



# YMVA Newsletter

Website: [www.hoggshollow.net](http://www.hoggshollow.net)

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## YMVA 2012 Contact

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## President's Update

By: Christine Acconcia  
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Hope the jump into 2012 was an exciting one for all! I would like to take a moment to thank Barbara Wilkes for Chairing our Development Committee for these past few years and Chris Rosenthal for sitting on the board for several years as NAG Liaison. They have asked to step down to pursue other challenges and we sincerely thank them for all their participation over the years. Good luck! The Board does so much especially behind the scenes to ensure that the valley's best interests are respected at the City level. And thanks to a very cohesive relationship with Councillor Jaye Robinson's office, we feel we really do make a difference. To fill one of the vacancies, Fran Clark has kindly accepted to offer to join us this year. We are looking for someone as Secretary and another for a member-at-large. If you would like to inquire about these 2 roles, please give me a call at 416-480-0623 or email me. Any of the Board members can be contacted through their emails listed on our website:

[www.hoggshollow.net](http://www.hoggshollow.net).

We obviously have to continue to be patient with all the upheaval in the valley due to all the road and Channel Maintenance work being done. Your continued patience is much appreciated. We continue to encourage everyone to be more conscientious about driving more slowly, following detour routes and watching out even more for pedestrians and bicyclists. Particularly noteworthy is the driving around the Millstone parkette, Plymbridge Road by the school and the top of the Donwoods hill turning off of Yonge St.

For project updates and upcoming neighbourhood activities please take a moment and read through this newsletter. Between the newsletters, bulletin board messages and the blast emails, we trust that we keep you adequately informed. If you would like to be on our confidential blast email distribution list, please email Jan Kosick at [jankosick@rogers.com](mailto:jankosick@rogers.com).

Here's to another wonderful year in the present construction site we call our Country in the City!

## **Yonge York Mills Channel Maintenance Program:**

By Louise Sugar  
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The phase 1 removal of the collapsed concrete slabs along the portion of Yonge/York Mills channel located at York Mills Road has been completed. The collapsed concrete slabs have been replaced with river stone boulders to stabilize the channel bank and create a more natural channel.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is preparing to commence a clean-up of the river banks and beds within the Yonge – York Mills Flood Control Channel from approximately Knightswood Road to Donino Avenue in the City of Toronto. The scope of work includes removal of sediment and vegetation from the limits of the channel to restore capacity, which is essential to preventing flooding during severe storm events.

Work is tentatively scheduled to commence early February, 2012 pending the receipt of the necessary approvals, and is anticipated to be completed by March 31, 2012 excluding final site restoration of disturbed areas which will be completed in the spring of 2012 as weather conditions permit. In the absence of project approvals, work will recommence in July of 2012. The black fencing along the river, on Mill

Street will be in place until the completion of the project.

Material will be removed via the small parkette at the end of Knightswood Road, and the municipal road allowance on St. Margarets Drive, and will be hauled by truck to the stockpile area near Yonge Street and York Mills Road for de-watering until it can be permanently disposed of off-site in the spring of 2012. Regular inspection and cleaning of the roadways along the access route will be completed to minimize disruption to the community during construction.

For more information on the project please visit the TRCA website at [www.trca.on.ca/yymcc](http://www.trca.on.ca/yymcc) **which contains project updates and photos**, or contact:

### **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](mailto:cmitchell@trca.on.ca)

## **Hogg's Hollow Infrastructure Upgrade Update**

By Simon Levy  
[simplylevy@rogers.com](mailto:simplylevy@rogers.com)

The Hogg's Hollow Phase 1 works are progressing albeit at a slower than anticipated pace.

The contractor, Tectonic, is presently working on a massive junction maintenance hole at Ivor and Donino Ave. This maintenance hole is expected to be complete in about ten to fourteen days. We are currently limiting the works beyond that junction maintenance hole to minimize the overall impact to the community. Upon completion of those works, the contractor will mobilize a second work crew in an attempt

to accelerate progress. This second crew will concentrate on the Plymbridge and Maytree areas with the existing crew working to complete Donino Ave and Crescent respectively.

Based on the latest projections, overall works will continue into April 2012.

Over the past few weeks, there have been a number of less than ideal instances on site.

