



YMVA Newsletter

Website: www.hogghollow.net

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President's Message

By: Simon Levy
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Happy New Year!

I would like to thank all of you that came to the AGM in December. It was well attended and many thanks to the Miller Tavern for hosting and providing the wonderful breakfast spread that certainly provided the catalyst for a lively discussion on many of the issues that concern all of us.

Since our last newsletter, and the AGM, we certainly have seen a blast of real winter, albeit late in coming. There is something magical about the snow covered ground and the smell of wood burning fires as you walk around the neighbourhood.

Talking of neighbourhood, it brings me to the membership of the YMVA. We have started our membership drive for 2015 and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage each of you to join, as without your participation, we cannot claim to be the voice of your neighbourhood with the city.

Whilst we did see an increase in membership last year, we would like to keep that momentum by reiterating the importance of membership. Your membership of the YMVA helps us retain the neighbourhood that we have all grown to love.

The YMVA is, in many instances, your voice with the city; we meet regularly with the Councillor and City staff to resolve issues, we

provide assistance to neighbours, both new and old on how to deal with difficult situations and we try to ensure that the integrity of our community is not compromised by egregious building.

Without the YMVA and their constant efforts on your behalf for the past 20 or 30 years, the streets would have sidewalks, the formerly winding roads would have been straightened, and the rolled curbs would be the standard hard city ones; the street signs would not have that special feeling of the valley and the parking lot by the Miller would not have been transformed into a historical “mill relic” site with soft landscaping for us all to enjoy.

In order to continue to be your voice in the neighbourhood, we need to demonstrate that we are relevant for the community and needed by the community.

Membership demonstrates that relevance.

I therefore ask you to send your \$50 cheque for membership, made payable to York Mills Valley Association, to Jo-Anne O'Connor. 11 Green Valley Road, Toronto, Ontario M2P 1A4.

Thanks, Simon

Development News

By: *Diana Salerno*
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How the YMVA Supports Our Residents

The York Mills Valley Association would like to congratulate the residents of HEDGEWOOD ROAD on their recent victory in protecting the character of their beautiful street and the Valley as a whole!!

Over the last year, the YMVA's Development Committee has stood with the residents of Hedgewood in their opposition to the severance of 28 Hedgewood Road. The OMB-approved severance was conditional on the sale of a city-owned restrictive covenant, and we are pleased to announce that despite all odds, on February 17, 2015 the Government Management Committee rejected the City staff's recommendation that the covenant be sold to the owner-developer.

This is a prime example of the ‘wonders’ that can happen when unified and well organized neighbours come together to support one another and stop harmful precedents from being set. The YMVA would also like to express gratitude to Councillor Jaye Robinson who played a major role in representing Hedgewood's position to the Committee on February 17.

If you have not already done so, **we encourage you to please join the YMVA**. Our neighbourhood association provides valuable support and a strong voice to our residents' issues in the eyes of municipal authorities. We also join with other local Neighbourhood Associations to protect the integrity of North York neighbourhoods.

Sale of 4050 Yonge Street

(north-west corner of Yonge St. & York Mills)

The existing TTC parking lot site located at 4050 Yonge Street has been sold by Build Toronto to The Gupta Group / Easton's Group of Hotels. The proposed development for the 3.2-acre site is a seven-storey, 480,000-square-foot complex which will include commercial office-condos, a hotel and retail space. The TTC's parking facilities are proposed to be relocated to a new underground parking lot. The development was designed by Toronto's award-winning architectural firm Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB), and will meet or exceed the LEED Gold Standard.

A recent article in the Toronto Star written by business reporter, Susan Pigg and published on 1/14/15, stated that "... the city was intent on creating more employment in the Hogg's Hollow area, which is one of the more affluent residential neighbourhoods in the city". The article went on to quote Bill Bryck, president and CEO of Build who stated, "It's a valuable employment node that the city was looking to protect, so we were looking for someone with a proven track record in that kind of (mixed-use) development". The project is expected to create 300 permanent jobs in the city.

