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# YMVA Newsletter

## **President's Message**

*By: Tim Bates*

*Tel. (416) 487-8359*

*e-mail: [tandjbates@rogers.com](mailto:tandjbates@rogers.com)*

The day after Labour Day to many is the start of a new year. The summer is over, children are back to school and everyone gets back to their day jobs. YMVA is no exception. Your Board met September 15, 2003, and we expect a busy Fall.

Many Valley residents however did not have the summer off from their duties undertaken on your behalf. I am referring to the Development Committee, chaired by Pam Spence. She and her 45 York Mills team, consisting of Rupert Bramall, Patrick Daly, Wayne Long, Morag McKenzie and Allan Strathdee, met on countless occasions, and ably directed the efforts of YMVA to deal with the redevelopment of the School Board site.

These efforts included attending the Ontario Municipal Board hearing to give evidence in support of the agreement negotiated by YMVA with the developer, providing for traffic access off York Mills, rather than Campbell Crescent, and other improvements to the proposal.

The Board at its recent meeting expressed its thanks to all who contributed so much. This Fall, the Board will attempt to arrange an all candidates meeting in the Valley, where residents can meet and question the candidates running to replace Joanne Flint, who has accepted an appointment to the OMB. Stay tuned for details.

On behalf of YMVA, I wrote to Joanne Flint, September 11, 2003 expressing our

collective thanks for her long and exemplary service as our Councillor. Joanne will be missed.

Our goal this year is to communicate more frequently and more effectively with YMVA residents. To that end, the Directory was delivered in a timely manner, and you should look for announcements concerning the Fall Social on November 8, 2003 and a further consultation meeting on the Storm Water Management project, to be held early December and the Annual General Meeting, Saturday, December 6, 2003.

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

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

The mission of the Development Committee has been to preserve the special character of this area and to ensure that changes do not have a negative impact on the neighbourhood and community feel. All members should be thanked for volunteering their time to work towards these goals. The issues being referred to the Development Committee are not numerous but are important, time-consuming and represent great change to Hoggs Hollow.

The first big change is that after many, many years of service to our neighbourhood, Joanne Flint has retired as our area councillor. She has been offered a position on the Ontario Municipal Board and because of this her retirement took effect immediately. Therefore the upcoming municipal election has an important implication for our neighbourhood. Please take advantage of any opportunity to learn about the candidates running in our Ward and exercise your right to vote in the upcoming municipal election. We wish Joanne well and thank her and her staff for their service and attention to our neighbourhood.

## Jolly Miller

As you must have noticed, great changes are finally happening at the old Jolly Miller. The leasee, Pegasus Group, along with their advisors and consultants, reached an agreement with the



City over the summer on the restoration of the Miller. It will have a two level dining facility, exterior rear balcony and an outdoor patio on the south side shielded by a retaining wall and landscaped screening.

The Development Committee has focused on reducing intrusive noise and light and has reviewed several access possibilities. The end result will be a long awaited, much improved community asset with safeguards to prevent traffic and noise from impacting our neighbourhood.

Notice should be posted very shortly, either on-site and/or in the newspaper, for a public hearing required prior to issuing a liquor license. Final plans can be viewed at that time and any comments expressed. We look forward to a successful project and an opening hopefully before the end of 2003.



## 45 York Mills

The townhouse development proposed on the site of the former York Mills Public School was heard at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) during the first two weeks of September. The developer was seeking approval for 81 townhouses on the site in accordance with plans the YMVA had actively reviewed, negotiated, modified and ultimately agreed.

We evaluated the proposal based on 4 criteria: massing and density, urban design features, setbacks and traffic access and egress. The developer's proposal presented to the OMB satisfied many of these measures. It had access and egress off York Mills with only curbside garbage/recycle pickup on Campbell Cres.; the front yard setback similar for existing homes on Campbell Cres. was applied to the townhouse block on Campbell; the new townhouse closest to the existing homes had reduced and recessed mass and height; and a grand staircase instead of a wall was the solution to transition the 18 foot grade change.

The developer did not accept all of the modifications we pressed for and the City staff were not willing to enforce their measures such as ravine by-law setbacks, etc. The end product was, to us, a reasonable improvement as it addressed the major concerns of design and traffic impact on Campbell. The residents of Campbell Cres. and Old Yonge were apprised of the plan changes and while in initial agreement with the YMVA. At the time of the OMB hearing some of them decided to focus more on opposing the size of the development and its massing versus the location of the vehicle entrance or the impact of traffic on valley streets

However, our solutions caused dissatisfaction for abutting associations, namely, York Mills Mansions, Yonge Ridge Ratepayers and St. Andrews Ratepayers, who were opposed to the access being located on York Mills Road. They only made their concerns known in mid-June and we attempted to discuss matters with them through the summer.

