



YMVA Newsletter

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President's Message

*Leanne Lewis
416-485-0959*

Happy New Year!

First, on behalf of the YMVA, I would like to acknowledge and thank David Payne, Gary Stanley, Christine Gibson and Bob Torrens who recently retired from the YMVA Board. Each of them has served for many years and has made a considerable contribution to The Valley.

Although the outgoing directors leave big shoes to fill, I am pleased to report that we have an accomplished and enthusiastic group of recently elected directors who are equally committed to maintaining and improving life in The Valley. In particular we extend a hearty welcome to first time directors Sherry D'Costa, Joel Rochon, Jerry Schulman and Stan Spencer. A full listing of directors with contact information is included in this newsletter.

The new board recently had its first meeting. Priorities for the coming year were set out based on feedback from the AGM and other resident input. They include: adding flexibility to our communications by developing an email system with appropriate protocols, reviewing community safety initiatives including an evaluation of Valley street lighting, and continuing ongoing

President's Message (cont.)

initiatives on the environment, beautification and development fronts. Traffic issues, including the stormwater management and road improvement project, will also be an ongoing priority this year.

In closing, I also extend a sincere thank you to the NAG team who plan and organize Valley events and coordinate and distribute the newsletter. No question, this great group adds vitality to Valley life.

Roads and Traffic

Leanne Lewis (416-485-0959)

Louise Sugar (416-483-6614)

In mid-December, residents in Priority Area A that live on Donino Avenue, Donino Court, Plymbridge Road and May Tree were invited to an on-street consultation with city representatives to review draft road designs. Residents provided feed back and the city is now finalizing road designs for Doncliffe, Forest Glen, a small portion of Mount Pleasant and the above-mentioned streets.

At last report, The City still expects to begin construction on these streets by mid-year. Given the track record on timing we don't want to hold our breath, however, we will ensure that you are kept posted. In the meantime, your Roads and Traffic Committee continues to communicate with the city to do its best to keep the project on track and to ensure that the city does its best to respect the needs and character of our neighbourhood.

Due to piping right-of-way issues, it appears that work on Campbell Crescent

will be delayed. No estimate for a construction start on Campbell has been given.

On a completely different traffic topic... In the spirit of goodwill, Queenie Spindel, Principal of Hillcrest Progressive School, invited representatives from the YMVA Board to discuss traffic issues in the vicinity of the school. Some ideas were shared and the YMVA Board has now put together a sub-committee to consider the issue more fully.

Hillcrest also felt it might be useful for neighbours to know the dates of school special events so that residents can anticipate days when there will be more cars and/or a little more noise in the area of the school. In future issues of the Valley Newsletter, Hillcrest will be providing updates.

Valley Crime Watch

porourke21@rogers.com.



There were three B&Es reported since the last newsletter. These occurred in houses on Donwoods Drive (2) and Knightswood Road.

In late September, resident of a house under renovation on Plymbridge came home and began watching TV. He heard someone walking around upstairs but ignored it. He went to bed later only to find the bedrooms were ransacked with no signs of forced entry. Some cash was taken.

A house on Donwoods under construction was broken into because the rear door was left unsecured. Tools were removed from both the main and second floor.

In mid December, a B&E occurred on Donwoods at 4am while the owners were asleep upstairs. An arrest was made the same night by police. The incident was

aided by observant neighbours who gave descriptions to the police. Nothing was taken.

PLEASE NOTE.

Police advises that no matter how minor an offence may seem, it is still worthwhile reporting since the more incidents reported,

the better it would facilitate police surveillance in the Hogg's Hollow neighbourhood.

If you have any information for the Crime Report, please contact Penny O'Rourke at 416-486-5060 or porourke21@rogers.com.

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The advertisement includes several small images: a group of people in traditional attire, a boat on a lake, the Great Pyramids of Giza, and a tropical building with a palm tree.

Welcome Committee

Debbie Neil(debbie@neilfamily.ca)

Welcome Committee Volunteer Penny O'Rourke and Morag Fitzgerald dedicated many years as a street representatives for the welcome committee. We appreciate their years of friendly greeting of new neighbours. We now need new representatives for Plymbridge Road and May Tree and also Campbell Cres. and Old Yonge St. The

position involves visiting the new neighbours, sharing neighbourhood info and calling me with their names and numbers so we can have them join our YMVA and invite them to the welcome party! The amount of work varies depending on the changes on those streets.

