



YMVA Newsletter

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STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND ROAD IMPROVEMENT STUDY

By: Norman Hardie

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After four public meetings dating back to December 2002, a number of meetings of representatives of the YMVA with Councillor Cliff Jenkins and his staff, and several private meetings, the Study was formally submitted to The City of Toronto Works Committee on June 29, 2005. It was approved with three amendments submitted on behalf of the YMVA by Councillor Jenkins. The Study together with the three amendments was subsequently accepted in a full meeting of the City Council.

The Study was initiated primarily due to historic flooding of private property in the Valley. Approximately 25 percent of Valley residents experience surface or basement flooding. To address these problems and the deteriorating condition of Valley roads, the City proposes a solution that will involve reconstruction of the entire Valley road system in conjunction with the installation of a storm water system capable of conveying the proverbial 100 year storm.

Nothing will happen overnight as this is a three phase, \$15 million, 15 year program, with each phase taking five years. Work on Priority Area A, the most urgent, is unlikely to start before 2007. The main points and issues are as follows:

The newly engineered road system will largely consist of roads of regular cross sections with shallow curbs and gutter.

In order to avoid a cookie cutter feel to the design, one of the amendments to the Study calls for the City to consult with residents on alternative curbing styles during the detailed design phase.

The pavement width will, in general, be 7.2 meters except in some areas where the width will be less than 7.2 meters in order to avoid the physical removal of mature trees. Again, in order to try to preserve the rural nature of the Valley another of the amendments to the study stated that while the maximum road widths outlined in the report are 7.2 meters the City will consider, in consultation with residents, variable road widths on selected roads but, where wider roads are considered, the principal of tree preservation will be paramount.

The Toronto Fire Service and Transportation Services have raised concerns that the "narrow roads" will inhibit effective operations in the Valley. They will propose no on-street parking where the reconstructed street will be narrower than the City's policy of 8.5-meter minimum street width. The third amendment to the Study states that the enactment of parking recommendations for reconstructed roads be deferred until the completion of Priority Area A. Enactment is not in the hands of the Fire or Transportation Services and residents will have the opportunity to oppose it at the relevant time. For Priority Area A it is not anticipated that anything will happen in this regard until about 2012.

Priority Area A is where frequent flooding occurs and the existing road conditions are fair to poor. The streets included in Priority Area A are Donino Court, part of Donino Avenue, Maytree, part of Plymbridge Road, Forest Glen Crescent, Doncliff Drive and part of Campbell Crescent. For the balance of the Valley, elimination of on street

parking should not become an issue for at least ten years.

There will be no sidewalks except where they already exist.

Based on the preliminary design, there will be no physical removal of trees. However, a certain number of trees will be within 2 or 4 times the tree diameter from the edge of the proposed construction and could be compromised. The intention is that these trees will be fertilized and possibly root pruned in advance and that careful construction techniques will be mandated to prevent tree loss and damage.

The plan, its implementation and its timing will not satisfy all residents but it should be recognized that the City has made a genuine effort to listen to the concerns of residents. In this regard we have had considerable help from Councillor Jenkins and his staff, for which we are most grateful. The City has made two copies of the Study available to the YMVA. Any resident that would like to view the study should contact Norman Hardie at 71 Donwoods Drive and he will make a copy available. Copies have also been placed at the North York Central Library, City Clerks Office (North York Civic Centre, Ground Floor) and the Technical Services Office (North York Civic Centre, 4th floor).

If you have any technical queries regarding the study you should contact Samuel Jebakumar, Senior Project Engineer, Design and Construction, North York District at 416 395 6395.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

By: Norman Hardie

Tel. (416) 440-1631

E-Mail: norman.hardie@hardieassociates.com

With construction enveloping large sections of the Valley, haphazard parking and traffic behavior remain a major concern. In this regard the following have occurred:

Requests have been made to Division 32 for more traffic enforcement in the Valley. On isolated occasions patrol cars have been seen parked in the Valley. It is not know if any tickets were issued.

The speed humps that residents on Old Yonge petitioned for have been installed.

The "Watch Your Speed" trailer was visible on Brookfield for three days in the last week of August. Hopefully it has encouraged motorists to do so.

The advanced green at the intersection of York Mills Road and Yonge, if one is traveling west, is due to be installed in the fall. Hopefully this will take off some of the through traffic on Campbell.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

Shoreline Clean-up

Thanks to the small but enthusiastic group who helped clean up part of our neighbourhood section of the Don River, Sept. 14 and 22. While cleaning, we collected data on what kind of garbage was finding its way into the river, as part of an international program designed to raise awareness and change attitudes about litter and aquatic garbage. We will be registering for the program again next Sept. and offering community hours to students. I hope you will join us. Watch for signs advertising "River Clean-up".

