



YMVA Newsletter

May 2003
Volume 63, Issue 2

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For Your Information....

Valley Fair Information

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President's Message

By: Tim Bates
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Spring has sprung in the Valley! On Saturday April 26/03, we had a very successful Clean Up Day.

The weather was ideal and over 50 men women and children, collected over 100 bags of litter and leaves, which were promptly picked up by the City.

The Clean Up Day was organized by Carolyn Clark, your Director responsible for the Environment and Beautification.

Carolyn did a tremendous job, and deserves our thanks for this very successful day.

It was wonderful to see the Valley sparkle, after the efforts of the volunteers.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (as at April 15, 2003)

By: *Pamela Spence*
Chair, Development Committee
Tel. (416) 322-0037
E-mail: pjsrwt@aol.com

The members of the Development Committee have been working hard throughout the winter to be involved in the issues that affect the homes and neighbourhood we live in. Please support your committee members and discuss any matters with the member closest to you should you have a change or concern in

mind. We are all volunteers and try our best.

The update on the most active issues is as follows.

45 York Mills

The sub-committee worked very hard with City Staff, our consultants, the residents on the street and our councillor, Joanne Flint, to have a most satisfactory outcome to the recent (April) Midtown Community Council session. The City Councillors approved a motion to “oppose the application in its present form” although it “does not object to the use of the site for townhouses” and that the city’s solicitor is to attend at the OMB and deal with outstanding issues.

There were seven issues included in the motion that represented outstanding concerns of the Valley and residents of Campbell Cres. which need to be resolved before the City staff could consider approving the application. This motion was also endorsed at the recent April 14th City Council meeting.

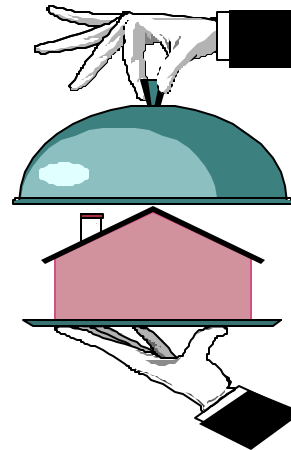
Our sub-committee feels this was a very pivotal point in the process. It means our issues as we have stipulated are valid, serious and require resolution. These issues are supported at the City and will be carried forward to the OMB prehearing by the City and us on April 17th. Our expectation is that the OMB will direct all parties to continue dialogue and negotiate a settlement or the hearing will be several months in the future.

Subsequent to the Council motion, Urbancorp has called and wants to talk. We are encouraged by this and will pursue resolution of our issues as laid out at Council.

We have been consistent in our issues and have looked all along for the opportunity to work with the Developer and the City to produce a design that has Campbell Cres,

Old Yonge and the community in mind. When there is a design change we will take it to the two streets and to the Board of the YMVA and we will advise through the newsletter. We expect this process could go on for many months yet.

Thank you to all those who have worked so hard for the community and for the good of the residents on Campbell and Old Yonge. Thank you also to those who turned up at the Midtown meeting.



Committee of Adjustment

There have been several applications before the YMVA for new home construction over the winter months. We are pleased to report that a few builders are consulting the YMVA and the affected neighbours prior to submitting plans to the City for approval.

This process allows the neighbours to feel they are sincerely regarded and that they can have a meaningful review and comment on something that will surely affect them. We find more often than not that this consultation process resolves issues amicably and produces a win-win situation for all parties. In the long run the new homeowner gets a house they can live in and

a neighbour who is friendlier and easier to live with. Less time is taken resolving issues earlier than through the confrontational approach after a variance application is filed.

Therefore, if you are planning a new home or renovation, large or small, please consult your front, side and rear yard neighbours, at a minimum, and any others in the immediate vicinity whose views or current privacy might be affected.

Jolly Miller

As you may know from previous notices the City has leased the old Jolly Miller to a restaurant firm. They have held at least two meetings with Valley members as well as those from the condominiums across on Yonge Street. They are proposing a fine dining establishment with a pedestrian entry off Yonge Street and main and vehicular entrance from the rear parking lot one level lower.

There will be a small bar area within each dining area. They are proposing seating outside on a terraced patio to the south that will be bermed or blocked from street view.

They have to still go through the public hearing for a liquor license, which then will be placed in the paper in the near future. In addition there are some design and heritage details to be resolved with the City but the parties are hopeful to be open for business in late fall.

We continue to monitor and provide input as and where necessary to ensure traffic operations, noise and lighting cause minimal disruption to the Valley residents.

Thank you for your continued support to the many activities of the Development Committee. Should you have any questions feel free to contact the Committee member closest to you.