If you are willing to fill the large shoes left by our previous volunteers please contact Debbie Neil at 416-488-7690. Thank you.

NAG (Neighbourhood Activity Group) ACTIVITIES

*Susanne Holland (416) 485-2218
Michelle Hopper (416) 932-9198*

And starting in June, **Erin Nella & Chris Rosenthal** will be taking over as NAG co-chairs! Thank You!

SKATING PARTY

TBA (watch for details on bulletin boards!)

**Brookfield Park or York Mills Arena (if we have warmer conditions)
Call: Leslie (416) 481-4107**



For those of you that like skating, playing hockey or just the cool, w of ice under your “tush”, you are welcome to come out for the annual Neighbourhood Skating Party at Brookfield Park. After all the fun, we’ll stop for pizza and hot chocolate and continue to enjoy the company of friends!

CPR HEART SAVER COURSE

**Tuesday, April 8th
7:00 – 9:00 pm. – 14 Knightswood Road
Cost: \$35 per person
Call: Susanne (416) 485-2218**

Fact: We all have aging parents, grandparents or spouses. Isn’t it a good idea to know how to deal with life and death situations if they arise? NAG will be having a CPR, former Link To Life instructor come in to teach a class to learn more about how to handle a heart attack, stroke, seizure and choking and also certify in CPR.

If you would like to attend this evening, we will need a minimum of 8 people but as many as 20 could come at a cost of \$35 per person.
It could save a life! Please give us a call!

EMPTY NESTER’S TEA

**Date: Sunday April 20th @ 2:00 p.m.
Host: Leanne Lewis in her home – 113 Donwoods Drive
Call: Leanne (416) 485-0959 to RSVP**

Leanne Lewis has graciously offered to host a tea for all of you (gentlemen and ladies) who have lived in the Valley for many years and maybe raised your children here. It will be a lovely way to reconnect with neighbours that you haven’t seen in many years. Please come out and share your memories with each other!

VALLEY GARAGE SALE

**Saturday, April 26th
9:00am. – 12:00 pm.
Call: Chanda (416) 489-4633**

Back again after 2 years, our Valley Garage Sale lets you clean out all that “stuff” that you’ve been keeping in the basement. Out with your old and in with someone else’s old if you so choose! This event always attracts a large crowd. If you are participating, we ask you to register with Chanda. If you are interested in renting tables at cost, just let Chanda know. All welcome.



KID'S SPRING FLING & PICNIC IN THE PARK

Sunday, May 4th (rain date – Sunday, May 11th)

11:00 – 1:00 pm. – in the park!

Call: Albina (416) 488-7248

A great way for you and your kids to get out and enjoy the good weather! Come out and do some fun outdoor games and activities in the park with your children. Maybe there will even be a scavenger hunt! Bring a blanket and a picnic lunch and stay on to enjoy the company of your neighbours in our beautiful park.

NEIGHBOURHOOD AT THE MILLER

Thursday, May 22nd

@ 8:00 pm. @ The Miller Tavern

Cost: \$30 per person (includes 2 beverages & tasting menu)

Payment: Cash or cheque (payable to NAG). Please drop off at Joy's house (53 Donwoods Drive)

Call: Michele (416) 932-9198

Since we had such a spectacular turn out for our Fall Social last year, we all thought another get together at The Miller Tavern was in order! Come dressed casually to enjoy an evening with your neighbours in the Valley. This is a great way to catch up with old friends or make new ones. The Miller Tavern will again be preparing a fabulous tasting menu for the evening. Come join us for an evening in the Neighbourhood!



POSTER PARTY

Date: Sunday, May 25th

Time: 1:00 pm.

At: Ingrid & Ian's – 29 Plymbridge Crescent

This is our main advertising event for our upcoming Valley Fair! So kids, come on out to make the posters that will entice EVERYONE to come to this year's fun-filled Fair!!

VALLEY FAIR!!!!

Saturday, June 7th (details to follow in May Newsletter!)

NAG POT-LUCK LUNCHEON

Tuesday, June 10th

12:00 pm. @ Susanne's house

14 Knightswood Road

Call: Karen (416) 484-8403

Let's get together one last time before the summer takes us in all different directions and places! Bring a favourite dish for all to share and spend an afternoon in the backyard with friends. **Everyone** welcome! You too Dom!!

