



YMVA Newsletter

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Inside this Issue:

Stormwater Management & Road Improvement Project

Environment and Beautification

Valley Crime Watch

Notice from Hillcrest School

NAG Activities

Valley Fair Flyer

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Stormwater Management and Road Improvement Project

*By: Leanne Lewis
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Traffic

With the arrival of spring, increasing numbers of cyclists and pedestrians are taking to the streets to enjoy our beautiful neighbourhood. For everyone's comfort and safety, drivers are reminded to observe posted speed limits and to use care when traveling through the neighbourhood. Moms and Dads are also encouraged to remind their kids about the importance of street safety.

Stormwater Management and Road Reconstruction

Construction will begin in the Doncliffe and Forest Glen area imminently. Construction notices from the city were delivered to all residents living in the affected area in early April. If you live in the Doncliffe and Forest Glen area and did not get your notice, or if you have questions about the project, please contact Samuel Jebakumar at The City of Toronto at 416-395-6395 or sjebakum@toronto.ca.

We have recently learned that the Donino Avenue and Donino Court portion of the project continues to be delayed as the Toronto Conservation Authority did not approve the city's proposed water outfall plan. City engineers are revising an earlier plan to enlarge the drainage pipes in the Donino Avenue Bridge in order to accommodate increased water outfall. We do not have an update as to a specific start time for construction. However, the city has stated that they anticipate that Donino Avenue, Donino Court, May Tree and Plymbridge Road between May Tree and the top of the "hill" at Hillcrest school will be completed this year. Residents in these areas will be informed by the city well in advance of the start of construction.

Sanitary Sewer Improvements

The bulk of the underground work related to the sanitary sewer improvements is complete. D. M. Robichaud is now undertaking repairs to damaged surface areas related to the project. They have advised that they are on schedule and expect to have completed all work in the neighbourhood by July at the latest. If you have any questions or concerns about this portion of the project, please contact Anthony Paolini

(Engineer, City Water) at 416-395-6371.

Northwest Corner of Yonge and York Mills:

Leanne Lewis 416-485-0959

Last December, David Miller was quoted in The Star stating that the development of the northwest corner of Yonge and York Mills was a priority for the city. The YMVA contacted Councillor Jenkins in order to stay in front of the issue and to begin information gathering. As a result, Councillor Jenkins arranged a meeting attended by himself, the YMVA, the TTC (who currently has jurisdiction over the property), Planning Department staff, St. Andrews Ratepayers and staff from Councillor Karen Stintz office.

It was an informative meeting and we had an opportunity to meet some of the players that may be involved in any future development. Although it is very early going and there are no plans for the site presently, it was confirmed that, due to its desirable location, it will likely be one of the highest priority sites for development in the city. The only thing that might slow down development in the short to medium term would be the economy and the fact that the corner currently operates as a very lucrative parking lot. However, in a sign that development is highly likely, the TTC will soon be passing control of the site over to the newly created Build Toronto, a municipal body that is focused on the development of "surplus" city property.

Suffice to say at this point that there is nothing concrete (pardon the pun) to report. However, we believe this meeting was a positive first step that allowed us to gather some helpful information, to demonstrate that area residents are aware of the issue, to share some insights about the Yonge and York Mills area, and to express our expectation that the city and any future developer will work with residents in order to achieve a sensitive and responsive development at the northwest corner. Next steps will be to contact other neighbouring ratepayer groups to set up a working group and to keep our eye on the ball as Build Toronto gets established (its first CEO starts on May 11) and as the land is handed over to Build Toronto.

YMVA Email Communications:

All members of the Valley Association are invited to enjoy the benefits of the YMVA's email communications. Through our new email system, time sensitive information is shared and event reminders are sent out. If you have not signed up and would like to receive the YMVA's email news, please provide your email address when renewing your 2009 membership. All email addresses are held in the strictest confidence.

The most recent community email was sent out on April 24. If you think you should be on the list but did not receive an YMVA email on April 24, please contact ymva@hoggshollow.net and we will ensure that your name has been added. Also, all email members should set their inboxes to accept mail from hoggshol@hoggshollow.net.

Looking for a Web Master:

Over time we have benefited from the web skills of Valley volunteers who have maintained the web site and who recently set up our blast email system. Since the current web master is ready to pass the baton, the YMVA is looking for a new web master. It is our hope to keep this as a volunteer position within the community, rather than paying an outside provider.

