

The Villager



The Voice of the Highland Creek Community Since 1976

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The Villager XLV No. IV

Spring in Highland Creek EDITION

April 2021

Signs of Spring In The Creek



Altree Developments Submit Final Condo Proposal for Review

By Annoj Thavalingam

On February 17, 2021, Altree Developments submitted their final development proposal to City Planning, aiming to build two 8-storey condos at Military Trail and Old Kingston. Covering 3 acres of land bordering the Highland Creek Ravine, the condos would house 550 units, over half of which will be bachelor and single-bedroom units. Land would be excavated three floors below to accommodate 515 parking spaces.

While this development may appear to be an opportunity to stimulate an emaciated Village core, there is some cause for concern. The Highland Creek Secondary Plan, a document drafted by the City to guide future development in our community, does not allow for residences exceeding 6 storeys anywhere in the neighbourhood. The Highland Creek Village consists of a small number of single-lane roads that would not support traffic brought on by heavy development.

Altree however is seeking an exemption to the Zoning by-law, to build two stories greater than the prescribed limit of six, as well as to exceed mandated density limits. In such instances, the City expects that additional community benefits (child care, park improvements, streetscaping, etc.) are provided by Altree through Section 37 of the Planning Act, to allow for rezoning of the property.

Altree and the City are currently negotiating the details of such a deal, after which the Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA) is expected to send the Scarborough Community Council a letter declaring their position on this development proposal. The final report, consisting of Altree's proposal and feedback from community organizations and local residents, would be assessed by the Scarborough Community Council in June at the earliest.

For a better understanding of how this proposal may impact Highland Creek, The Villager reached out to Mr. Robert Brown, a private consultant in municipal planning. With experience adjudicating on over 5000 cases, Brown made it plain that the Altree proposal **"doesn't meet the intent and purpose of the [Highland Creek] Secondary Plan."**

Drawing attention to the ravine's top of bank that the condos would front, Brown points out that the southern portion of the property would not comply with the 10-metre buffer requirement. Building too close to the ravine's edge may potentially destabilize the bank and harm neighbouring ecosystems. He hopes to engage City planners and other officials to ensure that community members' concerns may be resolved before Altree's proposal is set in stone.

The HCCA had released an online survey last summer for local residents to vote and comment on their approval of the development's expansion from six to eight storeys. An overwhelming 91% of respondents felt that 8-storey condos were too high for the community, with 88% also concerned for unmanageable congestion in the area. These concerns are not eased with a final proposal from Altree pressing for two 8-storey condos.

Over the next few weeks, the condo proposal is open for

feedback from residents who wish to voice any comments or concerns. These are to be directed to the City Planner overseeing this proposal, Mr. Christian Ventresca, at Christian.Ventresca@toronto.ca. You may also copy your comments to Councillor Jennifer McKelvie at Jennifer.McKelvie@toronto.ca.

When the Scarborough Community Council deliberates on the Altree proposal, we want to be certain that each resident has had the opportunity to make their voice heard.

METROLINX UPDATE & LETTERS FROM RESIDENTS Pg. 4-5

Local Students Distribute Blankets for Homeless Pg. 6

Erosion in Highland Creek Pg. 7

Highland Creek Post Office Closed Pg. 8

Highland Creek Public School Science Award Recipient—20 years later Pg. 10

Earth Activities Pg. 12-13

Highland Creek Transportation Master Plan Pg. 14

Join The HCCA Pg. 24

Highland Creek Community Association

www.myhighlandcreek.org

Editor's Note



Dear Readers,

With spring arrives another issue of The Villager. Our focus for this edition is Earth Day, as we give our thanks to Mother Nature and adopt habits that safeguard our environment. Visit the centrespread to partake in Earth Day cheer and learn how to better connect with nature.

On a more solemn note, COVID-19 continues to undermine our collective well-being, both physically and emotionally. With each lockdown, we are increasingly worn out and craving a return to some form of normalcy. Though the future is uncertain, we can be sure that the pandemic will eventually come to an end. We can only bring that day closer by following through with safety precautions and getting vaccinated when the opportunity arises. Stay safe and well over the weeks ahead.

