



YMVA Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Bob Torrens

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At the time of writing, we are firmly in the grip of winter, with the Valley looking its rural best under a blanket of snow.

At the Annual Meeting in December, I indicated that I foresaw the Storm Water Management and Road Improvement Study as being the major matter with which the YMVA would have to contend this year. We recognize that it is desirable to implement measures to control flooding and that this will involve repaving our streets. However we would like this to be accomplished in a way that does not change the rural feel of the Valley. Early on in the study process, it was suggested that sidewalks would be installed as part of the repaving. The YMVA conducted a survey and established that Valley residents were overwhelmingly opposed to sidewalks where they don't now exist. The planners listened and scrapped the sidewalk proposal. Community action can make a difference! We have also had success in having some proposed road widths reduced from those originally proposed, saving trees which would otherwise have to be removed. At the last open house, pictures were shown of proposed street designs consisting of blacktop bordered by white rolled curbs. Most of us thought that this looked like a suburban subdivision. It was also suggested by the Toronto Fire Department that Valley streets become "no parking". This seemed an inappropriate restriction to us, as street

**Important City Meeting
March 8
Strong Valley Turnout
Needed
See Development Report
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widths were not being altered. Norman Hardie, Leanne Lewis and I met with our Councillor, Cliff Jenkins, and the Study staff in January to discuss these two issues. At the next open house, tentatively scheduled for early April, the Study people have indicated that they will present alternative street toppings and curb treatments. Cliff Jenkins is sympathetic to our position with respect to parking and will see what can be done, but this is essentially a separate matter from the Study and is a battle we may have to fight in the future. Stay tuned.

Construction at 45 York Mills, the old York Mills School site, has commenced. Because of the nature of the soil, the first phase of construction involves adding soil and compacting. Unfortunately, the compacting activities have caused excessive vibrations affecting homeowners on Campbell Crescent, York Ridge Road and Old Yonge Street. Cliff Jenkins has been active in this matter as have City inspectors and other staff all of whom attended a meeting with affected residents on February 9th.

On a lighter note, hopefully we will have a few more weeks to enjoy the Brookfield Rink and then we can look forward to another lovely spring in the Valley.

Development Committee

By: David Payne

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Notice of Important Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

9:30am

Toronto City Hall

2nd Floor Committee Room

Background:

In 1997, the City of Toronto purchased the Jolly Miller parking lot lands. At that time,

a promise was made that once the purchase price was paid for out of parking lot revenues, the land would revert back to parkland.

Now there are stirrings at Toronto City Hall that have given the Development Committee grave concern. There is talk of reneging on this commitment, or worse, developing this land.

On Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at 9:30am, in a 2nd Floor Committee Room, there will be a presentation of a report prepared by the City of Toronto. **We need all available members of the YMVA to attend that meeting, to ensure that our voice is heard;** we do not want this property to be developed, nor do we want it to be a parking lot in perpetuity.

Councilor Jenkins has requested that I provide him with a list of names of people that are able to attend and I would ask that you contact me, on an urgent basis, to confirm your attendance at said meeting and to allow an opportunity to further brief everyone.

This is a significant piece of property and it is no secret that Toronto City Council is looking for money. City Council must see that we are an active association that is committed to preserving the character of the Valley. Please join us at this very important meeting.

Traffic Committee Update

By: Frank Bowman

Chair, Traffic

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The YMVA Annual Meeting, held on December 4, 2004, again provided a forum for a good discussion of traffic issues and concerns in the Valley. Residents are clearly in favour of much more enforcement of the rules of the road in the Valley,

particularly with respect to excessive speed and failure to observe stop signs. Councillor Jenkins offered to be involved in urging 32 Division to attend more regularly in the Valley to address these concerns. It has proven difficult to get much traffic enforcement in the Valley, but we have established connections with two sergeants at 32 Division and will be following up with them, in conjunction with Cliff Jenkins to insist on more enforcement.

