



YMVA Newsletter

Website: www.hoggshollow.net

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Tim Bates
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Over the summer months the Valley was a green and pleasant land thanks to the abundant rainfall and to our prodding of the Parks Department to maintain the public spaces, using our significant property tax dollars. I think you will agree with me that the Valley never looked better this summer, with the grass regularly mowed in the parks and the flowerbeds tended.

Thanks are extended to Norm Hardie and Frank Bowman, who have put considerable effort over the summer on your behalf, meeting with various City officials including Councillor Cliff Jenkins, on storm water management (road reconstruction) and traffic issues. Be sure to read the report of Norm Hardie on road reconstruction and note the important public meeting of Wednesday, October 20, 2004.

No doubt many of you patronized the Miller Tavern over the summer. I personally enjoyed the experience several times and I noted no problems with noise levels or parking, save for the odd peak time when activity at the tennis courts coincided with a full house at the Miller. All in all, most agree that the operation of the Miller Tavern has been a great success.

Recently, I have written on behalf of all Valley residents, but particularly for those homeowners who live near the City road allowance at Green Valley and Maytree, to Cliff Jenkins, seeking the City's assurances

that the road allowance remain in public lands and be accessible to all members of the public. Cliff Jenkins has been available to Valley residents to deal with their concerns. I have personally met with him on several occasions over the summer and we can count on his support at City Hall.

I want to thank all Board members who worked hard to canvass their neighbours and to deliver the directory to all of you who joined YMVA. It was published and delivered in a timely manner thanks to your Board members.

Finally, please mark in your calendar Saturday, December 4, 2004 for the York Mills Valley Association, Annual General Meeting.



TRAFFIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

By: Frank Bowman

Chair, Traffic

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A meeting was held on August 5, 2004 with Councillor Jenkins and representatives of the City traffic and engineering departments. Several traffic and roads issues were reviewed. A separate report, has been prepared on the Stormwater Management and Road Improvement Study, which was also discussed at the August 5 meeting, the results of which follows in the next section of the newsletter. With respect to traffic, the following significant points came out of the meeting:

- a 30 km speed limit Valley-wide (which has been requested by the residents at the last two annual meetings) is not possible under existing legislation other than in

traffic calming zones. For example, the Donwoods hill is a traffic calmed zone and it can be designated a 30 km/hr zone. Old Yonge is slated to be traffic calmed, and it can be set at 30 km/hr at that time. Any other areas of the Valley which receive resident-requested traffic calming can then be reduced to 30 km/hr. We have requested the City to process requests for reduction of the speed limit to 30 km/hr in traffic calmed zones to at least have some areas at that reduced speed limit.

- The City will assist us in obtaining more police enforcement of speed limits and stop sign observance. Ample evidence is apparent that many Valley residents, contractors, Hillcrest parents and other users of our roads continue to exceed the speed limit of 40 km/hr and do not observe stop signs. Both of these types of violations contribute to increased dangers to everyone using our roads.

- The City will schedule the "Watch Your Speed" unit for the Valley some time in the New Year. It is a device on a small trailer which shows drivers their speed as they approach and informs them if they are exceeding the speed limit. It is an awareness device which hopefully will cause speeders to realize how much over the speed limit they are traveling and make them think about slowing down.

- Consideration will be given to moving the stop sign from Donino Court to the intersection of Donwoods and Donino, so there would be a four-way stop at that intersection.

- When construction commences at 45 York Mills Rd, construction vehicles will be prohibited from using Campbell Crescent. If there are violations of this condition, the contractor will be assessed penalties.

- The City will effect repairs to the asphalt sidewalk on Campbell Crescent. When the road is resurfaced as part of the Stormwater Management project, the City wants to

construct a standard sidewalk (concrete) 1.5 m in width to replace the asphalt one there now, which is .6 to .9 m in width and considered to be in substandard condition. Campbell Crescent will be one of the first streets rebuilt as part of the Stormwater Management project.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any specific traffic concerns or questions. Meanwhile, please slow down, observe stop signs and generally treat your valley neighbors with driving-courtesy.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND ROAD IMPROVEMENT STUDY

*By: Norm Hardie
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The City of Toronto has invited residents of the Valley to attend an open house public meeting on **Wednesday, October 20, 2004 at the Agricola Finnish Lutheran Congregation, 25 Old York Mills Road from 6.00pm to 9.00pm** to hear the City's recommendations arising from the ongoing Stormwater Management and Road Improvement study. This is possibly the last opportunity that Valley residents will have to make any input as to how the roads in the Valley will be developed if the recommendations of the study are implemented.