We believe their issues have more to do with the valley slope, existing conditions and the 401 problems and construction this area has experienced this summer rather than with the impact this project will have. Furthermore, the proposed York Mills access and egress is in the general location

currently in use, has had little or no history of problems and will generate slightly less traffic in the new proposal. We stand by the conclusion that the project, as modified, will result in the least intrusive impact on Hoggs Hollow overall.

Due to the other ratepayer opposition, we had to unexpectedly present our position clearly at the OMB through our legal firm. At the hearing, parties asked for their wish list of changes. It is now up to the adjudicator to decide on the planning, design and traffic parameters of this project. The end result is in his hands. The decision may take some time (6 weeks or more) but we will inform you once his report becomes available.

This has been an incredibly intense and time-consuming project for the several members involved: Rupert Bramall, Patrick Daly, Morag Fitzgerald, Wayne Long and Allan Strathdee. All have acted professionally, wisely and in the best interests of the residents in Hoggs Hollow. We all owe them a great deal of thanks for their time and dedication.

### **Committee of Adjustment**

There were 5 Committee of Adjustment applications during the summer. All were variances for new home construction or modifications to existing homes. Three had been reviewed with surrounding neighbours prior to the hearing date to inform and address, if any, neighbours' concerns. The other two were deferred at committee in order to inform and address neighbours' concerns causing delays and extra expense to the applicant.

As your neighbourhood Development Guidelines state, it is your best interest to have your designer or yourself discuss your proposal with your neighbours well in advance of submitting your plans for variance approval. We encourage you to do so. It may save you time, headaches and

money in the long run. (A copy of the Guidelines is attached in this issue.)

**Committee Members**



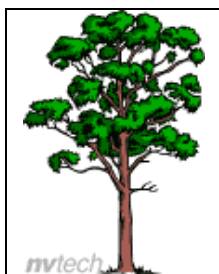
We have had a very interesting and active past year on our small project list. The members have worked hard on your behalf to safeguard the features that we all value namely, the trees, open space, valley features and pride of community. However, it has been a taxing period for some members and others have gone on to enjoy their retirement. Therefore, I believe there will be a change of members in the near future.

If you value the special character of our neighbourhood and have an interest in working to preserve them, **we need you.** Please consider joining the Development Committee by calling Pamela Spence @ 416 322-0037 or speak to a member at the Annual General meeting in December.

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NEWS**

*By: Pinky Franklin  
Environmental Committee  
Tel.(416)488-3226  
E-mail:laposte@idirect.com*

**YMVA Tree and Shrub Planting  
October 18, 2003  
10:00 am to 12 noon.**



equipment and materials are provided.

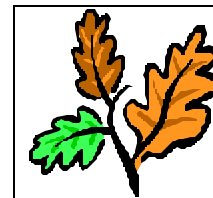
Come to this terrific community event – plant a tree or shrub in the York Mills Park. Come by yourself, bring a friend or the whole family. Planting

Dress for the weather. Any high school student involved will get credit for volunteer hours. Meet at the tennis courts south of the Jolly Miller. Any interested planters please contact Pinky Franklin at 416-488-3226 or Sheila Sherwood at 416-482-1731.

**Plant Your Yard With Trees**

The Valley’s trees make a wonderful canopy of protection, coolness in the summer and beauty any time of year. Remember that we live in one of only two livable ravines in the City of Toronto. Please consider ordering trees from the City Telephone LEAF 416-392-5323 for more information.

**Leaf Blowers**



Please encourage your gardeners and anyone using a leaf blower to turn the blower down or better still turn it off. Leaves are a rich source of nutrients to your soil. Don’t be in a rush to remove all of them from your property. Find a corner in your back yard and compost the leaves and then feed the dark, nutrient-rich soil made by composting back to the trees. Most of our Valley trees would thank you for the feed. For more information on how to compost please contact Sheila Sherwood at 482-1731.

**In Anticipation of Our New Pesticide By-Law**

Please make a resolution to stop the indiscriminate spraying of pesticides. There are many reasons to consider:

- ?? Most pesticides end up in our water system.
- ?? We are living right next to a major water source to Lake Ontario, the Don River. Volunteers are making huge strides clean it and return fish to its waters. We should all be stewards of this river that makes our area so worth while living in.
- ?? Future generations will be effected by what we do today.

