to Glen Silvestri and Sylvia Wielecki for organizing. Our annual neighborhood luncheon was a delight, as we chatted throughout the afternoon, enjoying a glass of wine and delectable dishes. Thank-you Jennifer and Trevor Day for hosting, and Clare Levy for organizing this wonderful afternoon.

We had a great response to our Wine Tasting event, featuring an informative and fun evening of Wines from Italy, with our sommelier Adam presenting tastings as well as discussing ideal food pairings. A special thanks to Deborah and Doug McCutcheon for hosting.

Spring /Summer Social Events

Morning in the Park: Saturday May 12

Come out for coffee, catch up with friends, and enjoy the first blooms of spring in our beautiful Brookfield Park (one of the few places you won't see construction!) Kids can run around and enjoy the activities planned at this annual event to commemorate spring and give us the opportunity to see the Valley blossom. Thank you to Andrea Knutson, Paula Dhillon and Laura Lamarche for organizing this event.

Date: Saturday May 12 10am – 12noon

Location: Brookfield Park

Contact: Andrea Knutson knutson@rogers.com

Valley Book Club: Wednesday May 16

All are welcome for a morning of coffee/tea and upbeat discussion about a book. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday morning of the month and everyone is welcome! The hostess and moderators rotate amongst the group. Come even if you have not completed the book. The topics are often so wide reaching there is always plenty of conversation.

This month: Prisoner of Tehran by Marina Nemat.

Date: Wednesday May 16, 9:30 – 11:30

Location: 25 Knightswood

Contact: Perry Lupyrypa PerryAnne@sympatico.ca
or Jennifer Fortier Jennifer.fortier@rogers.com

Valley Fair: Saturday June 2

Think back to those fond memories of kids playing, the summer heat, and enjoying your dinner under the skies...well it's that time again! The Valley Fair is our signature event that makes our neighbourhood so special. For tenured residents, come out to show your support, it's a great way to catch up with the neighborhood goings-on. For new residents, perhaps you haven't made it to some of our other events...this is the best event for the whole family to have some fun and get to know your neighbours and for parents, in particular, to perhaps find some playmates for your little ones. A big thank-you to our Chairs Susanne Holland, Michele Hopper, Clare Levy and Simone Carlier for stepping up and continuing to lead this tradition. Please see the insert for all the details.

Thank You
Leslie Gage
NAG Chair