From a public discussion held at the Agricola Church on June 29th and at a subsequent meeting with Councillor Cliff

Jenkins on traffic matters it would appear that the City is contemplating the following:

-No changes will be made to the current Donwoods Drive Hill road, which is 6m wide, or to Old Yonge expect for traffic calming measures that have been approved.

- St Margaret's Drive will become a 4.8m wide one-way street.

-All other roads in the lower parts of the Valley will be widened to 7.2m. In doing so it is understood that at least 85 trees will be compromised.

-There will be no sidewalks except where they already exist. However it is intended to install low curbs similar to those on the Donwoods Drive hill throughout the remainder of the Valley.

-Implementation of the recommendations will be in three phases spread over at least 15 years.

At the June 29th meeting residents made it abundantly clear to the City that a "cookie cutter" approach to road widths for the entire lower Valley was neither appropriate nor acceptable. While residents appreciate that some change is urgently needed for stormwater and flooding control purposes the City should, at the same time, be cognizant of residents' desire to preserve the rural feel of the Valley. It was also requested that the City recognize that trees are a vital part of the environment that is the Valley and so should not be sacrificed lightly.

Hopefully the City has taken into account some of the concerns expressed by residents at the June 29th meeting. However it also remains important that Valley residents hear the City's full presentation and explanation of its recommendations. The upcoming October 20th meeting is possibly the single most important public meeting that residents of the Valley have ever been invited to attend by the City. The character of the

Valley will inevitably be changed when the new stormwater system and road improvements are implemented. We urge residents to come to the meeting with an open mind, hear the City’s recommendations and comment on them, as they feel appropriate. The City needs to continue to hear the views of its constituents. Let it never be said that we did not make them known.

The City has advised that if you have not already received copies of the minutes of the meeting held on June 29th they can be obtained from Tracy Ehl at 416 392 2962. These minutes are worth reading if you are concerned about the future of the Valley. The City has also undertaken to post project related information on the City’s website at www.city.toronto.on.ca/involved/projects.htm prior to the meeting. It has been requested that this information should include data such as the existing width of individual streets, the planned width of each street and the number of trees threatened on street-by-street basis.

SIDEWALKS IN THE VALLEY SURVEY

Though prior to the completion of the survey the City advised that it would not introduce sidewalks throughout the Valley, this issue certainly hit a nerve among members of the YMVA as 197 members responded. Thank you for doing so. The results were: -

Question I

Are you for or against sidewalks being built in the Valley:

For 20 (10%) Against 171 (87%) No Opinion 6 (3%)

Question 2

Are you for or against sidewalks being built in your street:

For 21 (11%) Against (87%) No Opinion (2%)

Question 3

Are you for or against sidewalks being built in those parts of the Valley most seriously affected by stormwater run off but not in the balance of the Valley. Some members did not respond to this question mainly because they felt they lacked sufficient information to comment.

For 40 (21%) Against (69%) No Opinion (10%)

The majority was against sidewalks. Comments as to why members of the YMVA were against sidewalks included: sidewalks would cause the loss of trees, reduce yards, encourage drivers to speed, change the essential “rural” nature of the valley and would not in themselves solve the storm water problem.

Those in favour of sidewalks were largely concerned with the safety of children and pedestrians. Many who were against sidewalks but supported any measures that would reduce the speed of traffic and make the roads safer for walkers and children echoed their concerns.

Because many of the comments received were pertinent to the City’s Stormwater Management and Road Improvement Study a copy of the tabulation of the survey, which included your comments on a house-to-house basis were passed on to the City. As advised elsewhere in this Newsletter a meeting to discuss the City’s Study will be held on October 20th at the Agricola Church. As the matters you raised when completing the Sidewalk Survey are important please make every effort to attend.