## A Special Thanks

A special thanks to Debbie and John Neal who hosted a backyard environmental assessment with the North Toronto Green Community Association and invited any interested Valley neighbours to examine the do's and don'ts of a easy care shade and some sun back yard. Everyone came away with new ideas for environmentally friendly gardening.

## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

**By: Frank Bowman**

*Chair, Traffic*

*Tel. (416) 489-2456*

*E-mail: frank.bowman@frasermilner.com*



## Yonge Street Reconstruction

The much-needed reconstruction of the sidewalks, curbs and road surface between Lawrence and Mill St. have no doubt caused driver-frustration as residents of the Valley attempted to make their way through the construction. The YMVA has been well represented at bi-weekly meetings held with the contractors, city representatives and business/resident groups. At the early stage of the project the City approved a pedestrian safety barrier between the sidewalk and the road at the Loblaws retaining wall across from McNairn. The rest of the project is to provide for a 1 meter setback of the sidewalk from the roadway. Construction is to be completed at about the end of September.



## Request to City to Take Action Regarding Traffic/Safety Concerns

In mid-May a detailed letter was sent to Councillor Flint setting out the concerns regarding traffic and safety raised by many Valley residents, including speeding, non-observance of stop signs, illegal parking and specific issues related to traffic to-from-around Hillcrest School. As well, we requested the City consider lowering the speed limit for the whole Valley to 30 km. Councilor Flint has endorsed our request for a traffic study to confirm the concerns and she has forwarded our letter to the City Transportation Department. We expect increased police enforcement of speed limits and other traffic controls, including stop signs

Traffic Calming Measures in the form of speed humps have been requested from the City by the residents of Old Yonge Street south of York Mills and the residents of Donino Avenue between Mill and Donwoods. Both of these requests stem from excessive speed on these streets. The Old Yonge request has been approved and the Donino request is being considered by the City. In addition, residents of Doncliffe Drive have raised concerns with the YMVA regarding speeding and excessive traffic from vehicles leaving the Rosedale Golf Course. The residents of Doncliffe will be approaching the City with their concerns with a view to an appropriate traffic control solution.

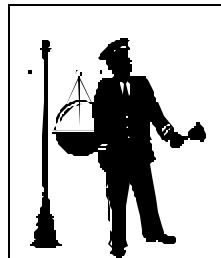
Unfortunately, excessive speed, non-observance of stop signs and other aggressive and inappropriate driving habits continue to be all too common in the Valley. A significant number of the offenders are Valley residents and their conduct is a danger to pedestrians, people attempting to

exit their driveways and all Valley residents generally. All responsible Valley residents should observe the speed limit of 40 km, stop at all stop signs and generally refrain from driving inappropriately. This should be a natural part of living in our community.

**NAG ACTIVITIES  
SPRING/SUMMER**

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

**Christmas  
Caroling**  
**Date: Tuesday,  
December 9**  
**Time: 7:00 p.m.**  
**Location: Millstone  
Parkette**  
**Contact: Brett  
LaGamba 486-2102**



Get into the Christmas spirit and join in with the Salvation Army in an old fashioned sing along. Drink hot chocolate to Jingle Bells and chat with friends to Frosty the Snowman. Please put on those parkas, mitts and boots and come on out and enjoy this joyous evening.

**Holiday Craft Party**  
**Date: TBA**  
**Location: Finnish Church**  
**Contact: Angie Hamilton 488-4785**

Parents, bring your young ones out for an afternoon of arts and crafts. Watch your kids run from table to table as they glue, stick, cut and paint a variety of activities. Fill up those blank spots on your refrigerator and make your kids smile.

Please watch the notice boards for more information on the date and time.

**Skating Party**  
**Date: TBA**  
**Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Location: Brookfield Park**  
**Contact: Kelly Alkier 486-1200**



Calling all families. Please come out for the Hogg's Hollow annual skating party at Brookfield Park. Enjoy pizza, hot chocolate and the company of friends. If the weather does not allow us to skate, then we will move the party next to the tennis courts and we will have our first annual tobogganing party. Please watch the notice boards for details.

**Wine Tour**  
**Date: TBA**

Does the thought of sampling vintage wine get your taste buds flowing? If you are interested in organizing this fun field trip, please contact Deirdre or Lisa and watch the notice boards in the New Year for more information.

**Fall Social**  
**Date: Saturday Nov 8**  
**Time: 8:00 p.m.**  
**Location: 113 Donwoods  
Drive**  
**Contact: Christine  
Rosenthal at  
chrisrosenthal@rogers.com**



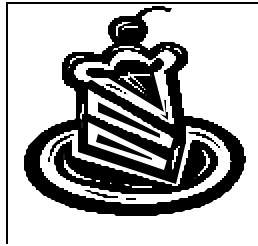
Dust off your white suit, disco balls and 70's music and get ready to dance the night away!