When 45 York Mills Rd. is occupied, there will be an exit onto Old York Mills Road, but there is supposed to be a no left turn sign there, so as to prevent traffic from entering the Valley to cut through to Old Yonge Street or to get to Mill Street. Such signs, to be effective, must be the subject of significant enforcement and we will be requesting that. Again, Councillor Jenkins offered to lend his support to getting enforcement there to prevent additional "cut-through" traffic from residents of 45 York Mills Rd.

We again discussed the process of individual streets or sections of streets requesting traffic calming measures, as several residents wish to pursue this with the city due to excessive speed on their street and safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists etc. Specifically, the residents of Campbell Crescent and Plymbridge Road expressed an interest in having traffic calming introduced onto their streets.

One Valley resident reminded the assembled group of the importance of walking against oncoming traffic, instead of having your back to the traffic. This is a very good point to remind people about, especially the children. It is much easier to react to a vehicle approaching on the same side you are walking on than if you have your back to the vehicle.

Hillcrest School traffic issues were again discussed, and there are continued concerns about the congestion at drop off and pick up time, and impatient drivers who do not want

to wait until they are signalled to proceed. In addition, many parents dropping off or picking up children have been observed using excessive speed while coming into the Valley and leaving. The Valley executive was requested to again communicate the residents' concerns and ask the school to communicate to the parents of the school-children to be cognizant of the speed limit and to observe it. Another concern expressed by residents in the vicinity of the school is the pollution caused by lengthy periods of vehicle idling while waiting to pick up or drop off children. Some residents have approached the idling vehicles to request that they shut off their engine while waiting to pick up or drop off children, but have been met with less than polite responses. There is a by-law regarding maximum length of time a vehicle can be left idling, and we will be looking into the enforcement of that by-law in the vicinity of the school. On a positive note, in response to a request from a resident in the vicinity of the school, we contacted the City and Councillor Jenkins office and arranged for a "School Children Crossing Sign" to be erected on the side of the road at one end of the school to go with the sign that was already at the other end of the school.

Ongoing issues being reviewed and pursued include: 30 km/hr speed limit in all traffic calmed areas, the advanced green for west-bound drivers turning left at York Mills Rd to go south on Yonge St. (to encourage drivers to make their left turn at the major intersection, rather than cut through the Valley over to Mill Street and go south on Yonge from there- this has apparently been budgeted for 2005 according to Pam Spence), the "Watch Your Speed" trailer is to be scheduled for the Valley, Old Yonge Street speed humps (approved but not installed), monitoring construction vehicles for 45 York Mills Rd to ensure they do not use Campbell Crescent and the possible reconfiguration of the stop signs at Donino Court and Donwoods Drive at the bottom of the hill.

This will be my final report on traffic issues in the Valley, as directors Norman Hardie and Leanne Lewis will be taking over the traffic portfolio. I will continue on the board in a different capacity. I will repeat my oft-stated request: please slow down, observe the stop signs and have consideration for our neighbours and others using the streets of the Valley. Make it a safe place for the children and everyone else who enjoys walking in our picturesque setting.

VALLEY CLEANUP DAY

By: Carolyn Clark

Tel.: (416) 544-9854

oakleymanor@sympatico.ca

The Toronto-wide Mayor's Clean-up Day is scheduled for Saturday April 23, and The Valley will again be supporting this. The initiative involves more than just cleaning up your own property. It focuses on litter removal from City land, parks, ravines, rivers and road allowances. It's a chance for you to go out and clean that stretch of property that has always bugged you. What a difference it makes!!!

Please set aside a couple of hours on April 23. We'll meet any time between 9 and 11 at the Millstone Parkette to divide up the needy areas. If you have an area that you would like to "reserve" or you know of an area that needs special attention, please contact me ahead of time.