First, there is a suspected partial collapse/blockage of the existing sanitary sewer near Donino Crescent. This resulted in a number of basement flooding occurrences. Should they wish, these residents may file a formal claim through the City's claim process. This can be accessed via [http://www.toronto.ca/finance/insurance\\_claims.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/finance/insurance_claims.htm). The City is working with Tectonic to repair this suspected collapse/blockage within a day or two.

Second, there was a significant power outage as a result of the works. This is unfortunate and should not have happened. There are policies in place to prevent these and an investigation is underway to determine how and why it happened. By law, the contractor is required to identify these connections prior to working in the vicinity. This was done by an external province wide not-for-profit agency. The quality of this locate will be revisited. Also, by contract, the contractor is required to physically reveal the utility and ensure works are away from it. Whilst this is the practice, it obviously did not work in this instance. The reasons for this will be identified and corrected.

Occasionally, accesses to residential properties were impeded more than anticipated. The City's consultant, CEG is working proactively to minimize these to the absolute minimum. CEG will endeavour to ensure all homes are accessible over holidays and weekends. Where

individual residents are adversely affected, CEG site personnel will continue to proactively work directly with that resident to ensure home access and alternate parking arrangements are made and adequate.

The site office contact is Cons Palparan and his number is 416 802 5534. Cons can assist anyone with specific site related matters.

## **Air Traffic Noise**

*By Leanne Lewis*  
[leanne@hogshollow.net](mailto:leanne@hogshollow.net)

At the YMVA AGM Councillor Robinson brought up the issue of air traffic noise. She noted that over the past 3 years Lawrence Park and other interested ratepayer groups have organized around the issue. She invited the YMVA to join their efforts.

On February 3, 2012 Christine Acconcia and Leanne Lewis attended an information meeting and learned the following: On the good news front, as of February 9 the centre line of the inbound flight corridor affecting North Toronto is being moved 1.8 km southward. Also, the inbound flight queue is being extended 6 km southwest over Humber Bay, which is designed to narrow the width of the flight corridor. Taken together it is hoped that the net effect of these two changes will diminish the number of flights over our area and hence the noise.

On the not-so-good-news front it was reported that the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) has requested approval from Nav Canada to increase the number of late night inbound flights to Pearson. Although late night flights are supposed to come in over areas of low population density, the reality is that variable weather conditions often require that flight paths be changed, resulting in late flights coming in over North Toronto. Although public

consultations were held on the matter, they were poorly promoted and public input was quite thin. Therefore, although the February 9 southward shift of the flight corridor might diminish night flight noise for much of North Toronto, the organizers of the February 3 meeting asked Councillor Robinson and local ratepayer groups to write letters to Nav Canada requesting that the time frame for public input be extended and that the invitation for input be more broadly publicized. The working group leaders that led the meeting also expressed concern that the GTAA has medium and long term plans to increase traffic at Pearson, possibly resulting in more air traffic over North Toronto if flight paths are not further adjusted.

Although some of the positions of the working group seemed appropriate to support, other positions were fuzzy and others were debatable. At the conclusion of the meeting the YMVA contingent agreed that more research was needed on the air traffic noise issue and on the positions of the working group before the YMVA could make commitments to the group.

### **What can you do?**

As part of that research we would appreciate getting input from neighbours. Are you affected by air traffic or night flight noise, yes or no? Have you noticed any changes in air traffic since the February 9 flight path changes went into effect? Please send any comments on these issues to [leanne@hoggshollow.net](mailto:leanne@hoggshollow.net).

For anyone who would like to make a specific air traffic noise complaint about a disruptive flight, you are asked to make your complaint directly to the GTAA. It is quick and easy to do. Either: 1. Go on line to [www.gtaa.com](http://www.gtaa.com). On the home page click "About Pearson" then click on "Noise Management". Under the title "GTAA Enforcement Office" click on "Noise Complaint" **or** 2. Call Noise Complaints for Toronto, York, and Peel Region: (416) 247-

7682 and ask for a call back. Please note, you will need to know the approximate time that you heard the flight so investigators can identify and gather statistics.

It is worth making the complaint as statistics are gathered as to where noise complaints come from and, when flights are found to have contravened Nav Canada flight rules e.g. flying too low, action is taken.