The Villager will release three more issues over the remainder of 2021. During downtime between publications, you're welcome to keep yourself informed of local news through the HCCA website www.myhighlandcreek.org

Any questions, comments, concerns or grievances may be addressed to highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com.

Best regards,

Annoj Thavalingam
Editor, *The Villager*

In June 1976, the first issue of The Villager, a community newsletter, was born under the auspices of the East Highland Creek Community Association and soon thereafter the West Highland Creek Community Association joined in as co-publisher. The Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA) carries the torch.

The Villager serves as a medium for listing community events and activities, providing information to and from residents of Highland Creek as well as updates on matters affecting the well-being of our beautiful community

The Villager is published 5 times per year by the Highland Creek Community Association volunteers. Our newspaper is available free of charge. 5,200 newspapers are distributed to Highland Creek households and businesses.

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Email the Editor of The Villager, Annoj Thavalingam highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com

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Contact Elma Todkill 416.284.2013 or highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com

Purchase by edition or yearly, 5 editions. Payment may be made in cash, cheque or email transfer. *We accept advertisement in PDF, PNG, GIF, TIF, EPS, JPG formats with around 200 dpi resolution.

www.myhighlandcreek.org/the-villager.html

Thank You for Your Contribution to Local News

Thank you Highland Creek community for your invaluable submissions. Your stories, poetry, events, community reports and news are of continued interest to our readers. Special Thank you to Vienna Bombardieri, David Adamson, Doug Phillips, MP Gary Anandasangaree, MPP Vijay Thanigasalam, Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, TDCSB Trustee Garry Tanuan, and TDSB Trustee Dr. Anu Sriskandarajah, Lydia Lampers-Wallner, May Halabi and HCPS student contributors, Debbie Mauder, Joy Loewen, Brian Blakeley, David Atlas. Dr. Karm Hans and Dolf DeJong.

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Please Note: Although every effort is made to review the content of each and every article prior to publication, The Board of Directors want it be known that comments published are that of the authors and do not necessarily represent that of the Highland Creek Community Association.

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<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline for Submission</u>
Summer	May 28th
Fall	August 15th

President's Report

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Message of Thanks

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the many well wishes received concerning my son, Shaune. His condition has improved significantly and he is on the road to recovery. Your thoughts and prayers were most helpful.

COVID-19

Spring has finally arrived and we are beginning to enjoy warmer weather. Unfortunately due to the increase in COVID-19 cases along with additional variants, the Provincial Government has instituted a shutdown as of April 1, 2021 for a period of 28 days. We are now in the 3rd wave of the pandemic.

I trust most have taken advantage of registering for and receiving your vaccine shot. My wife Barbara and I arranged to get ours on March 26, 2021 at the Centenary Hospital. The process was well organized from beginning to end. The staff and physicians were most helpful and when the injection was applied, it was over and done before I knew it; I did not feel anything, with very little symptoms afterwards. As well, we were given a parking pass so there was no cost for parking. The only negative comments I heard from others getting their vaccinations was having to wait four months for the second follow-up shot.

In the meantime, we must continue to follow safe-distancing practices and wear masks/face coverings as required. Hopefully if we all cooperate together, we will be able to return to normal practices. Take care and stay safe, healthy and active.

Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA)

On March 17, 2021, we held a virtual discussion with MP Gary Anandasangaree. A following virtual discussion was held with Councillor Jennifer McKelvie on March 24, 2021. Updates were provided by each and responses to questions provided.

Of particular interest is the closing of the Post Office in Highland Creek as of the end of March 2021. Through Gary's office, enquiries are being conducted to see if the post office can be retained within the Village area.

Regarding development plans within the Village, the application by Atree Developments will be reviewed by City Council in June 2021. Recommendations will then be reviewed and will allow the HCCA to provide their input and comments.

Liaison continues with MPP Vijay Thanigasalam pertaining to the BRT/Metrolinx, and arrangements were made through Jennifer's office for the committee to have an updated virtual discussion with City Planners

Conclusion

I can't thank the board and committee members of the HCCA enough for their support, hard work and commitment in dealing with local issues of concern. Volunteers all, putting in many hours whether it is liaising with our local elected officials, writing reports for the Villager, the team that puts the Villager together, those who deliver the newsletter and those who keep the Wesleyan Cemetery in pristine condition.

