



YMVA Newsletter

Website: www.hogghollow.net

Traffic Safety Reminder

By: *Leanne Lewis*

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Spring is in the air and the valley is once again in beautiful bloom. Along with the great weather come increasing numbers of cyclists, pedestrians and kids playing outside. We remind motorists to be extra vigilant at this time of year as the roads become increasingly crowded. Moms and Dads are also encouraged to review road safety with their children and to remind younger drivers about safe neighbourhood driving practices, including coming to a complete stop at stop signs.

Traffic Report

By: *Leanne Lewis*

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City of Toronto Transportation Services, responding to a request from the YMVA, installed a traffic speed monitor on Brookfield Road. They reported back to the YMVA that 85% of motorists were driving very close to or below the speed limit. Although we expressed concern about the 15% that were exceeding the speed limit, we were advised that the city considers 85% compliance to be within an acceptable range and therefore the Valley would not be getting the watch-your-speed trailer until 2011. We will follow up with Councillor Jenkins' office

May 2010
Vol. 70, Issue 2

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Valley Fair Flyer!

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to see if t get the trailer into the Valley this year.

Road Improvement and Stormwater Management Project

By: *Leanne Lewis*
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Construction on Donino Avenue, Donino Court, MayTree and Plymbridge Road (from east of Hillcrest School to MayTree) is expected to start in early summer once the tendering process is completed at the end of May or early June. The delay in timing is related to the need for the city to revise water outfall drawings near the Donino Avenue bridge. These drawings still need to get final approval from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) before the tender can be issued. These drawing changes, which reflect an increased scope of work, were required so that the TRCA's channel repairs could be incorporated into the city's stormwater management work so that it can all be done in one operation.

More details will be provided to residents by the city when the construction start date is confirmed.

Valley Email List

By: *Leanne Lewis*
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We invite everyone to join the Valley email list. All emails are kept in the strictest confidence and everything is sent bcc – no other subscriber can see your email address and there are no “reply all” issues. Also, we try to be judicious in determining when to send emails so we don't fill up your In Box unnecessarily. Additionally there is a safe and easy unsubscribe option at the bottom of each blast email.

Being a Valley Email subscriber ensures that you receive timely updates on important issues affecting the Valley. We also periodically send out friendly YMVA and Neighbourhood Activity Group reminders and updates as-needed.

We have recently updated our email server. We now send our blast emails through Constant Contact. This has enhanced the look of our emails and the user friendly service has made things much easier for your loyal email scribe. Due to this server change, some emails may be sent directly to “junk” that were formerly received in your in box. If you think you should be on the email list, but are not getting emails, please email Leanne at ymva@hoggshollow.net and we will ensure that you are on the list. Similarly if you would like to add your name to the email list please forward your contact information to ymva@hoggshollow.net.

Development of the Northwest Corner of Yonge and Wilson/York Mills

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The potential development of the Toronto-owned northwest corner of Yonge and Wilson/York Mills (4050 Yonge Street) was first mentioned in the May 2009 Newsletter. Responsibility for the property has now been transferred from the city to the newly created Build Toronto which is a corporation whose sole shareholder is The City of Toronto. Build Toronto's mandate from Mayor Miller is to engage private and public sector partners in the development of underutilized City real estate to unlock the value of the properties, stimulate job creation in key sectors and regenerate Toronto's neighbourhoods.

Given its advantageous location, the corner of Yonge and Wilson was expected to be one of Build Toronto's highest priority properties for development and, indeed, a development plan is now being put together. The client for the property in the current proposal is the TTC. The intent is to amalgamate various geographically disbursed TTC

offices into one building making this location the new TTC headquarters. 1,500 employees would work at the new headquarters. Build Toronto is pursuing this project since they believe it makes financial sense for both the city and the TTC. If their application process goes smoothly, they expect the earliest construction start date would be Summer, 2011.

Although this more detailed timeline was only recently shared at a small meeting of stakeholders, the YMVA was cognizant that the City of Toronto was committed to developing the NW corner and had, along with Councillor Cliff Jenkins, proactively met with City Planners, the TTC, The Toronto Parking Authority and Build Toronto prior to the transference of the property to Build Toronto. This was done in an effort to remind all parties that area residents have specific expectations with respect to any future development of the property including the expectation that zoning, in particular the zoned height restriction, would be respected, that the current quantity of parking would be maintained, that the rural meets urban character of the intersection should be respected and reflected in the building and landscape design, that there should be a commitment to architectural excellence, high quality building materials and excellent workmanship and that the community would be consulted on any development plans.