## **Development**

*By Lara Shohet*  
[lara@hoggshollow.net](mailto:lara@hoggshollow.net)

Over the past five years, Barbara Wilkes has thoughtfully and diligently overseen all development-related issues for the YMVA. She has been a tireless resource for neighbours with development-related concerns, and her many contributions include codifying her knowledge into resource guides which are posted on the Hogs Hollow website. Barbara-- we would like to thank you for your hard work on all of our behalf's. You leave us with big shoes to fill on the development committee.

We would like to introduce the new members of the development committee: Julian Brandon, Fran Clark, Lara Shohet, Vicko von Stedingk, and Chris Young. We will continue to support the YMVA in three ways: 1) By providing input into new construction projects via the Committee of Adjustment process, 2) By acting as a resource to assist neighbours with development-related concerns, and 3) By providing a forum to organize efforts around broader neighbourhood development issues (e.g., slope stability).

To that end, we would be interested in hearing from any neighbours who have experienced slope cave-ins, particularly due to tree removal or construction. If you have an example to share, please email [lara@hoggshollow.net](mailto:lara@hoggshollow.net).

## **Crime Watch**

By: Penny O'Rourke 416 486-5060  
[porourke21@rogers.com](mailto:porourke21@rogers.com)

Our police contact at 32 Division said absolutely nothing has been reported that affects our neighbourhood (a good thing for sure). There were lots of break-ins around Wilson/Avenue Road and Lawrence/Avenue Road, but not here in the valley.

However, right after the last newsletter, a resident reported that his car was robbed of a number of electronic devices (GPS, blackberry). The car was unlocked. Also, two tires were slashed in the same driveway on a different day.

Please be diligent about locking cars, leaving front/back porch lights on and reporting any incidents.

## **Valley Clean Up**

By: Christine Acconcia  
[cacconcia@rogers.com](mailto:cacconcia@rogers.com)

This year Valley Clean Up will be on Saturday, April 21st, 2012 and for the first time the City has set an alternate day of April 22<sup>nd</sup> in case of rain. This is a City wide initiative done in many neighbourhoods.

<http://www.toronto.ca/litter/>

Please join us at the Millstone Parkette between 9:30am and 11:00am for a cup of coffee/ juice and donuts before you head off to your assigned areas. Bring your own rubber gloves please, because it gets messy out there. We will provide you with large plastic bags which you will be asked to drop off at designated "drop off" points. The City will pick them up on one of their special garbage run. Do you know of any students who need community hours and enjoy gardening? The Millstone Parkette needs some tender loving care. The City unfortunately

is so understaffed that Fall clean up was not possible last year. We'll be happy to write a letter for "time served!" Please come out and help! The more the merrier! Thank you.

## **Dog Owners**

Unfortunately, over the years there has been an increase of dog poop left without being picked up. This is very evident in yards with young children (and no dogs in the home). There has also been numerous times that dog poop bags have been found in hedges and bushes, and our children play there too. I'm kindly asking that families with dogs speak to your household and insure that everyone is picking up after your family pet and disposing of the waste appropriately. Thank you.

## **NAG Update**

Since our last newsletter in October 2011 we've had a number of great events and seen several new faces. Firstly, I'd like to thank the key people who hosted or led these events:

Annie Katsiris for again, very graciously opening her home for our Halloween Social. The merriment continued into the wee hours and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Louise Sugar, Rakhi Tejani and Joy Verde for assisting.

A special thanks to a new neighbor, Rita Bengyel who, having not lived in the Valley very long didn't hesitate to host our annual Cookie Exchange. Many non-bakers came out to enjoy the festivities in addition to our "tried and true" cookie fans who baked some delectable goodies, and we saw a very good turnout. Many thanks to Louise Sugar and Joy Verde for assisting and to Matthew Turner and Rick Vrckovnik for bartending

Brett La Gamba for fearlessly organizing our annual Caroling in the Park, despite less than seasonal weather. Thanks to those that attended this special holiday tradition that we enjoy, snow or not!