Visit the HCCA website for more community information and while you are there sign up to our mailing list at www.myhighlandcreek.org.

Join the HCCA: In this issue you will find an HCCA Membership form, complete and mail in or sign up on our website. Your membership fee supports your community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Committee Members of the HCCA, we wish you all well. Should you wish to contact me on any items in this report I can be reached at email: dw.adamson@rogers.com or telephone at 416 281 7758

Thank you & God Bless

David Adamson,
President
Highland Creek Community Association

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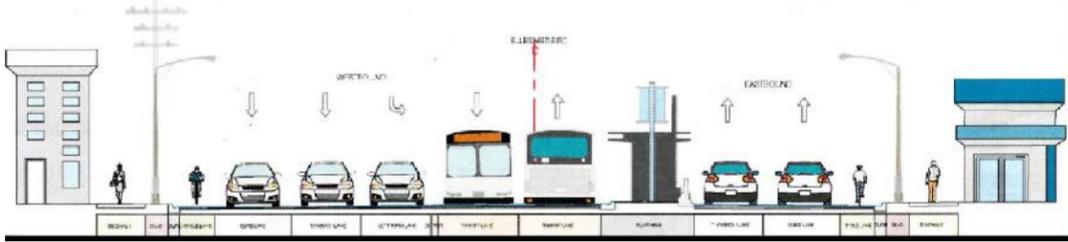
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Technically Preferred Option: Centre-median (6 Lanes)

Widen to add two dedicated transit lanes and maintain current number of general traffic lanes.



Metrolinx’s preferred route is along Ellesmere Road, from Meadowvale to Conlins Road – as per Notice of Public Information Centre #3



HCCA DSBRT Committee Update on Metrolinx plans for Highland Creek Report by Doug Phillips, DSBRT Committee, HCCA

March 29, 2021 update from our MPP’s Office, Vijay Thanigasalam, on the Metrolinx Durham/ Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Plan:

1) Current State: We (Metrolinx) are working with the City of Toronto and TTC to finalize the preliminary design along Ellesmere Road.

2) Next Steps: TPAP (Transit Project Assessment Process) commencement scheduled to take place before the summer.

3) Studies: We (Metrolinx) are still finalizing environmental studies in advance of TPAP (Transit Project Assessment Process) and refining the preliminary design.

4) Sharing Feedback: From the public, in Toronto, recently, we (Metrolinx) have heard concerns from a couple of businesses in Scarborough Guildwood on impact to truck operations and driving access. We are meeting with these business owners again, individually, to address their concerns.

5) Any other relevant information of importance including key dates: No key dates for now. Construction would not start for several years and before we get there we will be setting up more focused community engagement on detailed design and construction mitigation (2022).

Further, while speaking with Metrolinx, I (MPP’s Office

Representative) was advised again on why Sheppard Avenue was not chosen as a corridor for this project:

As part of the work to create the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan, Metrolinx looked at a wide range of corridors and technologies. In this area, the analysis selected a combination of routes that includes BRT along Ellesmere and Highway 2, and rapid transit along Sheppard Avenue, the Eglinton East corridor, and other corridors to improve connections across the region.

Sheppard Avenue was not selected for this project as it does not connect to several of the major destinations along the corridor, nor does it provide a direct connection between these destinations in Durham Region and Scarborough Centre. This decision was reconfirmed in the 2018 Initial Business Case, which found a good cost-benefit ratio for the proposed project.

In addition, having the BRT detour from Sheppard Avenue onto Morningside Road to **connect to Centennial College and UTSC** would make the transit trip longer and less attractive. As a result, more people would be driving instead of taking transit, thus creating further congestion in the area.

Lastly, I (MPP’s Office Representative) was told that residents are always free to contact the project team via dsbrt@metrolinx.com or through the website. Feed-

back and comments that Metrolinx receives from the public through these channels is **considered a part of the public record** so it’s important that you encourage residents to visit the DSBRT website and to send comments and concerns directly to them too.