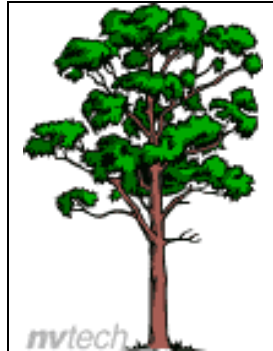
- Rupert Bramall
18 Old Yonge St., 489-5383
- Patrick Daly
17 Donwoods Dr., 483-6573
- Morag Fitzgerald
9 Campbell Cres., 485-3320
- George Fleming
84 Donwoods Dr., 484-4086
- John Gardner
91 Plymbridge Rd., 482-2361
- Gwen Mason
24 Doncliffe Dr., 484-6749
- David Payne
9 Donwoods Dr., 487-5891
- Bernard Rasch
11 York Valley Cr., 696-1969
- Pamela Spence
4 Donwoods Gr., 322-0037
- Allan Strathdee
3 Green Valley Rd., 544-0943
- Deborah Sutton
100 Donwoods Dr.,



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

*By Pinky Franklin
Environmental Committee
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The Hoggs Hollow Heritage Tree Project that you heard about at the Annual General Meeting has "morphed" into the VALLEY ROOTS PROJECT. Watch for native Carolinian tree



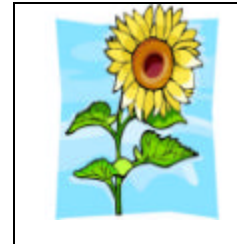
species being planted by the city this spring in the "subway" park. And we're planning a planting party this fall. Join us the weekend after Thanksgiving _ all ages _ no special skills _ to plant native trees and shrubs in the "playground" park. Visit us at the Valley Fair or call Pinky at (416) 488-33226 for more information.

If you missed our "BLUE VINYL" movie night but would like to see it, call Susan Demers at (416) 485-9701 to borrow the movie. It's a toxic comedy!!!

Have you ever wanted to paddle the Don River? Join the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority for their annual "PADDLE THE DON" on Saturday, May 4, 2003. For details call (416) 661-6600 ext.5283 or visit www.trca.on.ca

Wondering what to do with the clutter from your spring cleaning? Take it to ENVIRONMENT DAY on Saturday, May 10 from 10am until 4pm at the Jolly Miller parking lot. Donate for re-use clothing, linens, books, eyeglasses, paint, cell phones, computers, tires etc. Drop off hazardous waste i.e. batteries, motor oil, propane tanks etc. For more info call Joanne Flint's office or (416) 392-9585 or visit www.toronto.ca/environment_days

WILDFLOWER SALE, Saturday, May 10, 10am to 4pm at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East at Leslie Street.



Add a few native plants to your garden to provide food and habitat for birds, butterflies and other works of nature.

AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, PLEASE DO NOT USE PESTICIDES (i.e. herbicides, fungicides or pesticides) ON YOUR PROPERTY.

Interested in ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES? Come to our next meeting on Monday, May 5 at 7pm at 2 Knightswood Road. Please call Sheila Sherwood (416) 482-1731 to let her know you're coming.



TRAFFIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

*By Frank Bowman
Chair, Traffic
Tel. (416) 489-2456
E-mail: frank.bowman@frasermilner.com*

At the last two Annual meetings, the membership of the YMVA expressed a desire for the enforcement of speed limits and stop sign observance in the Valley. The overwhelming consensus is that many drivers in the Valley are traveling far in excess of the 40 km speed limit and are essentially ignoring stop signs. These traffic violations are a safety hazard to everyone living here, particularly our children who are

playing, biking, etc.. Unfortunately, many of our offenders are Valley residents.

The YMVA is in the process of requesting the city to confirm these concerns and thereafter to direct the police traffic division to enforce the speed limit and other traffic laws, including the requirement to stop at stop signs. This will result in tickets being issued to Valley residents and others who are committing these violations.

The YMVA was also requested at the last Annual meeting to ask the City to impose a valley-wide 30 km speed limit, as it was felt that 40 km is too fast for our narrow streets and lack of sidewalks with their many pedestrians. We are including this request in our letter to the City. Traffic congestion and related concerns in the vicinity of the Hillcrest school will also be addressed in our letter to the City.

In addition, the Valley residents of Old Yonge south of York Mills have petitioned the City for speed humps on their street because of speeding problems. Councillor Flint has circulated a survey to the residents of Old Yonge to gauge the level of support for the requested speed humps. If a sufficient number of residents support the request, the City will conduct an official poll and if this formally establishes the required level of support then the work will be placed on a priority list subject to the required funding being available to install the speed humps. If any Valley resident has a concern regarding the installation of speed humps on Old Yonge, contact should be made with Councillor Flint's office.

Please drive safely, adhere to our Valley speed limit of no more than 40 km and stop at all stop signs. They are an integral part of the traffic safety and calming system to keep our roads safe for everyone.