Trudy Young for continuing to lead our dinner group program

Cynthia Goodchild for continuing to put up our poster boards, in all three locations on a timely basis

Jennifer Fortier and Perry Lupyrypa for your continued dedication to managing the Valley Book Club

## **Spring /Summer Social Events**

### **Skating Party: Monday February 20**

Our weather hasn't been the most agreeable for skating and skiing this season, however with the assistance of Chanda Carr and Peter Giacomelli hosting we are planning to go ahead with our skating party, so dust off those blades and come enjoy a hot chocolate with the family. Many thanks to Sylvia Wielecki and Glen Silvestri for organizing this event!

**Date:** Monday February 20 4:00-6:30 pm  
**Location:** 37 Old Yonge Street  
**Contact:** Leslie Gage [lvgage@rogers.com](mailto:lvgage@rogers.com)

### **Neighborhood Luncheon: Wednesday February 22**

This is a great introduction to our Valley community in a very informal, fun setting. Bring your favorite dish, catch up with friends and meet our new neighbors. In fact, we insist that if you know of a new neighbor and are planning to attend you bring them along.

Salads, appetizers, mains and desserts will be on hand as well as some wine and other refreshments. Many thanks to Jennifer Day for hosting!

**Date:** Wednesday February 22 @ 12:30 – 2:00pm  
**Location:** 39 Plymbridge Crescent  
**Contact:** Clare Levy [clarelevy@aol.com](mailto:clarelevy@aol.com)

### **Wine Tasting: Thursday May 3**

A great chance to reconnect with friends and meet new neighbours while enjoying some specially selected wine and food pairings. This is a ticketed event in which we are encouraging you to bring a new neighbour along, as there is something for everyone to enjoy (who isn't a wine lover?). More details to follow. A special thanks to Deborah McCutcheon who will host this year.

**Date:** Thursday May 3 @ 7:30pm  
**Location:** 1 Donino Court  
**Contact:** Leslie Gage [lvgage@rogers.com](mailto:lvgage@rogers.com)

### **Family Day: Saturday May 12**

Bring the family out to this all-ages event at the York Mills Park (the park with the playground). We will feature fun filled activities with an outdoor theme. More details to follow.

**Date:** Sunday April 29  
**Location:** the park with the playground  
**Time:** TBD  
**Contact:** Andrea Knutson [knutson@rogers.com](mailto:knutson@rogers.com)

### **Empty Nesters Tea**

This popular event held in May, featuring traditional tea and sandwiches is a delightful way to catch up with friends and welcome the warmer weather. Last year we could not find a host, and this year we are facing the same challenge. We have a budget and a wealth of knowledge from past hosts, so please don't hesitate to come forward if you're interested.

## **Valley Fair: Saturday June 2**

At our recent NAG meeting I was delighted to see some new faces and new neighbours who have stepped up to get involved. Bravo! This is crucial to the social calendar of the valley – but also a key means of getting to know your neighbours, which is what makes Hogg’s Hollow a true community for us and our families, not just an address.

While we have several volunteers keen on leading and helping with events, finding Chairs and Co-Chairs has been challenging. This year we discussed the possibility of our signature Valley Fair being held every two years instead of annually, as we need new people to Chair. We have a dedicated group of Valley volunteers but sadly the group is small and committed to putting on all the other events in the neighborhood. This year I am happy to report we have a new 4-Chair team leading the Valley Fair, however three of the four volunteer tirelessly elsewhere in the Valley as well. To continue exhausting our small group of volunteers is not sustainable and will result in events being shelved.

You can help by providing feedback to me at [lvgage@rogers.com](mailto:lvgage@rogers.com). Of most interest are the following questions:

- (1) Do you think we need the Valley Fair to retain the character of our neighborhood – or can it be accomplished with our other events throughout the year?
- (2) If we do need the Valley Fair, should this be the priority over other events?
- (3) How frequently should we hold the Valley Fair?
- (4) In the event we lack resources, should we hire an event company to manage the Valley Fair or skip that year?

Plus, any comments are welcome. Your feedback is greatly appreciated!

A final note, we are looking to change the name of our neighborhood association. NAG as an acronym can have negative connotations which undermine all the great efforts of our volunteers. It also lacks any reference to the use of our website, which has enormous potential. Any ideas are welcome. Please forward to [lvgage@rogers.com](mailto:lvgage@rogers.com)

Thank You  
Leslie Gage  
NAG Chair