Councillor Cliff Jenkins has been very helpful throughout this process and

thought it prudent to arrange a follow up meeting between the YMVA, the South Armour Heights Resident's Association, Build Toronto, the TTC, the Toronto Parking Authority, city planners, and Councillor Karen Stintz's office. This information sharing meeting was held on April 29th.

Although it wasn't possible to get all the parties mentioned above in the same room at the same time as originally hoped, the meeting was attended by Councillor Cliff Jenkins; Domenic Garisto, Chief Deputy Development Officer, TTC; 4 gentlemen from Build Toronto including Lorne Braithwaite, recently appointed President & Chief Exec. Officer and Don Logie, SVP, Development. Also in attendance were Ron Johnson, Board member of the South Armour Heights Resident's Association, just north west of us and YMVA President, Christine Acconcia. Cliff Jenkins' office has contacted the Yonge Ridge Homeowners Association to join future discussions.

Build Toronto reps spoke about their building design which *will* require re-zoning. We were surprised to be told that their package will be presented to Community Council June 23rd for preliminary approval, and that they are applying for variances in

particular regarding the height and density of this 8.5 storey office building. Build Toronto did imply that they might be willing to eliminate 1 floor if requested to, a request that would seem to be worth making. We were pleased to hear that Build Toronto has done a lot of research and has met with the TRCA, Urban Planning, etc before meeting with Councillor Karen Stintz, (Ward 16, Eglinton-Lawrence) 2 months ago to present this concept. It will be a highly energy efficient, green building, including a glass solar chimney, 2 staggered green roof surfaces and will use LEED glass (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified glass on the exterior of the building). The design will reduce energy consumption by 40%-60% over a comparably sized standard build. This will result in lower operating costs for the TTC. As noted, this proposed building would become the TTC's new head office and administration building. It would also house a TTC museum, coffee shop and restaurant overlooking the Don Valley Golf course.

Among other things, Ron and Christine voiced concerns about reducing parking spaces from 260 to 219 (although it should be noted that TTC employees receive TTC passes to encourage use their use of public transit and, apparently, they occupy much fewer parking spaces than an equivalent sized corporate tenant). Christine and Ron also noted that there would be a need for flexible evening and weekend parking availability

in the garage and that issues related to traffic flow (the parking entrance will be off Wilson) would need to be addressed including the need for a drop-off area for commuters on the north west side of Wilson. Of course, concerns related to building height were also expressed.

A number of details and clarifications are still required. Further information will be shared as it is available and when Build Toronto sets up a Community Consultation meeting sometime in June. We will let you know the meeting details once we have that information.

York Mills Valley Partial Parking Lot Conversion to Park

By: Louise Sugar
lsugar@sympatico.ca

Valley Contact:

Louise Sugar (416) 483-6614

Valley Park Committee:

*Christine Acconcia, Pinky Franklin,
Susanne Holland, Leanne Lewis,
David Payne, Louise Sugar*

In 1997, the former City of North York Council approved the acquisition of the Jolly Miller property, located at 3885 Yonge Street and the development of the northern portion of this property as

a municipal parking lot in order to generate revenue to aid in recovering the acquisition costs. Having now recouped these costs, Council adopted a staff recommendation earlier this year, to convert the easterly portion of the Toronto Parking Authority Lot back into green space. Studies were also conducted to ensure that removal of any parking spaces would not have an impact on commuter parking in this area.

On April 21, the City Parks staff presented a park concept design, which has been developed in consultation with the York Mills Valley Association. The new park will become an extension of the existing York Mills Park and will consist of a sitting area – A Miller’s Cottage ruin – in recognition of the Grist Mill cottages that once dotted the West Don River. Around the ruin will be perennial wildflower plantings, which will create a wildflower meadow. There will also be native groundcover and tree plantings.

The park will have a connecting pathway, which will run through the ruin. The park will be well lit with pedestrian lighting for safe illumination. Interpretive signage will highlight the history of the valley as an historical center of commerce, as well as its current role as a migratory path for birds and animals.

The City has retained the consulting Landscape Architecture Firm of Marton Smith Landscape Architects. In partnership with the City Parks, Forestry, Toronto Parking Authority, Marton Smith

will complete detailed design drawings .

Construction of the new park is scheduled for the fall of 2010. Further information regarding the final park plans and schedule for construction will be communicated in the coming months. A volunteer “community planting” will also be a part of the new park plan and will be communicated by the YMVA committee in the coming months.