Following a telephone interview with Steve Gupta (founder of Gupta Group) the Toronto Star stated that over one acre of the site sits on a flood plain abutting the Don River, and this land will be turned over to the City for conservation purposes. Mr. Bryck also elaborated that by the time the lot was listed for sale late last year, Build had already addressed concerns around the flood plain lands with the regional conservation authority, and had spoken to local residents and businesses about plans for the site.

The YMVA will continue to monitor the progress of this new development. To learn more about the Forty Fifty Yonge development, you may visit the website at www.4050yonge.ca

Official Review of Toronto's Official Plan

At the present time, the City is in the process of reviewing its Official Plan with the intention of clarifying and updating many of its weak policies. A staff report titled "*Official Plan Review: Draft Policies for Healthy Neighbourhoods, Neighbourhoods, and Apartment Neighbourhoods*" was released on May 20, 2014, and over several months, the City held a number of consultations regarding an Official Plan review. Planners are scheduled to produce a follow-up Staff Report in Spring

2015. Once comments on the revised Staff Report are received through additional consultations, a final version of the Report will be submitted to Council with recommendations for re-visiting the current Official Plan. The YMVA will continue to monitor the progress of the Staff Report.

Background on the current Official Plan

After amalgamation, the newly-formed Toronto prepared an Official Plan that included the whole city. Several policies contained within the plan, which was originally approved by City Council in late 2002, received opposition from several Resident's Associations due to concerns that the plan should be enforcing stronger policies to protect stable residential neighbourhoods and implement less ambiguous land-use maps. The Official Plan was ultimately appealed to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing in early 2003, and after much effort and time, a modified/amended Official Plan was submitted and approved at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) in July 2006. The city has not re-visited the Official Plan since 2006.

Urban Planning vs. Urban Design Strategy

An interesting feature included as one of many proposed amendments to the Official Plan pertains to the introduction of new 'Urban Design Policies'. The city's current evaluation methods are site-specific and only consider a development proposal as it relates to the Official Plan and Zoning By-laws. More inclusive Urban Design Policies would enforce a broader perspective look on a new development's impact to a neighbourhood, taking into consideration impact on local features such as infrastructure, public spaces and parks, building facades, etc. In Spring 2015, planners are slated to produce an additional Staff Report on "*Draft Policies for Urban Design*" that will be released for public comment and consultation.

Membership Drive

By: Jo-Anne O'Connor
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The membership campaign is off to a strong start. We continue to stress the importance of being a member of the YMVA. Remember the strength in numbers. We have become a strong association when dealing with community issues. Recent examples include the victory on Hedgewood (see article above) and the installation of a no parking sign at the Green Valley/May Tree blind corner. Please join/renew today.

Go to **www.hogshollow.net** and click on **Membership**

Valley Clean Up

By: Christine Acconcia
yogawithchris@rogers.com

Valley Clean Up Day will fall on April 18th this year and we are hoping to have warmer weather !!! Don't know how long this winter will stick around.

Come out and help clean up our parks and river. Please diarize to meet at the Millstone Parkette between 9:30am – 11:00am for a cup of coffee, donuts and juice before you head off to your assigned areas of clean up. Do you know of any students needing community hours ? We'll be happy to write them a letter for “ time served” ! Please bring your own rubber gloves because it could get messy! The City's yellow bags will be handed out as well so they can be recognized by the City's staff when they make a special garbage pick up run around 2:00pm that Saturday. Please consider chipping in 30 min. or more of your time. It really makes a difference. Thank you.

Crime Watch and Safety

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

Happily, there have been absolutely no reports on anything from the police or any neighbours.

I would still suggest people are diligent about making their homes looked lived in and arranging for someone to shovel snow if they are traveling and as always, to leave a front/back porch light on, and have papers, mail and flyers picked up by someone.

NAG Update

(Neighbourhood Activities Group)

The weather outside is frightful, but the Valley Spring Events are delightful. Hope you'll all join us. Mark your calendar and come help out.

Pot-Luck Luncheon

Everyone is welcome. Bring your favorite dish to share. It's a wonderful time to reconnect with friends and meet new neighbours as well, so don't be shy. See you then!