This years fall social will have a 70's theme, we all have lived through that decade so it

should prove to be a great evening as we all re-live it with music, dancing and refreshments. Leanne and George Lewis have graciously offered to host the event in their home.

Please see the flyer in this newsletter for ticket information, price and time. Hope to see you there!

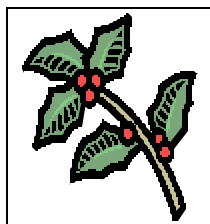
**Dessert, Wine & Conversation**  
**Date: Throughout the year**  
**Contact: Christine Melling/Trudy Young**  
**322-6042/481-6905**



What a great way to meet new people in your neighborhood, enjoy a coffee, glass of wine, hors d'oeuvres or dessert. Small groups of people will be placed together throughout the year, to get to know one another in a relaxed and informal setting. Groups will vary as the year progresses so you can meet many new and established residents. Details and sign up forms are available on the flyer in this newsletter.

**NAG Volunteer Holiday Luncheon**

**Date: Thursday Dec. 4**  
**Time: 12-2p.m.**  
**Location: 16 Donwoods Drive**  
**Contact: Christine Melling 322-6042**

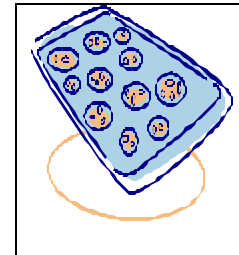


Always a neighborhood favorite event at the Clarke's festive home! All volunteers, NAG members or anyone interested in volunteering can come to this social event. Enjoy getting caught up with members you don't regularly see or meet new people. This potluck lunch brings together a wonderful array of food and refreshments. Contact

Christine Melling to RSVP and let her know what type of dish you will bring.

**Cookie Exchange**

**Date: Nov 27**  
**Time: 7:30 p.m.**  
**Location: 56 Plymbridge Road**  
**Contact: Susanne Holland 485-2218**



Imagine baking only a batch of only one kind of cookie, and then coming home with a whole assortment to last you through the holiday season.! Come out and sample the wares and share recipes and varieties of cookies at the Frigerio/Haythornthwaite's home. Call Susanne Holland 485-2218 for more information and to RSVP.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

As always the NAG would not function if it was not for the dedication of its' volunteers. All these people donate their time and resources to making the events successful. This in turn fuels the community spirit, which is so unique and cherished in our neighborhood of Hogg's Hollow. There are so many people to thank it is hard to list them all here. The NAG Chairs would like to extend a heart felt thanks to all who have contributed.

Lisa and Deirdre will be stepping down from their positions as NAG co-chairs. We would like to welcome any interested people for the position of NAG Chair(s) to contact Deirdre 544-1434 or Lisa 487-9888 for further information.

Helen Wong will also be stepping down as Treasurer of NAG. Helen kept our budgets and books in line with meticulous detail for the last four years. Replacing Helen will be Michelle Hopper. Michelle has been actively involved in the NAG for several years and

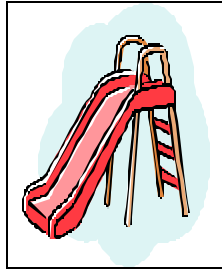
has an accounting expertise to help continue balancing the NAG's budget.

We wish Michelle the greatest success in 2004 with the backing of many dedicated volunteers.

Lisa Barney  
Deirdre Cianciotta

### Playground Park Committee Update

As you may recall, several months ago a survey was distributed to all residents of Hogg's Hollow regarding the Playground and Park.



The responses were compiled and presented to the City of Toronto in the early spring.

The Playground/Park committee has since successfully worked with the City of Toronto and within a short time frame, to get some additions and changes to the playground. You may have had a chance to walk through the Playground/Park and noticed some positive changes.

A senior child play area has been set up which includes a set of swings (bringing the total up to 4 senior swings,) and an 8-foot climbing wall structure. Just a reminder that this structure is for older children and they should be supervised. (The rails on top add an additional 2 feet of height.)

Also, some of the picnic tables were beginning to heave so they were levelled. Two additional tables have been added to the south perimeter of the playground to provide family picnic areas and craft/games areas. The south perimeter was chosen since some shade can be found here in the heat of the summer.

In addition, a large garbage bin has been installed just across the walkway, on the riverside, from playground. It is called a Mulok system bin. These bins are

installed deep into the ground so they can hold a fair bit of garbage without the smell and overflow seen with the old bins. Please use these bins for all your refuse, dog poop and scoop.