We are looking for someone who has basic web skills and who appreciates the importance of the confidentiality of our data base. The role of the web master is to update the web site, maintain the email database, and send out blast emails on an as-need basis.

This is a rewarding and enjoyable position; the web master plays an important role in sharing important information with valley residents and the time commitment is fairly light and flexible. If you are interested in being the Valley Web Master, please contact Leanne at leannelewis@rogers.com.

“Council Highlights” Email List

Councillor Cliff Jenkins sends out regular emails (approximately once a month) entitled “Council Highlights”. In these emails Councillor Jenkins provides updates on city council activities along with his personal take on issues before council. If you would like to receive these emails, please forward your name, municipal address and email address to Councillor Jenkins at councillor_jenkins@toronto.ca.

Newsletter Delivery

The NAG newsletter team needs help with deliveries. The once robust list has dwindled of late and we need to add to our delivery volunteer list. Whether you are a new volunteer or you have offered in the past but have not been called upon recently, please sign up by contacting Jennifer Fortier (jenniferfortier@rogers.com).

Environment and Beautification

*By: Christine Acconcia
cacconcia@rogers.com*

Our Community Clean Up on April 25th was a great success, thanks to about 15 neighbours coming out to enjoy the wonderful weather! Garbage was picked up

from all the parks and any trouble areas which had been brought to our attention. Just a suggestion that clean up need not only be once a year. If we all kept in mind to pick up garbage as we walk, it would help make our community cleaner looking throughout the year. Thanks to everyone who came out !

Safety First

In noticing that some parts of the Don River bank were being used as a dirt bike trail, the Toronto Conservation Authority asked us to remind you that the area around the river is quite dangerous. They pointed out, that if there is a storm up stream from Hoggs Hollow, the water level can suddenly swell and cause flooding even if we have sunny skies above. Please talk to your young children about this and make sure they do not use either the river bank or the wooded hills around our York Mills Valley Park for dirt biking. Trees and other vegetation have been torn up or driven over and garbage, including beer bottles have been left behind. Please let's keep our valley a safe and clean place to live. Thank you.

Valley Crime Watch

*By: Penny O'Rourke
Porourke21@rogers.com*

Feb 16/09

A break and enter on Campbell Crescent occurred while occupants were asleep. They woke up to a noise and observed a suspect in dining room holding a knife. The occupant yelled and suspect fled

through the rear door. The occupant noticed another male running with the suspect. No suspect description available and nothing was stolen.

Jan /09

A break in on Ivor Road. Alarm was triggered but nothing was taken.

Thankfully, this has been a fairly quiet time for crime in the valley. Keep locking doors, checking lights and observing your neighbors properties as well as your own.

House Numbers

After a recent emergency response on York Valley and during their regular drives through the neighbourhood, Toronto Emergency Services advised us of their concern that many homes in the Valley either have no house numbers or they have house numbers that are difficult to see from the street. EMS has asked us to remind residents that having clearly visible house numbers on all homes is vitally important to ensure a rapid emergency response when needed. They noted that the large number of poorly numbered homes in the valley could add wasteful minutes to an emergency response time. EMS requests that all homeowners look objectively at their house numbers from the

street to ensure that they are clearly visible at all times of day or night and in all seasons. For those that do not have a house number or have a house number that is not clearly visible, EMS advises that new, well placed, adequately sized numbers should be installed.

Notice from Hillcrest School

Happy Spring to all the Valley Residents from the parent and teacher body of Hillcrest Progressive School. As our school year winds down, we would like to inform you of the dates for our upcoming year end parties in order to make it easier to plan your days with no surprises due to increased noise and/or traffic. For all events, we have reminded parents to pay attention to the parking signs around the valley and for the evening events we have provided a shuttle service to and from the Green P lot on Yonge St.

Wednesday, May 20th from 5:00 to 8:00pm open house

Tuesday, May 26th from 5:00 to 8:00pm BBQ

Tuesday, June 2nd from 1:00 to 3:30pm class party

Thursday, June 4th both morning and afternoon class parties

Tuesday, June 9th from 1:00 to 3:30pm class party

Wednesday, June 10th both morning and afternoon class parties

Also please be aware that our two camp open houses, both of which will run from

5:00 to 8:00pm, are being held on Wednesday, July 15th and Wednesday, August 12th.

We thank you for your continued patience. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

N.A.G.