Stay up to date by:
• **Signing up for the project mailing list:** dsbrt@metrolinx.com

• **Visiting the project website:** www.metrolinxengage.com/dsbrt

Information collected will be used in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

MPP Thanigasalam will certainly continue to inform residents in Scarborough – Rouge Park when we receive any updates on this project, as well as continue to voice residents’ concerns on this project with both Metrolinx and the Ministry of Transportation too.

The following information has been provided by Councillor McKelvie’s Office:

Toronto City Council on November 25 and 26, 2020, adopted the following:

1. City Council to direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and the Executive Director, Transit Expansion Office to work with Metrolinx on the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit project to **identify and evaluate design alternatives that would minimize and mitigate impacts to the neighbourhood areas on Ellesmere Road between Military Trail and Kingston Road.**

2. City Council to direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and the Executive Director, Transit Expansion Office to report back with the final recommended design for the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit project prior to the completion of Transit Project Assessment Process.

Notice of Public Information Centre #4
Metrolinx plans to provide an update in the spring/summer of 2021.

Destructive changes which negatively impact our community are not welcome; we're a residential community. The DSBRT proposal would not benefit our community, it only increases pollution both noise and air, results in disruption and traffic chaos, and unwelcome land expropriation of people's property. Currently people are not constrained from back and forth travel across Ellesmere (library), which would not be the case if DSBRT is allowed to create a barrier.

We're expecting our elected representatives to look after the best interests and wishes of the Highland Creek community as a whole, not specifically the U of T.

Jim Alousis,
Glenthorne Ave.



**The Villager thanks you for your
Letters to the Editor, please continue!
— With permission we share a
few of these letters
specific to the DSBRT
Proposed through Highland Creek.**

Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (DSBRT) – What's in it for us?

As a lifelong Scarborough resident and 25-year resident of Highland Creek, please allow me to preface my comments to follow. I have no particular bent for, or against, public transit. The extent of my use of public transit is currently limited to taking the GO train to work downtown (sans COVID) and I do not expect that to change in the foreseeable future. Additionally, I recognize that the various levels of government have dithered for over 30 years on meaningful transit solutions in the Scarborough area.

Through previous editions of The Villager, I expect that most of you are already aware of the main impacts to our community based on Metrolinx's technically preferred solution for the DSBRT, namely:

- Ellesmere Road widened to accommodate bus lanes in the center of the roadway, separated from other vehicular traffic by raised curbs
- No left turns anywhere on Ellesmere (between Kingston Road and Military Trail) except at signalized intersections (Meadowvale, Morrish, Conlins roads)
- Increased DSBRT bus traffic – every 2-5 minutes, depending on the time of day

From the resident's perspective, the DSBRT will destroy the Highland Creek community, as Metrolinx is effectively proposing a wall be built down Ellesmere Road. Having attended 2 information sessions at UTSC in late 2019 and a virtual meeting in June 2020, I can glean extraordinarily little benefit, if any, to this community – certainly no benefits sufficient enough to offset the lasting negative impacts.

As proposed, there are only 3 stops in our area benefitting few, and therefore it would seem most transit riders will still be reliant on the TTC service. Additionally, Metrolinx has stated the existing TTC service will be reduced with the DSBRT implementation, thereby negatively impacting those people who currently use transit. It would seem unlikely that users will walk the increased distance, especially in extreme weather, to the closest DSBRT stop. For example, transit riders today that board TTC bus-

es in the Muirbank/Ellesmere area would have to walk to Meadowvale to board the DSBRT. Or first board the TTC and then transfer at Meadowvale.

The widening of Ellesmere to 6 lanes (and 4 lanes east of Meadowvale) – with additional space needed for stations and cycling lanes – is unacceptable. This stretch of Ellesmere is effectively a 100% single-family residential neighbourhood. The resulting traffic on side streets and U-turns as residents try to navigate around the dedicated lanes will further negatively impact this community. The infrastructure that must be moved to accommodate the widening – hydro, fire hydrants, traffic signals, sewers, catch-basins and curbs, not to mention the cutting down of hundreds of mature trees, is completely inappropriate and a waste of taxpayers' money.