PROPOSED TENNIS BUBBLE

A proposal has been prepared by Mrs. Noreen Peroff, of 17 Plymbridge Crescent, with respect to bubbling three tennis courts at the Valley Tennis Club for winter play. The YMVA and the Valley Tennis Club are not affiliated in any way and the YMVA does not intend to provide any funds with respect to such a bubble. The YMVA is aware that there are Valley residents who support, and others who oppose such a proposal. The purpose of including the proposal in our newsletter is to make Valley residents aware of it, and to solicit your views on the matter. Please send your views in writing to Bob Torrens, 49 Donwoods Drive or by e-mail rwtorrens@aol.com. Mrs. Peroff would also be pleased to hear from you. The YMVA intends to put this matter on the agenda at the annual meeting to be held December 4th.



another use. While it was inevitable, it is sad to see that the York Mills School is gone. This community has valued it - as a school where some of our children and friends attended, as a community facility that accommodated our meetings, and as an historical landmark and open space.

In recognition of this heritage, the YMVA Executive has retained bricks and the plaques from the demolition site to create a memorial to the school. Clifford Restoration, in cooperation with the City's Parks Dept., will commence work on rebuilding the pediment that was formerly over the front entrance of the building. The pediment was in poor condition so could not be retained intact. Over 1000 good bricks from elsewhere will be used in the same pattern and style to create a replica wall complete with the original crest and coping stones on top.

The wall will be located on the northeast corner of Mill and Donino behind the notice board and on an angle complementary to the Elizabeth Wyn Ward sculpture. A plaque from the 50th anniversary of the school in 1975 was taken from the site and will be mounted on the wall with the crest. A new plaque honouring the school is to be commissioned and mounted along side.

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO PROVIDE THE WORDING FOR THE NEW PLAQUE. Please consider what would be a fitting tribute to the school that was a part of our community. It should be no more than 80 words long.

Please submit your ideas to Tim Bates at tbates@blgcanada.com or drop it off at his house at 66 Donwoods Drive. **Deadline for your submission is October 25, 2004.** The Executive will select the best wording in early November. Work may commence on the wall the week of October 11 and an unveiling ceremony should be held once work is complete.

YORK MILLS SCHOOL MEMORIAL

By: *Pamela Spence*
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E-mail: pjsrwt@aol.com



Once the Toronto District School Board put the building at 45 York Mills Rd. up for sale, it was not surprising that this piece of real estate was valuable and would be put to

We appreciate and thank you for your ideas for the plaque.



Please come out and sample the wares, share recipes and a variety of cookies and squares. Call Susanne for more information and to RSVP.

NAG Volunteer Holiday Luncheon

Date: Thursday Dec. 9

Time: 12-2p.m.

Location: 16 Donwoods Drive

Contact: Christine Rosenthal at (416) 482-6666 or Debbie Neil at (416) 488-7690

NAG ACTIVITIES

FALL/WINTER

By: Lisa Barney (416) 487-9888

And Dale Hewat (416) 487-1039

Co-Chairs NAG

Fall Social

Fall Social turns Winter Wine Event!

Like many of our neighbourhood, we've decided to "renovate & construct" an all new October Fall Social to take place in early fall 2005.

But, just to ward off those winter blues ... come and experience a night of wine and food sampling one Thursday evening this winter in our beautiful Hoggs Hollow winter wonderland.

Please watch the notice boards for further details.

Holiday Cookie Exchange

Date: Nov 29

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Location: 56 Plymbridge Road

Contact: Susanne Holland 485-2218

Imagine baking only a batch of one kind of cookie or square and then coming home with a whole assortment to last you through the holiday season.

Always a neighbourhood favourite event at the Clarke's festive home!

To all volunteers, NAG members or anyone interested in volunteering, should come to this social event. Please come and join us for a relaxing luncheon complete with great food and company. This potluck lunch brings together a wonderful array of food and refreshments. Please contact Christine Rosenthal or Debbie Neil and let them know what type of dish you would like to bring.

Holiday Craft Party

Date: Tentatively Sunday Dec.12

Time: 2:00p.m – 4 p.m.