SPECIAL THANKS

What a wonderful group of activities that we were fortunate to have this past fall! A special thanks to everyone who helped out by donating their time and opened their homes to host these extraordinary events!

To Michelle Mondville & Bruce Shaw, we thank you for having us to your beautiful backyard for our New Neighbour Welcome Party. What a lovely evening it was! And to Chanda for organizing!

Our Fall Social at The Miller was a huge success thanks to Louise and your committee for putting things together for us. One of our most successful Socials yet!

Thanks to you Vicky for getting our kids once again helping out in the KIDS GET INVOLVED program at the North York Food Bank.

To Lynn Richardson & Greg Mills for opening your beautiful home for this year's Cookie Exchange, thank you! Incredible treats came out of there!!

To Ingrid Mida, thank you for hosting a wonderful NAG Holiday pot-luck luncheon.

And to Chanda & Jill, thank you for arranging everything for the Caroling in the Park evening and of course to Kelly Alkier and her "group of elves", a thank you to you all for a wonderful Holiday Kid's Crafts Day!

Valley Initiative for Solar Energy:

*By: Mindy Granz
mindyganz@gmail.com*

WISE, the Valley Initiative for Solar Energy is a group that was established in the Valley aimed at bulk buying solar systems for Valley residents. We had a

Solar Information Meeting in November, and now I am in the process of creating a Request For Proposal (RFP) that will be submitted to various solar vendors. The RFP will include a request for the pricing of solar systems to provide electricity, as well as solar thermal systems, and solar pool systems.

Meanwhile the VISE contact list continues to grow, and now includes homeowners in neighbourhoods outside, but close to, the geographic confines of the Valley. The more people who actually want to have systems installed the better – both for the environment, and possibly for the price of the systems. If you would like to be kept informed on the progress of VISE, or know anybody else who likes to be added to the distribution list please let me know at mindyganz@gmail.com

YMVA Notice Board

Leanne Lewis (416-485-0959)

As many of you have no doubt noticed, the YMVA notice board at Donino and Mill has pretty much bit the dust. A victim of age, a car accident and vandalism, the old sign will be removed. A new notice board is being considered. Mark Hartley Landscape Architect (who has designed many gardens in The Valley) is donating time to the YMVA and is currently working with the Environment and Beautification Committee to develop a modest landscape plan for the area around the commemorative school wall. The plan will include options for a new sign that will harmonize with the space. The board will be considering the sign replacement issue at its March meeting. We will keep you posted!

Children's Used Book Drive

Louise Sugar
lsugar@sympatico.ca

The soon-to-open Regent Park Children's Book Bank needs your help! We are looking for gently-used children's books to give to children of less fortunate families, in Regent Park. The new Children's Book Bank will be located at the corner of Gerrard and Berkely and will be open to children from ages 1 to 8 years of age. We will pick the books up at your house! To donate gently-used books please call LOUISE SUGAR (416)788-5922. Thank you for your support

History and Archiving

Leanne Lewis
leannelewis@rogers.com

This year the YMVA will be making a concerted effort to gather and organize documents and information related to The Valley and The YMVA. Do you have old Valley Newsletters or other paperwork or memorabilia that you would like to share? Do you have some stories that you would like recorded and archived? If so, please call or email Leanne at 416-485-0959 or leannelewis@rogers.com



2008 YMVA Contact Information

2008 YMVA Executive

Leanne Lewis	President/ Traffic, Roads and Storm Water Management	416-485-0959 leannelewis@rogers.com
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Stanley Spencer	Treasurer	416-487-7001 stan_spencer@mintzca.com
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Louise Sugar	Traffic/Storm Water Management	416-483-6614 lsugar@sympatico.ca
Linne Dobbin	Member at Large	416-487-8553 tdobbin@sympatico.ca

2007 NAG

Susanne Holland	Co-Chair	416-485-2218
Michelle Hopper	Co-Chair	416-932-9198
Chris Rosenthal	NAG Liaison/Posters	416-482-6666
Debbie Neil	Chair, Welcome Committee	416-488-7690
Michelle Hopper	Treasurer	416-932-9198

Web Maintenance

Steve Neil	Web Master	416-488-7690
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