The Printing of this newsletter was sponsored in part by Alessandra Morassutti

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NEWS CONTINUED....

If your property backs on to the Don River, please consider being part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up. You can check out their website out at www.vanaqua.org/cleanup.

Help Protect Our Urban and Natural Forests....Don't Move Wood!

Stop the spread of destructive pests by using extreme caution when moving FIREWOOD or other types of wood including trees, nursery stock, pruned branches, logs and forest products with bark attached into The Valley. More specifically, make certain that these items are not infested with pests or that they do not come from an area suffering from pests.

You may have heard about the devastating affects of the ASIAN LONG-HORNED BEETLE and the EMERALD ASH BORER infestations in northwest Toronto and Vaughan. These insects are native to Asia and have no natural predators in Canada. If allowed to spread, they have the potential to kill millions of trees in our cities, parks and forests. As a preventative measure, many, many acres of mature trees have been cut down in northwest Toronto to stop the spread of these damaging insects. For more information, visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website at www.inspection.gc.ca.

Book Your FREE Green Garden Visit (GGV) Today!

The North Toronto Green Community started conducting Green Garden Visits in Hogg's Hollow this summer. The Green Garden Visit is a personal ecological garden consultation. One of our expert gardening consultants comes to your home and works with you to help you solve your gardening woes.

The GGV usually costs \$75, but for Hogg's Hollow residents the visits are being for FREE. The program is being funded by the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the City of Toronto who are looking at various ways to reduce stormwater runoff (untreated water flowing directly from our sewers into Lake Ontario) in order to improve the quality of our water so that one day we may be able to swim in Lake Ontario again!

Our project in Hogg's Hollow is to work with 150 homeowners to help you with your gardening challenges and to help with the flooding problems you may experience in your home or in your community by showing you ways to help reduce run off from your gardens by planting more native species, reducing lawn, disconnecting your downspout, installing rainbarrels and having porous driveways.

The program goes through the fall. Do give us a call to book your Green Garden Visit. It will help you put your garden to bed ecologically for the winter and you'll be all prepared to start off just right next Spring!

Call Anita at 416-781-7663 to book your visit.

Email: ggv@ntgc.ca

Website: www.greengardenvisit.ca



VALLEY CRIME WATCH

By: Penny O'Rourke

Tel. (416) 486-5060

E-mail: porourke21@rogers.com

Unfortunately it has been a busy spring and summer on the Valley Crime Watch:

April 7 – Daytime robbery on York Valley Crescent. A rear window was broken. The

**VALLEY CRIME WATCH
CONTINUED....**

security system was not triggered.
Silverware and cash were taken.

May 18 – Daytime break and enter on Ivor Road. The front door was kicked in and a sculpture was removed.

July 18 – Between 12:30 and 7:40pm a home on Ivor Road was robbed. Entry was made through an unlocked side door. A laptop and purse were taken.

August 23 – At approximately 4:30pm, a home on Donwoods Grove had merchandise taken from the trunk of a car.

August 31 – A home on Donwoods Grove was broken into through the rear glass patio sliding doors.

NAG NOTES

*By: Susanne Holland (416) 485-2218
Michele Hopper (416) 932-9198 &
Priti Kawale (416) 483-2957*

What is NAG???

A Question you may have pondered....

The Dictionary will tell you:

1) An old horse (*definitely not! An experienced filly...maybe*)

2) To ask someone repeatedly

Now, we cannot promise we are not slightly guilty of the latter, but it is not how we would like to define ourselves.

The NAG is the York Mills Valley Association's

"Neighbourhood Activities Group"

Our mission is to have some fun and meet some great people while doing it.

Volunteers from the neighbourhood run a number of social events for young and old, throughout the year. The idea is to meet your neighbours and enjoy this unique environment that we are so lucky to have. Along with the fun, we also hope to be do a bit of good and we are open to any suggestions. Many are listed below and the Spring will bring many more.

The Valley Fair as one of the spring/summer highlights which is always held the first Saturday of June. Mark your calendars, Chris Rosenthal and Joy Verde have a great day planned. More info on such events will be in the next newsletter.

It is easy to get involved and all levels of help are welcome. As you know, many hands make light work and you can be as involved as you want to be. We hold three meetings a year but if you can't make them and still want to be involved, just give us a call.

Your 2005/2006 NAG Chairs,

***Susanne Holland (416) 485-2218
Michele Hopper (416) 932-9198 &
Priti Kawale (416) 483-2957***

Thank you Dale and Lisa

For the past two years, Dale Hewat and Lisa Barney have co-chaired NAG. Under their leadership, NAG flourished and many memorable events and successful get-togethers were held. Thank you both for leading the tradition of community activity in The Valley!

Welcome Party – Sept. 2005

This was truly a wonderful evening where new neighbours were welcomed into our beautiful neighbourhood. Over wine and hors d'oeuvres, new friendships were made and we are looking forward to a new social season in the valley.