Location: Finnish Church

Contact: Christine Rosenthal at (416) 482-6666 for more information

Parents, please 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.

Please watch the notice board for further details.

Christmas Caroling
Date: Wednesday Dec. 15
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 your parkas, mitts and boots and come on out and enjoy this wonderful evening.

Little Tots Play Group

Date: the first Thursday of every month
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
Various homes in the neighbourhood
Contact: Christine at (416) 482-6666 or Jill at (416) 544-9907

Are you at home with little ones? Need a great cup of coffee and some adult chitchat? Then meet up with some of the neighbourhood moms and dads on the first Thursday of every month. They will meet at a different parents home each month to enjoy some company and, so that all the kids can play together.

The first meeting will take place on Thursday, November 4th at 9:30 a.m. at Christine Rosenthals, 15 Knightswood Road. Please contact Jill or Christine for more information.

Charities

Book Drive for Underprivileged kids

If you have any used children books suitable for girls and boys grade 1 to grade 6, please

call Alison at 416 932-1277 to arrange pickup.

These children's books are very much needed for a Running and Reading club that takes place weekly at Chester Le High School in Scarborough. This school is situated in an inner city housing development. It is a highly underprivileged area where the majority of the children live below the poverty line and come from single parent families.

The goal of the Running and Reading club is to help children living in poverty by addressing literacy, physical activity, and self-confidence. The program is under the auspices of Kidsfest Canada, a non-profit organization.

The Stop Community Food Centre

The Stop Community Food Centre, located at 1884 Davenport Road, is a local registered charitable organization that strives to increase access to healthy food, to those who have not, in a manner that maintains dignity, builds community and challenges integrity.

This holiday season, the NAG committee would like to support this organization. The reasons are the following:

1) No population is more at risk from the affects of hunger than pregnant women. With this said, the Stop's food bank volunteers were instrumental in developing "Healthy Beginnings" – a pre and postnatal nutrition, health and social support program for at-risk women in our Toronto community. Healthy Beginnings, developed in 1989, was the first program of its kind in Canada and has become the model for perinatal initiatives across the country.

2) The extent of poverty and hunger in our city is great. The most recent statistics from the "Who's Hungry Now?" report at www.dailybread.ca reveals alarming facts and disturbing trends. For example, in the

year 2004, 50% of food recipients go hungry at least a couple of days each week compared to 23% in the year 2000.

3) The Stop believes that the best way to help individuals is to also support the families and communities that they are a part of.

A box will be available for cash donations and or food vouchers at any one of the 4 holiday events taking place in the Valley this season: **the craft party, the cookie exchange evening, the carolling sing-a-long, and the NAG luncheon.**

If you wish to make a donation, please make your cheque payable to: The Stop Community Food Center. Tax receipts will be provided.

Hoggs Hollow Wine Tasting Series

For all those wine aficionados who just can't get enough of the red & white, we'd love to gather some friends and neighbours on a smaller scale to experience different wines from around the world.



Last June Deborah and Alain Sutton hosted a wonderful evening of food and Italian wine tasting for 12, with Tony Aspler presenting.

This intimate and small group setting is a fun way to learn about wine, meet new people and enjoy old friends.

Anyone interested in participating and/or organizing this event, please contact **Deborah Sutton at (416) 481-7511.**

JOBS! JOBS! JOBS!

Baby-sitting, Dog Walking, Snow Shovelling, Lawn Mowing, etc.

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. Again, we are updating the valley baby-sitting and odd jobs lists.

If you are interested, please fill out the form attached to the newsletter and drop it off to Jan Kosick at 27 Donwoods Drive or call her at (416) 481-9799. She will put together a secure phone list for people to phone when they are looking for some extra help. The lists will not be published and Jan will keep them private, giving out names to valley residents only.

Parents and Residents

Looking for teens to baby-sit, shovel snow, mow your lawn, rake your leaves or, walk the dog? Call Jan Kosick at (416) 481-9799. She has compiled a list of able-bodied teenagers who are looking for odd jobs.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

As always, the many and varied events that take place in the Valley come from the hard work of the neighbourhood's volunteers. From the chair people of each event to those that give a helping hand no matter how small, every bit of effort is appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

NAG would like to thank the volunteers (Chairs) listed below for all your help. WE couldn't have done it without you!