An alignment to Sheppard Avenue would seem more appropriate:

- The existing Port Union/Sheppard stretch of road is wider
- Metrolinx's contention that workers going from Durham to Scarborough would use this service would be better served as those jobs are more likely in the northern end of Scarborough (light industrial north of Sheppard, e.g. Amazon) and would be closer to their job location
- The service would intersect with the proposed future EELRT along Morningside Road
- The western terminus of the DSBRT would meet the northern terminus of the future Scarborough Subway extension
- The western terminus would also meet up with a future extension of the Sheppard Subway or LRT, if undertaken
- This would avoid the already highly congested Scarborough Town Centre (STC) area at McCowan, Ellesmere, Progress and Grangeway
- It would also better serve the Malvern community, which has been significantly underserved by transit for many years

As Metrolinx has previously stated, the primary reason that this service is being aligned to Ellesmere is to service the University of Toronto, Scarborough cam-

pus. While the UTSC is part of the Highland Creek community, it is NOT the entire community. The multiple and material negative impacts on this community, if the technically preferred solution is built on Ellesmere, does not justify what benefit might be gleaned by the University.

Moreover, to the west of the Highland Creek community, one must question the amount of benefit users of the service between Morningside and STC will achieve. While the DSBRT may be in dedicated lanes, the proposed stops are all stops currently serviced by the TTC, except two:

- Mornelle Court – a short walk to Morningside Avenue
- Scarborough Golf Club Road – strange, as this is a signalized intersection

How does this make any sense? How much time will those residents actually save on their commute?

Perhaps what is most telling to me, is Metrolinx's response to my comment during the June 2020 meeting:

Comment: "The technically preferred option is the best option for transit, but it lacks a balance for residents that live on Ellesmere Road and have driveways fronting the street."

Response: "The technically preferred option was selected because it provides the highest degree of priority for transit while maintaining existing traffic capacity. As part of this project, active transportation facilities will be added or upgraded to accommodate all road users."

Little, if any, thought or consideration has been given to impacts on the residents in Highland Creek and broader Scarborough communities. An alternative curbside bus lane approach might cost riders 1 or 2 minutes through the Highland Creek stretch of Ellesmere, at least that would work to mitigate the impact on residents.

At the end of the day, if this is a project that must be built – wherever that might be – then it must be done in such a way to strike a balance between those that will ride it and those that will have to live with it.

David Atlas,
Milroy Cres.

Students Deliver Blankets and Hope

By Annoj Thavalingam



Left to right: Nimit Vediya, Naman Sharma, MP Shaun Chen and Rushil Dave holding care packages.

Blankets for T.O. donating 300 Level 3 Masks to Warden Woods 24-Hour Respite Site.

Blankets for T.O. providing thermal blankets to homeless individuals across Toronto.

The idea first took root during a Grade 11 field trip to downtown Toronto. In passing, three friends noticed a man huddled in a bus shelter, with torn pants, in the dead of winter. A news story followed the next day, of a man who died in a bus shelter from exposure to the elements. While the students never learnt if it was the same man, the event came to shape their passion to support the homeless.

Two years later, Naman Sharma, Rushil Dave and Nimit Vediya, formed the initiative Blankets for T.O., under the auspices of the UTSC. The student activists had two goals in mind: directly providing dispossessed individuals with necessities, and drawing attention to the homelessness crisis through public outreach. To this end, they have walked the frigid streets of downtown Toronto distributing blankets, hand sanitizers and donuts.

“We know that we can’t solve homelessness by giving out blankets” Nimit points out. “But if we start from something small and build up, then we could fight issues like housing, unemployment and food insecurity.”

The best type of blankets were initially a challenge to identify, a selection process spanning some six months. Starting from wool blankets, which were heavy and easy to soak in rain, the Blankets for T.O. team eventually settled for thermal blankets, which are also used in emergencies by the military. These blankets are easily folded, waterproof, highly insulant and reflective, thus easy to spot in low visibility circumstances.

Apart from outdoor excursions to help the displaced, Blankets for T.O. also engages the public through Motivation Mondays on Instagram, where they feature notable contributions supporting the needy. A kind soul from as far as Windsor responded to their posts, donating 100 blankets to Blankets for T.O.

More recently the group started collaborating with the Warden Woods Community 24-hour Respite Site, located in the heart of

Scarborough. Thanks to the support of Ontario Medical Supply Inc., Blankets for T.O. was able to supply the respite centre with 500 Level 3 masks. Their plans now include expanding their network of shelters, from downtown Toronto to Ajax.