Thank you to Leanne and George Lewis for opening up their home for this lovely event and to Debbie Neil and Trudy Young for organizing!

Wine Tasting Evening – April 2005

What a success! We had a fabulous time trying new vintages and dining on culinary delicacies at Harlequin Restaurant. A special “thank you” to Deborah & Alain Sutton, with the help of Trudy & John Young for organizing this spectacular evening! The Suttons have graciously agreed to host this event again in the spring. Please look for more details in the winter newsletter.



Fall Social

Saturday, Oct. 29th @ 8:00pm
Halloween Theme

For more information, please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter or contact Susanne Holland at (416)485-2218 or susanneholland@rogers.com



Kids Get Involved!!

Call: Joy Verde (416) 932 – 0057
joy@joyverde.com

We'd like to make an effort this year to enhance our kids' awareness of the larger community in which we live. We are a very fortunate neighborhood and would like our children to get involved and to get a “hands-on” feel of what it's like to help others. As a start, we are thinking of getting a group together to work at a local food bank. We are currently working on the logistics of the task but if you would like to be involved please phone Joy. Details will be discussed at the next NAG meeting.

If you have any other input or ideas for “helping out”, please call Susanne, Priti or Michele.

Cookie Exchange

Monday, Nov. 28th @ 8:00pm
@ Jill Haythornthwaite's house
56 Plymbridge Road
RSVP: leannelewis@rogers.com or call 416-485-0959

A very popular event that gets everyone baking and eating!! This fun evening has everyone bringing a specified number of one kind of cookie or square. At the end of the night or when the martinis run out, we exchange and get an enormous selection of the greatest creations you've ever tasted. Bring your recipes if you'd like to exchange those too! For more information call Leanne at 416-485-0959



NAG Holiday Pot-Luck Luncheon

Thursday, Dec. 8th @ 12:00pm
@ Carolyn Clark's house
16 Donwoods Drive
RSVP: Louise Sugar 416-483-6614

Bring your favorite salad, appetizer or dessert and get together with old friends or make new ones. This is a festive luncheon

that has become a lovely Valley tradition. Carolyn is a marvelous hostess and this event always starts the season off in the right way!



Caroling in the Park

**Wednesday, Dec. 14th,
7:00pm @ Millstone Parkette
Call: Brett LaGamba (416) 486-2102**

This is a fun way to come out and celebrate the festive season by singing holiday carols. Meet at 7:00pm in the parkette with your hats and mittens on and sing all your favorites with your neighbours and friends while sipping hot chocolate. The Salvation Army comes out to accompany us, so we hope you will bring a little donation for their cause.



Kids' Holiday Crafts

**Saturday, Dec. 17th,
2:00 – 4:00pm @ Agricola Finnish Church
Call: Chris Rosenthal (416) 482-6666 to help**

This is a great event for the kids to come out and show-off their creative side! Various crafts stations will be set up for the kids to start crossing off their “gifts to give” list. In the past, they have made beautiful ornaments, cards, gift bags and of course the very popular decorated cookies, to name a few. There are things to make for kids of all

ages. Refreshments served for big people too.

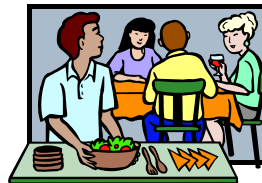


Jobs!Jobs!Jobs! Babysitting, Dog Walking, Snow Shoveling, Lawn Mowing, etc.

Jan Kosick (416) 481-9799

Calling all teenagers! Do you want to earn extra money? Are you already doing odd jobs and need more clients? This is the place for you! We are always updating the Valley baby-sitting and odd jobs list.

If you are interested in providing a service, please drop off a note (with your name, address, phone # and job(s) you want to do) to Jan at 27 Donwoods Drive or call. We ask that even if you are already on Jan's list, please give her a call to confirm that you still want to be included. She will put together a new secure phone list for people to phone when they are looking for some extra help. This is for Valley residents only.



Valley Dinner Club

**By Trudy Young
jtyoung@rogers.com**

Back by popular demand, we are organizing the Dinner Club. It is a wonderful, relaxed

way to meet new neighbours or stay in touch with long-time residents. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more details.



Valley Fair Update

By: Chris Rosenthal

(416) 482-6666

chrisrosenthal@rogers.com

This year's Annual Fair was another wild day in the "jungle". I hope that everyone who attended enjoyed themselves as much as I did! The Fair is a great way to kick off the summer season after hibernating all winter and it gives us all a chance to reconnect with those neighbours who we don't see during the winter months. It is your support that makes this day an event to remember.