Date: Thursday, April 30th

Time: 12:00 pm

Location: 6 Donino Court

Host: Tamara

Spring Wine Event

Swirl, Sniff and Sip (or Gulp)!

Come out and enjoy an elegant spring evening of wine and nibbles with your neighbours. Details and ticket information to come with a few reminders too. For now mark the date in your calendar ...we look forward to seeing you.

Date: Thursday, May 21st

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: 44 Donino Avenue

Host: Dale & Chris Hewat

Poster Party

Bring your brilliant budding artists to create masterpiece posters for advertising our annual Valley Fair. All ages and levels of talent are welcome to put their smear, smudge or handprint on our one-of-a-kind creations!

The more posters plaster throughout the neighbourhood the better.

Date: Sunday, May 24th

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Park with the Play Ground

Coordinator: Leslie Gage

Valley Walking Group

The walking group continue to meet almost every Friday morning throughout the winter! Without doubt we look forward to the warmer spring days. You are welcome to come out and join any time. The group meets at the corner of Donwoods and Plymbridge. No need to RSVP.

Date: Friday mornings

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Millstone Parkette

Valley Archive Collection

This is meant to be an enjoyable social collection of photos, newspaper articles and in general any memorabilia toward our neighbourhood. The plan is to have a display table during the Valley Fair for all to browse. If you have any of these items you would like to share with the rest of our neighbourhood please contact Paula, who would be more than happy to arrange collection and make a copy, so that you keep your original.

Contact: Paula Dhillon

dhillon@rogers.com or (416)452-5887

Thank You

Many thanks to the wonderful hosts and coordinators who have helped make our

neighbourhood a special place. And thank you to the residence for attend events, and share in the fun. Once again it has been an amazing team effort showing community spirit throughout the fall and winter months. We would like to acknowledge and thank the following:

- The Lamarche Family & Friends for the Halloween Night Zombie Walk & Party
- Tamara Lennox & Jim Fasano for host the Parenting Guest Speaker and Jennifer Fortier for coordinating
- Betty Kneis for hosting Book Club and Jennifer for coordinating Movie Night
- Heather Ferguson for hosting Cookie Exchange, Dave Dingle for Bartending (and cleaning the snow off the steps) and Clare and Annie for coordinating
- Brett La Gamba for organizing the Caroling at the new Jolly Miller Park
- Paula Dhillon for hosting and Maureen Roe for coordinating the Holiday Lunch
- Perry for hosting and coordinating the Soup Swap
- Chanda Carr and Pete Giacomelli for coordinating/hosting the Skating Party
- Trudy Young for organizing Dinner Club
- Annie Katsiris for hosting NAG
- Perry Lupyrypa for Social Media updates Facebook and Twitter like us at Facebook.com/hoggshollow and Follow us @hoggshollow.net
- Leslie Gage for PR - and Posters
- Jan Kosick for writing, editing and printing the Newsletter.
- Paula Dhillon and her team for newsletter delivery.

Many Thanks:

Jennifer Fortier, Perry Lupyrypa, Annie Katsiris
Neighbourhood Activities Group - 3 Co-Chairs

Valley Fair 2015!

Always the first Saturday of June.
Save the date.....

Saturday, June 6th

Valley Fair Strategy Meeting **Tuesday, February 24th - 8 pm**

This year's Fair Chair - Annie Katsiris
Please join Annie and many other neighbours to share your ideas. We need your help and support to make our Annual Fair a success!

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 24th
Time: 8:00 pm
Location: 37 Brookfield Road
Host: Clare and Simon Levy

This year's Valley Fair will be a special celebration of our neighbourhood recognizing the **75th Anniversary of our Y.M.V.A.!** It is also the **40th year** for this popular community event.

We will be celebrating the history of Hogg's Hollow while enjoying some old fashioned fun and games and offering a yummy picnic-style BBQ. We promise to follow up soon with more detailed information.

Our very dedicated Y.M.V.A. Board is generously sponsoring portions of the Fair, but we still need volunteers to make it a success. We encourage anyone who would like to volunteer their time and/or ideas for our Anniversary Celebration Fair to contact this year's Chair, Annie Katsiris at anniekatsiris@hotmail.com.