Landscaping will complete the work to be done. The intent is to enhance the rather symmetrical and plain look of the playground area, so that the area will truly be a pleasure to enjoy for young and old alike.

Some of the work was financed by funds raised at the Valley Fair and some by the City of Toronto. Thanks for your contributions. And thanks to the City of Toronto, (Jamie Warren) and the Playground/Park committee for all your help.

Deirdre Cianciotta  
Jill Haythornthwaite  
Dale Hewat  
Andrea Knutson

### Welcome Committee

A warm welcome is extended to all new people in the neighbourhood. In May, we had a successful welcome party. Thank you to all the street representatives for keeping me up to date on who is new and for their visits. If you are new and have any questions I would be happy to direct you to the right person.

Debbie Neil  
7 St. Margarets Dr.  
488-7690

### Thank-You From Alex Ketrzynski

Thank you to all of the women who so generously donated their business clothing to F.A.C.E. You





donated literally hundreds of suits and other articles. Many of you left no name when you left your donations so I was not able to thank you accordingly.

Your gifts were truly selfless. Many women stranded in shelters, many with children, all without funds, were able to attend employment interviews in respectable business attire. Your donations enabled them to appear even fashionable as a result of their quality. The participants are extremely grateful. F.A.C.E. also assisted them with their hair and cosmetics. I am proud to live amongst such generous neighbours.

If anyone wishes to continue donating, please feel free to call me or Michelle at 322-8107 or visit us at 5 Ivor Road. I hope we may meet more of you so we can at least thank you in person or on the phone. Please enter the face website <http://www.wiredkingdom.com/face/about.htm> to find out more about the organization.



### Charity Drive

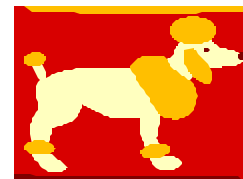
We are looking to organize a charity drive at Christmas time called Abundance. This program has been successfully run in the Armour Heights district for a number of years and seeks to match families in the Armour Heights/Cricket Club/Hoggs Hollow area with needy families in Regent Park. A Social Worker would match up a donor family with a wish list from a recipient family, as to what they would need for the holiday season: often it is just the basic necessities of life such as food and clothing. All donations are then collected and then distributed downtown through volunteers.

At this time we need to seek individuals who might be interested in helping to organize such a program specifically for just our neighbourhood. It is a very worthwhile cause especially for your children to get involved and help shop for items in the spirit of giving. Please call Michelle Hopper at (416)932-9198 if you are interested in helping with the administration/organization of the drive.



### Garbage Days

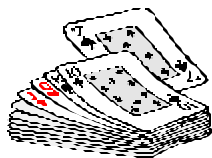
A few Valley residents have requested that garbage not be put out on your driveway too far in advance of garbage days as it is unsightly and attracts raccoons, etc. who then make a mess, unless absolutely necessary. We live in a special and picturesque neighbourhood – let's keep it that way!



### Pooper Scooper

Please remember to pick up after your dog, especially if they make a mess on someone else's property! It is ignorant to allow your

dog to do their business on people's front lawns and then leave it for someone else to clean up!!!!



**Attention Bridge Players!**

We would like to start an afternoon bridge group. Call Christine Melling ( 416-322-6042) or Debbie Neil (416-488-7690)  
All levels of experience welcome.

**JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!**

**Baby-sitting, dog walking, raking leaves, snow shoveling, etc.**

Did you know that the valley has a registry of people who would like to do odd jobs as well as baby-sitting? Jan Kosick has put together a **secure** phone list for people to call when they are looking for some extra help. This list will not be published and Jan will keep them private, giving out names to valley residents only, when requested. **Jan Kosick can be reached at (416) 481-9799 or you can e-mail her at [jankosick@rogers.com](mailto:jankosick@rogers.com).**

Calling all teenagers! Do you want to earn extra money? Are you already doing odd jobs or baby-sitting and you need more clients? If so, then this is the form for you. Please fill out the form below and drop it off to Jan Kosick at 27 Donwoods Drive or you can call her or e-mail her as noted above.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Job (s) you are looking for: (ie. Baby-sitting, dog walking, snow shoveling, etc.)**

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**Dessert, Wine and Conversation**

Meet your neighbours in small groups on three evenings during the year. Each time will bring a different group of people and conversations together. Host an evening, bring a dessert or appetizer and wine and enjoy the Valley Community.

**Names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Day:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dietary Considerations:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please drop off your information sheet to 28 Brookfield Road by October 31, 2003.**