Carolyn Clark 416-544-9854
oakleymanor@sympatico.ca



NAG ACTIVITIES

By: Lisa Barney (416) 487-9888

And Dale Hewat (416) 487-1039

Co-Chairs NAG

Brookfield Rink

We have had a terrific season on the Brookfield Rink. It usually starts getting thin around March Break, so we only have another few weeks to enjoy it! Many thanks go out to Steve Morson, Norm Lamarche, Glenn Kosick and the 4 crews that flood and maintain the rink on cold nights. It is a huge job and it is most appreciated!



Spring Social

Saturday, April 16th 8:00pm

After this long winter we thought you might be ready for a night out on the town, in our own neighbourhood! Please join us for a lovely evening of cocktails and hors d'ouvres at the Valley Spring Social.

Tickets are \$45.00 per person. Cheques should be made out to the YMVA and dropped off at 16 Brookfield Road.

For more information about this event, please watch the notice boards or contact Louise Sugar (416-483-6614) or Leanne Lewis (416-485-0959).



Spring Fling

**Saturday, May 14th from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (at the park with the swings)
Contact Pugs Morrison at (416) 488-6268
or Jill Haythornthwaite at (416) 544-9907
to volunteer.**

It's picnic time in the valley again! Come out and enjoy the sunshine, kids' crafts and games in the park. Pack up an old blanket and some lunch and come join us for a great afternoon. Should the weather not cooperate, we will try to do it on Sunday, May 15th at the same time. If the weather continues to be difficult, please watch the notice boards for another date.

We will need some volunteers to help us with crafts and/or games for the kids, please call either of the numbers above if you can help us. We hope to see you there.



Welcome Party

New to the Valley? Have you moved in within the past 2 years? If so, let us know. We don't want to leave anyone out of the Valley Welcome Party.

We are currently in the planning stages of this get together. Please contact **Debbie Neil at (416) 488-7690** if you are a new resident so that we can add you to our list.



Wine Tasting Evening

Attention Wine Lovers !! Join us for our Sip, Laugh & Learn series.

This is a great evening to explore new wines and experience gourmet tapas style food pairings while overlooking the glorious Rosenthal Gardens.....

Date: Early May, 2005

Location: The Rosenthal's, 15 Knightswood

The cost is \$55 per person which includes wine & tapas style food. To sign up please Contact Deborah Sutton 416-481-7511
sutton.d@sympatico.ca

As we are in the midst of setting a date with our Wine Consultant, please watch the notice boards for further details

Dinner Club

Contact Trudy Young @
jtyoung@rogers.com

The Dinner Club is back!

The Dinner Club is a great way to meet new people and enjoy old friends. Couples are placed into groups of eight. Sometimes they know one another and sometimes they don't. That's what makes this fun! The host chooses a theme (it could be Italian night or a murder mystery). The group then works around the theme. Each couple cooks one dish (either a salad, appetizer, main course or dessert) and brings it to the host's house. Together they enjoy a wonderful meal, good company and usually a little wine. You don't have to be a gourmet cook and you don't even need to have a theme. You just have to have a good time.

Please contact Trudy Young to sign up.

Little Tots Play Group

Held the First Thursday of every month from 9:30 – 11:30am at various homes in the neighborhood. Call 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 home each month to enjoy some company and, so that all the kids can play together.

Wine Tour

Coming in October, 2005

Join friends and neighbours for a beautiful fall day of wine tasting and touring. Let's make this event a fall tour to remember.

If you are interested in helping to organizing this fun event, please contact Michelle Hopper at (416) 932-9198. Please watch notice boards for further information.



Thank You So Much!

As always, many thanks for the dedication from all of our volunteers. Without you the NAG would not function. All of these people donate their time, effort and resources into making all of our events successful. The NAG chairs extend a heart-felt thank-you to all who have contributed.

Dale Hewat and Lisa Barney
2004 NAG Co-Chairs.

Valley Fair

By: Christine Rosenthal

Spring is almost here and the time has come to start planning for this year's Valley Fair. The fair will be held on Saturday, June 4th. Watch the notice boards for the soon to be scheduled planning meeting. We are always looking for new ideas, so feel free to join in the fun of planning this wonderful day. If you can't attend the meeting but would like to help, or have a few suggestions, contact Chris Rosenthal at 416-482-6666 or chrisrosenthal@rogers.com.