As you may or may not know; there are many people involved in making this day the success that in invariably is. Janine Sheeres of Harvey Kalles Real Estate (who is also a valley resident) generously donates the tent that comes in handy rain or shine. Various valley residents and neighbouring business charitably donate their goods or services, and even their time to be auctioned off. Then, there are those of you who bid on all the wonderful items in the auction. The brave and extremely talented youths in the valley who "wowed" us with their amazing repertoire of jokes, songs and music. Sequel Catering who supplied the delicious food we all enjoyed. Last but not least, the many volunteers who worked shifts at the various work stations.

These are the people you all saw on the day of. However, there is a core group of dedicated people who work behind the scenes in the months leading up to the Fair planning and organizing the day. These people also deserve a special thank you for

all their time and effort: Michele Hopper, Louise Sugar, Joel Rosenthal, Bill Somerville, Norm Lamarche, Sherry D'Costa, Peter Weiss, Susanne Holland, Priti Kawale, Christine Acconcia, Karen Trimmer, Michelle Mondville, Jill Haythornthwaite, Kevin Leon, Joy Verde, Alessandra Morasutti, Dale Hewat, Betty Kneis, Roz Nella, Leanne Lewis, Carolyn Clarke, Betty Ann Franssen, Sharon Rosenfeld, Martha Goldman, Alison Rochon, Laureen Fisher, Jan Kosick, Lisa Barney, Perry Lupyrypa, Morag Fitzgerald and Andrea Knutson.

I'd also like to thank Bob Torrens and the YMVA for their continued support, both during the planning of the Fair and on the day of.

This year's auction was again successful in raising enough money to cover the cost of the day with a tidy sum left over. The excess funds will be used throughout the year to fund various N.A.G. organized events.

I look forward to seeing you at next year's fair. If you would like to help in this endeavour please contact me soon, as planning starts in January! I would welcome any comments that you may have – be it things you like, or things you think should be changed.

Your Fair Chair
Chris Rosenthal

(Ed Note: On behalf of the Valley residents, thank you Chris for your dedication in organizing this very special event. Everyone had a great time!)

Bake Sale Thank You

Bake Sale Thank-you!

A big and sincere THANKS to the contributors and volunteers for making

this the most successful valley bake sale ever.

Thank-You kindly,

Sherry D'Costa

Bake Sale Volunteers:

Pam Spence	Angie Hamilton
Belinda Kirkwood	Judy Morson
Adam Neil	

Bake Sale Contributors:

Alkier Kelly	Bloom Carolyn
Goodchild	CynthiaHewat Chris
Holland Susanne	Kosick Janet
Kreidstein Shawna	La GambaBrett
LewisLeanne	Lipchak Susan
Lupyrypa Perry	Hamilton Angie
McDonald Vicky	Neil Debbie
NellaRozlyn	Rancourt Shannon
Rochon Alison	Rosenthal Christine
Santaguida Mary Lou	Soudack Linda
Sugar Louis	Sutton Deborah
Tatham Janna	Spence Pamela
Wassenaar Michelle	Wilkes Barbara
WongHelen	

HATS OFF TO THE TORONTO FIRE DEPARTMENT

By: Norman Hardie

Sadly, there was a fire in the basement of one of Donwoods Drive's lovely older homes on Canada Day. Fortunately the long-time residents were home and could immediately report the danger. The Fire Department responded in exemplary fashion. Thanks to their rapid response, no one was injured. Unfortunately the house was extensively damaged by smoke and its future is uncertain. Although the event was distressing, it was reassuring to see the large team of well-trained fire fighters doing all they could to save the home and ensure the family's safety.



JAPANESE BEETLE INFESTATION

Throughout the Valley, gardens are being plagued by Japanese Beetles. Not to be confused with the Asian Long Horned Beetles, these Beetles are about ½” long, brown with an overall iridescence. From mid-June to mid-August, they feast on Roses, Japanese Maples, Astilbe, Rose of Sharon, and many other plants and shrubs. The Beetle grubs eat grass roots and kill lawns. To best manage this scourge, it will take a coordinated effort by those affected. If you would like more information or would like to discuss possible solutions, please call Leanne Lewis at 416-485-0959. The following website offers images and information about the Japanese Beetle: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/jbeetle.htm>

YMVA WEBSITE

Valley resident, Steve Neil, is the YMVA's volunteer webmaster. Please visit The Valley website at www.hogghollow.net.

YMVA MEMBERS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To all YMVA members and new residents: The YMVA AGM will be held Saturday, December 3 at The Agricola Finnish Church (Campbell and Old York Mills). Look for more details in a mailing being sent to members in the coming weeks. Those still needing to pay their 2005 dues may do so by dropping their \$50.00 cheque off at 26 Donwoods Drive. Cheques should be made payable to the "YMVA". For more information about the AGM contact YMVA President, Bob Torrens, at 416-483-8992.



We wish you a beautiful fall season in
The Valley!