**NAG ACTIVITIES
SPRING/SUMMER**

*By: Lisa Barney (416)487-9888
And Deirdre Cianciotta(416)544-1434
Co-Chairs NAG
e-mail:didi13@rogers.com*

Welcome Party
May 28, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
56 Plymbridge Road
Home of Luigi Frigerio and Jill
Haythornthwaite

Moved in recently? Come to the Welcome Party! It's a wonderful evening to meet your other neighbours in the Valley and hear about the Community's activities and events. If you have moved into the neighbourhood in the last 2 years and have not received an invitation, please let us know. RSVP by May 14 to Michelle Mondville (416)322-0031. See you there!

Kid's Soccer/T-ball
May 20 – June 24
Tuesdays 7:00-8:00
p.m.
Brookfield Park
Coaching by Paul
Cira
(416)487-5822



A great way for your kids to make some neighbourhood friends! Children, 9 or so and under, are invited to come out and play regardless of experience. Parent volunteers are needed to help the coach organize the games! So come out and burn off some energy before bed!

NAG Volunteer Lunch
June 12, noon – 2:00 p.m.
86 Donwoods Drive
Home of Michelle Mondville

A lovely leisurely lunch to thank all volunteers who have helped with NAG activities throughout the year – so come and bring something good to share! Call Priti

Kawale (416)483-2957 and let her know what dish you will be bringing!



Spring Fling

Sunday May 4, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
 Brookfield Park
 Laura Lamarche (416)322-8026

A great way for your kids to welcome the nice weather! Come out and do some fun outdoor games/activities with your children. Look for posters in the neighbourhood for the date.

We hope you come out and participate in all the activities and have a fun and safe summer! Please feel free to contact Deirdre or Lisa for more information about the NAG.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



West Nile Virus

As the warmer weather approaches and more time is spent being outdoors, there is greater risk of contracting West Nile virus for members of our community. The board is recommending that those of us with pools, try and get them open early as well as to make sure and drain any standing water which may become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. It is also suggested that those who installed rain barrels should ensure that they are covered to reduce this risk.



Yonge Street Projects

One sure sign that warmer weather is on its way is the slew of construction projects that are slated for the roads of Toronto! In our area, as part of a city-wide bridge maintenance program, Toronto Works and Emergency Services is rehabilitating the Yonge Street Bridge over the West Don River. The bridge was originally constructed in 1963 and the deck was replaced in 1985 and now requires life-cycle repair. During all stages of construction, at least 2 lanes of traffic and one sidewalk will be maintained in each direction. The left turn provision at Old York Mills Road will be closed for the duration of the construction period. The expected project start date is April 30, 2003 and is expected to end July 25, 2003.

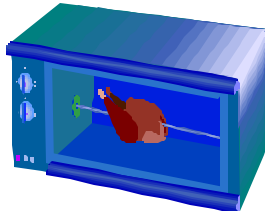
In addition, Toronto Works and Emergency Services will be resurfacing Yonge street from Lawrence Avenue to York Mills Road. A minimum of one lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained during the project. Parking restrictions on side streets will be temporarily relaxed. The expected project start date is early July 2003 to be ended early November 2003.

Happy driving!

Cookbooks for Sale

Do you like to cook? Is your family getting tired of the same recipes? Finding it hard to think of what to make for dinner?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then I have the solution for you...buy a copy of the Hogg's Hollow



Cookbook. It only costs \$10.00, but is 99 pages full of delicious recipes such as Curried Zucchini & Apple Bisque (pg15), Easy

Beef Stroganoff (pg35) and Gumdrop Cake (pg77).

Contact Chris Rosenthal at chrisrosenthal@rogers.com or 416-482-6666 to get your copy.



Green Garden Visit

Andrew Roy from the North Toronto Green Community will be featured on Wednesday June 4, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at 7 St. Margarets Drive. Suggestions will be given on how to make gardens thrive ecologically while adding beauty. The first ten people to RSVP Debbie at 416-488-7690 are welcome to attend.



Valley Crime Report

To date, only one household reported a theft in the Valley. The home, on Campbell Crescent had two incidences in two years. The first time, their car was stolen and in the second occurrence the house was broken into during the night and a laptop computer, attaché case and purse were stolen.

I encourage residents to continue to report theft and break-ins to me at porourke21@rogers.com (Penny O'Rourke) so that we can keep the rest of the Valley informed. The police advised me many years ago that keeping a front and back porch light on all night was a good safety measure!



Tiny Tots' Playgroup

Stuck at home with a little one? Come out and meet some other moms/dads in the neighbourhood for coffee! We meet every Thursday at a different parent's home for some playtime and invigorating chit chat. If you are interested, please call Perry at (416) 480-1140.