Hogg's Hollow Cookbook

Do you like to cook? Is your family getting tired of the same recipes?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, then I have the solution for you...buy a copy of the Hogg's Hollow Cookbook. It only costs \$5.00, but is 99 pages full of delicious recipes such as Curried Zucchini & Apple Bisque, Easy Beef Stroganoff and Gumdrop Cake.

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

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? Are you a homeowner who needs to have some jobs done? If so, then this is the forum for you. Again, we are updating the Valley baby-sitting and odd jobs lists.

If you are interested in providing a service, please drop off a note (with your name, address, phone and job(s) you are interested in doing) 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.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

By: Pinky Franklin

Environmental Committee

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WINTER IS FOR THE BIRDS!
If you want to get away for a holiday, please have a neighbour or friend continue to fill your birdfeeder. According to the Toronto Wildlife Centre the birds DO become dependent on you to feed them. This winter has been particularly harsh as there has been lots of snow and cold weather. Remember your feathered friends before YOU fly south.

TREES PLEASE
The City of Toronto will generously plant a TREE on your front property if you would like one. The web address for tree information and to download a tree order form is: http://www.toronto.ca/trees/tree_planting.htm. (Although you cannot see it because the whole address is underlined, there is an underscore between "tree" and "planting"). For those who would rather obtain the form by mail they can call call (416) 338-TREE (8733) to request a form. If you had envisioned a larger tree than is specified, you can pay to acquire a larger specimen. An organization called LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) will facilitate planting a tree or trees in your back property ie. behind your house. Their web address is www.leafontario.org or

call 416-413-9244.
Contribute to a healthy and green environment by ordering your trees today.

GARDENERS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS UNITE!!!
The environment committee is going to sponsor another GREEN GARDEN VISIT. Last year the McGillivray's, Westlakes and Wilkinsons hosted Andrew Roy of the North Toronto Green Community, and Valley residents for a special Green Garden tour. Andrew advised them on how to give their gardens an environmentally friendly facelift. We learned about native plants, shrubs, trees and vegetables, xeriscaping, composting, naturalizing and much more. The event was so successful we want to do it again. Interested? Call Marg Wilkinson (416)481-1571

Interested in environmentally friendly people and their issues? Join us at our next meeting. Call Pinky Franklin (416)488-3226 for date and time.



VALLEY CRIME WATCH

By: Penny O'Rourke

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Fortunately we have had a relatively quiet period on the crime beat. However, there was an attempted break-in in September, 2004 on York Valley Crescent. The locks were tampered with, but it went no further than that. Also, a car was stolen in the neighbourhood when it was left unattended while being warmed up.

The Toronto Police Service has asked us to remind you of the following:

Never start your car and leave it running unattended for even a few moments.

Always lock valuables in the trunk or keep them out of sight.

Inform police of any activities or vehicles that look suspicious to you.

Leave an exterior light on so that you are not walking up to your door in the dark when arriving home.

Be aware of the possibility of a 2nd story break-in. There have been several in 32 Division. The suspect uses a ladder or patio furniture found in the victim's yard, a neighbour's yard or construction sites to access second story windows or doors. They know homeowner's often leave second story access points unlocked and unarmed. In some cases, the homeowners were home eating dinner or watching tv.

Please arm and lock second story entry points, even when you are at home. Also, please secure your ladders.

And Last, But by no Means Least

Thank you to our outgoing YMVA executive members!

Pam Spence spent innumerable hours chairing the Development Committee for several years. This is one of the most difficult and time consuming positions on the executive and Pam was tireless!

Also, many thanks to Paul Lavelle who has made an invaluable contribution to the YMVA over the years. Paul has held various positions on the Board, including YMVA President.

Thank you for making a difference to the Valley, Paul and Pam!

Also, thank you to Daphne Strathdee who has recently retired from YMVA Newsletter editing duties. Thank you Daphne!