(Neighborhood Activities Group)

Chris Rosenthal 482-6666

chrisrosenthal@rogers.com

Erin Nella 485-1858

erinnella@hotmail.com

*****Please remember to check the notice boards to confirm times and locations!***

CHILDRENS' BOOK DRIVE:

Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 9:00am-11:30am

Location: Millstone Parkette

Contact: 483-6614

lsugar@sympatico.ca

In conjunction with Valley Cleanup Day, Louise Sugar is coordinating a childrens' book drive for the Regent Park Children's Book Bank. The Book Bank provides free books to children in need and is looking for gently used books appropriate for children aged 2 -

12. Approximately 150 children visit the book bank each day.

The most popular books are

picture books and easy readers. Unfortunately the book bank does not accept videos or DVD's.

EMPTY NESTER'S TEA:

Date: Sunday, May 3rd

Location: 113 Donwoods Drive

Time: 1:00 pm

Contact: Leanne Lewis @ 485-0959

A special event for empty nesters or almost empty nesters. Please join us for the second annual Empty Nesters' Tea. This is a great chance to re-connect with neighbors or to meet new neighbors while enjoying a traditional afternoon tea.

FAMILY FUN DAY:

Date: Sunday, May 3 (rain date May 24)

Location: the park with the playground

Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Contact: TBA

It's hard to believe, but summer will soon be here – honest! Come on out to celebrate the return of green with your friends who have been hibernating all winter. We have a fun-filled, action-packed family oriented sports day planned, so come on down! Look for details on the notice board.

WINE TASTING:

Date: Thursday May 7th

Time: 7pm

Location: 86 Donwoods Drive

Cost: \$85 per person

Contact: Erin @ 485-1858 to reserve your tickets or for more information

(We recommend reserving tickets early as this event sells out quickly!)

Enjoy a fabulous evening of great wine, delicious food and fantastic people. Hosted at Michelle Mondville's home, we invite you to enjoy a selection of wines, learn a little about them and enjoy some delicious food. As a stand & mingle event, it will be a great way to start the summer off with neighbourhood friends!

POSTER PARTY:

Date: Saturday, May 23rd

Location: 29 Plymbridge Cres.

Time: 1:00 pm

Contact: Ingrid @ 488-6268

Bring your budding Picasso and Da Vinci and create the beautiful advertising for our annual Fair. The more artwork plastered around the Valley the better – so come on out everyone!

VALLEY FAIR:

Date: Saturday, June 6th

Check out the insert included in this newsletter for details! See you there!

NAG LUNCHEON:

Date: Tuesday, June 9

Location: 14 Knightswood Road

Time: 12:30 to 2:30pm

Contact: Karen Stemmler @ 484-8403

Please join us for the annual NAG pot luck luncheon in a beautiful setting. Bring a favorite dish for all to share. Everyone is welcome! **Everyone** is welcome!

VALLEY TEEN EVENT:

Contacts: Dale Hewat @ 487-1039 or Perry Luprypa @ 433-3871

The committee decided to hold events for two age groups: one for 12-14 year olds and the other for 14-16 year olds. Event ideas are generated by the teens. The next event will be for 12-14 year olds in either May or early June. Stay tuned for more details.

VALLEY BOOK CLUB:
(Usually 3rd Wednesday of the Month)

Date: Wednesday May 20th
Time: 9:30am
Book: The Gargoyle
by Andrew Davidson

We are looking for volunteers to host and moderate

Here is a snippet of a review to catch your interest...

In the opening pages of *The Gargoyle*, Andrew Davidson's outrageous new novel, a pornographer high on cocaine runs his car off a mountain road. The vehicle bursts into flames and burns him to a crisp. Welcome to the pain-riddled world of an acerbic, 35-year-old man who loses everything in those fiery minutes: his career, his fortune, his skin -- all broiled away. This is a story for people who like their literary entertainment well done.

Date: Wednesday, June 17th
Time: 9:30am
Book: The Boy in Striped Pajamas
by David Wroblewski

This is the story of a holocaust survivor. It's a touching tale of an odd friendship between two boys in horrendous circumstances and a

reminder of man's capacity for inhumanity.

Roz Nella will be hosting

For more information contact Perry
at 416-433-3871 or
perryanne@sympatico.ca

Even if you cannot complete the book, please join us. Also, please feel free to bring along some book ideas

Thank you Valley neighbors for all of your support. Both in hosting/organizing the events and for coming out to them. We couldn't have done it without you!

All the best for a safe and happy summer!
Chris and Erin

Have a great summer everyone!