**Toronto And Region
Conservation Authority
West Don River -
Proposed Channel
Maintenance
(Yonge Street To Knightswood
Road)**

By: Louise Sugar
lsugar@sympatico.ca

Background

The West Don River, which runs through the Hogg’s Hollow Valley, has not been cleared of sediment and brush in both the riverbed and along the banks, in over 15 years. Given that most of the Valley is in the flood plain of the river, the City must ensure that the river is cleared of all major obstructions, in the event of a major, “50 to 100 year” flood.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to complete a hydraulic assessment and channel maintenance study for the West Don River from Yonge Street to a point approximately 1.7 km downstream at Knightswood Road (Study Area). The intent of this study was to develop an understanding of the existing flood conveyance capacity of the channel through the Study Area, assess the structural and geotechnical integrity of various hydraulic structures and channel lining materials, characterize the existing natural heritage system (aquatic and terrestrial), and to identify opportunities to restore capacity with the intent of reducing flood risk to the adjacent residential community.

Study Status

The required field assessments have been completed and a channel maintenance strategy has been developed for the Study Area. The maintenance plan will generally include the removal of accumulated sediment, woody vegetation, and debris from within the channel throughout the Study Area. In addition, the maintenance plan will also include spot repairs to the existing concrete channel lining between Yonge Street and Donino Avenue, repair to the concrete drop structure at Donino Avenue, and replacement of several concrete panels just downstream of Yonge Street.

On April 28, The TRCA and Stantec presented the results of this study and outlined the proposed maintenance plans and anticipated maintenance schedule. The project will look at the 3 “reaches” or sections of the West Don River, in our neighbourhood. Reach 1 runs north from Mill Street to Yonge Street. Reach 2 runs south from Mill Street to Donino and Reach 3 runs from Donino to the Rosedale Golf Course.

TRCA plans on initiating Phase 1 of a 5-phase maintenance plan in the fall of 2010, with subsequent phases happening over a 4 to 5 year period. Work will not be conducted between Mid March and the beginning of July, a period of fish spawning and migratory bird nesting.

Information

Valley Contact: Louise Sugar (416) 483-6614

City Official Information requests or questions may be directed to:

Mr. Nick Lorrain Water Resources
Analyst Toronto and Region
Conservation Authority 5 Shoreham
Drive Downsview, Ontario M3N 1S4
Phone:(416) 661-6600, ext. 5336
Fax (416) 661-6898
Email: nlorrain@trca.on.ca
Mr. Tim Gallagher, M.Sc., P.Eng., P.E.

Project Manager Stantec Consulting Ltd. 300 –
675 Cochrane Drive
Markham, ON L3R 0B8
Phone:(905) 944-6870
Fax: (905) 474-9889
Email: tim.gallagher@stantec.com

Environment and Beautification

By: Christine Acconcia
cacconcia@rogers.com

Our Community Clean Up on April 24th was better than ever! More than 30 neighbours came out to pick up after the winter thaw and paint over graffiti. Young, old, very young, dogs...they all chipped in. The following week, dog owners walking their usual routes commented on how clean the parks were and how lovely our neighbourhood looked. Particular effort was put into weeding the Millstone Parkette this year. If anyone knows of any teens requiring community hours, please contact me because there is more weeding to do before we can plant some flowering annuals. Thanks again to all those who came out !

Get a Free Tree in Front of Your Home!

Just a reminder: Urban Forestry Services plants trees on City owned street allowances fronting residential properties for free. For more information go to: http://www.toronto.ca/trees/pdfs/FreeTree_Final.pdf to download The City’s residential street tree planting brochure or call (416) 338-TREE (8733). For an additional fee

residents can order a larger tree. The City will provide advice on tree choice. Even if you have a mature tree on your front lawn, The City suggest that residents order a young tree that can get growing so it will make a nice, full replacement tree if something happens to the older tree. Check out the Environment and Beautification tab on our website for more:

<http://hoggshollow.net/beautification.html>

Crime Watch

By: Penny O'Rourke
porourke21@rogers.com

There was not one valley incident reported to me either through the valley or the police. That makes two months in a row with nothing to report -- a good thing.

Just a reminder that you should leave car doors locked, lights on at night on the front/back porch and do not leave ladders in places where intruders could take advantage of them to enter homes. This has happened in the valley in the past.

N.A.G. **(Neighbourhood Activities Group)**

Chris Rosenthal 482-6666
chrisrosenthal@rogers.com
Erin Nella 485-1858
erinnella@hotmail.com

As of June, Christine Rosenthal and Erin Nella will be stepping down as NAG co-chairs. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact either Chris or Erin directly. Thanks so much!

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

EMPTY NESTER'S TEA:

Valley Empty Nesters are invited to a relaxing get-together with neighbours while enjoying traditional afternoon tea. Please RSVP to Leanne by Friday, May 14 at 12.00 noon.