Skating Party – Perry Lupyrypa

Spring Fling – Pugs Morrison, Jill Haythornethwaite

Garage Sale – Leanne Lewis

Kids Sports and Activities – Paul Cira

Valley Fair – Again, Christine Rosenthal and Christine Acconcia

Posters – Carolyn Clark

Newsletter – Daphne Strathdee

All of our volunteers donate their time, effort and resources into making all of our events successful. The NAG chairs extend a heartfelt thank you to all that have contributed.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

By: Pinky Franklin

Environmental Committee

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E-mail: laposte@idirect.com

Green Garden Visit

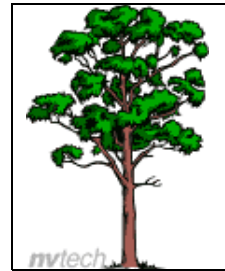
On Wed., June 9, 2004 at 5:00 pm, approximately 20 Valley residents interested in making their garden more environmentally friendly met for a tour of 3 gardens. At 5 pm the tour assembled at Mary and Ian McGillivray's home for refreshments and a brief introduction by Pinky Franklin. Andrew Roy, of the **North Toronto Green Community**, discussed many topics such as Organic lawn care, native plants, reducing water usage and pollution. He told us about community initiatives such as "1000 Trees, Clean Air Green Gardens" to help maintain urban forest cover. Andrew was joined by Marc Willoughby (a certified arborist), Minez Asani-Kanji, NTGC Executive Director and Calvin.

Next, we moved on to Joyce and Brian Westlake's garden and Andrew and Marc discussed ideas for preservation of trees and various plantings suitable for shade gardens.

The walk continued on to the home of Marg and Mike Wilkinson and their riverside garden. Mike demonstrated his new composting drum. Andrew discussed composting, lawn reduction/reducing and planting along riverbanks and controlling invasive such as goutweed. Many of us were able to purchase native plants that Andrew had brought with him on his bicycle trailer. Our evening was most informative and enjoyable. This event was so successful that we plan to do this again next June 2005.

Toronto Private Tree Protection Bylaw

Effective immediately, the new **Toronto Private Tree Protection Bylaw** has been passed. This bylaw will protect trees on private property that are 30 cm or more at chest height from being unnecessarily cut down or injured. Homeowners will be able to remove unhealthy or hazardous trees. A \$100 - \$300 permit fee will be charged to offset the cost of tree inspections and administrative tasks. This bylaw will help to preserve the over 3 million city trees.



VALLEY CRIME WATCH

By: Penny O'Rourke

Tel. (416) 486-5060

E-mail: porourke21@rogers.com

On April 26, 2004, between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., a home with an alarm on Plymbridge Road was broken into. The suspect smashed the rear door window to gain entry and stole a computer.

On May 12, 2004, between 10:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. on Brookfield Road, thieves broke into a house, took car keys and stole a BMW and a SUV. Residents did not have the security system on or the garage lock in place.

Some tips to make your home safer include having sensor lights positioned in areas that lead to main doors and windows. Be sure locks are properly installed and if your home is a new purchase, change the locks immediately after moving into the home. Alarms may be installed however remember that they are only a tool, and if the locks on windows and doors are not secure, the alarm will be of little use. Be sure also that phone lines used by the alarm company are buried in the ground. Exposed phone lines can be cut thereby disarming your alarm system.

In addition, over 11,000 cars were stolen in the GTA in 2003. In the previous months, many cars have been taken directly from their driveways when owners have left them unattended and running. Therefore, if you need to step away – even just for a few minutes – turn the car off, take the keys with you and be sure to lock your doors. Also, remove any personal items from your car and lock all valuables in the trunk away from plain sight and park your car in a well-lit area, not only for your car's protection but also for your own personal safety as well.

Happy Halloween!



NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Job(s) you are looking for (ie. Baby-sitting, snow shovelling, dog walking, raking leaves, mowing lawn etc.)