Date: Sunday, May 16th
Location: 113 Donwoods Drive
Time: 1:00pm to 3:30 pm
Contact: Leanne Lewis @ 485-0959 or
leannelewis@rogers.com

FAMILY FUN DAY:

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 family oriented day planned, so come on down! Look for details on the notice board.

Date: Saturday May 15th
Location: the park with the playground
Time: 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm
Contact: Albina Huang @ 488-7248

SALVATION ARMY AND CHILDREN'S BOOK BANK DONATION DRIVE:

In lieu of a garage sale this year, we are holding a Hogg's Hollow Donation Drive to benefit the Children's Book Bank and the Salvation Army Thrift Store in Regent Park.

This event will be held in conjunction with the Family Fun Day on Saturday May 15th.

We ask that you please bring all your gently used donations, including books, toys, clothing, household items and furniture to the drop off point at the park entrance (on Donino Avenue) on May 15th between 12:30pm and 2pm. We will then transport all collected items down to the charities.

Please note that the Salvation Army Thrift Store does not accept baby furniture or equipment; or large appliances (i.e. stoves or fridges). All books for children ages 2-12 will be donated to the Children's Book Bank. We are looking forward to seeing you all out at Family Fun Day. And remember - please bring your gently used items for donation!

Date: Saturday May 15th

Location: park entrance on Donino Ave.

Time: 12:30pm to 2:00 pm

Contact: Erin Nella @ 485-1858 or erinnella@hotmail.com

POSTER PARTY:

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

Date: Sunday May 16th

Location: 8 Winton Rd

Time: 1:00 pm

Contact: Alanna La Gamba @ 486-2102

VALLEY FAIR:

Date: Saturday, June 5th

After last year's success with Hogg's Hollow Idol, we decided to continue with the theme of Talent Competition. This year's theme is Hogg's Hollow's Got Talent!

The Valley Fair is a very special day for our neighbourhood and heavily reliant upon donations from all of us. To make the Fair a continued success, we need your help in securing donated auction items and sponsorship. Please contact Karina von Stedingk @ sold@karinavonstedingk.com if you can help.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE:

This committee is headed by Susanne Holland (485-2218) and Trudy Young (481-6905) and exists to help new neighbours make a smooth transition into Valley life and all it entails.

Please feel free to call either of them at the above listed numbers, or call your street representative directly if you have any questions or concerns about Valley goings on:

Brookfield Rd: Christine Acconcia
480-0623

Campbell Cres: Morag Fitzgerald
485-3320

Donino Ave: Dale Hewat 487-1039

Donino Ct: Dale Hewat

Donwoods Dr (flat section): Trudy Young 481-6905

Donwoods Grove: Pam Spence 322-0037

Green Valley Rd: Louise Sugar 483-6614

Ivor Road: Kelly Alkier 486-1200

Knightswood Rd: Susanne Holland
485-2218

May Tree Rd: Helen Wong 489-8258

Plymbridge Cres: Louise Sugar 483-6614

Plymbridge Rd: Louise Sugar

St. Margaret's Dr: Lynn Richardson
322-7918

Winton Rd: Brett LaGamba 486-2102
York Valley Cres: Helen Wong 489-
8258
Hedgewood Rd: Laura Pryde 488-0218

POSTERS:

Thank you so much to Albina Huang and her family for the wonderful posters this year. We are looking for a volunteer to take over this position starting in the Fall. Please contact either Christine Rosenthal @ chrisrosenthal@rogers.com or Erin Nella @ erinnella@hotmail.com if you would like to volunteer!

VALLEY BOOK CLUB:

CALLING ALL VALLEY READERS – 2
BOOK CLUB MEETINGS LEFT:

Please join us for a morning of coffee/tea and a discussion about a book. We are very relaxed, and invite all neighbours, even if you haven't read the book – often the topic is so wide-reaching, you can participate in the discussion whether or not you have completed the book. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each Month (September – June), and rotate moderators and hosts. The books for the remainder of the year are as follows:

May 19th (9:30 am – location tba):
Little Bee - by Chris Cleave

All you should know going in to *Little Bee* is that what happens on the beach is brutal, and that it braids the fates of a 16-year-old Nigerian orphan (who calls herself Little Bee) and a well-off British couple--journalists trying to repair their strained marriage with a free holiday-- who should have stayed behind their resort's walls.

June 16th (9:30 am – location tba):
Why Gender Matters - by Leonard Sax.

It is full of interesting topics, factual but also an easy and enjoyable book to read. It will definitely make you pause and re-consider how girls and boys react to the same situation differently.

Please contact Perry at perryanne@sympatico.ca or 416 433 3871 if you have any questions.