Focusing heavily on outreach now, Blankets for T.O. wants to raise awareness of the urgency of the homelessness crisis in the GTA. Naman, a resident of Highland Creek, hopes to see the efforts of student volunteers resonate with the general public, inspiring others to take action with their lead. There are many ways to lend a hand and support individuals struggling with homelessness:

- Start constructive discussions around homelessness with family and friends
- Share social media posts from Blankets for T.O. with your network
- Email your elected representatives, asking them what the government is doing to help the dispossessed, and of laws, policies and programs in place to support this population
- Donate to Blankets for T.O. and other local homelessness services organizations

To learn more about Blankets for T.O., visit their website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

<https://blanketsforto.ca/>

Facebook: Blankets for T.O. - UTSC Twitter/IG: @blanketsforto

Call for Food Donations continues HCCA arranges 45,000 lbs. delivery

During the weeks leading up to Easter, the Daily Bread Food Bank was in desperate need of food donations, asking folks to *please donate*.

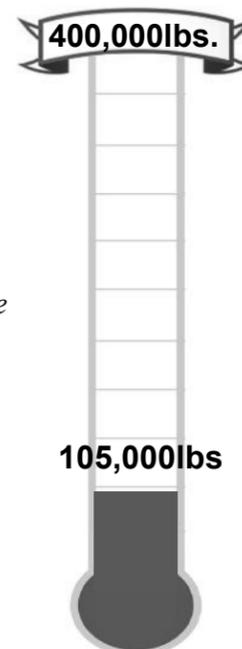
On Saturday, April 3rd, Mayor John Tory attended the Spring drive-thru food drive at the Daily Bread headquarters alongside staff distributing Easter treats, encouraging people to donate.

Bill Yarn, Brian Blakeley with the HCCA arranged 45000 lbs. food donation to the Daily Bread Food Bank Terminal on March 24th, 2021. With special Thanks to Ital Pasta, Mike Marchese, Mainliner Freightways and MPP Vijay Thanigasalam.

“Incredible donation! This is such a timely gift and desperately needed for our clients, We are extremely grateful.” - Andrew Manson, Corporate Partnerships, Daily Bread Food Bank

The March 24th delivery brings the total lbs. of food donation to date to 105,000 lbs. The HCCA is dedicated to helping people in need of food with continued efforts to bring the food donations total up to 400,000 lbs. in 2021.

Highland Creek Community Association Cares! #HCCACares



Highland Creek Branch

1. Check out or contact your local branch!

Grab & go bags have labels hinting at what's inside. You'll see drama, crime, dystopia, magic, space, humour, book to film, crafts for kids... all sorts of topics! Each bag indicates how many items are inside.

2. Tell staff which bag you're interested in.

Staff will get the grab & go bag for you.

3. Sign out the bag with your library card.

Place the entire bag on the checkout station. You don't need to open it and check out items individually!

4. Take your bag home and enjoy!

Please take the bag of items away from the checkout before opening it. If there are any items in the bag you're not interested in – maybe a book you've already read – you can return them in the outside book drop.

ENJOY!

Slope Sliding Away – Erosion in Highland Creek



Report by Brian Blakeley,
Director of Environment and Heritage, HCCA

It is raining more lately and as the ground gets ready for spring, we will likely see some things changing in our community.

Hopefully, nothing as dramatic as we have seen on occasion in the past. I am sure many of us remember the old University of Toronto tennis courts which were washed away on August 19th, 2005.

The sudden power of that summer storm caused much damage and change in the Highland Creek ravine. Over the following years, the City ended up replacing and rebuilding bridges and pathways throughout the ravine.

Some of the pathways were then washed away once again (a bit of Edmund Spencer here I think) and are still in need of repair. We have heard that several millions of City dollars will be spent in the coming years to repair and replace these pathways once again.

***One day I wrote her name upon the strand,
But came the waves and washed it away:
Again I wrote it with a second hand,
But came the tide, and made my pains his prey.***

Edmund Spenser (1552–1599)

Why does this happen so regularly here in Highland Creek?

Dig a hole in your garden and in short order you will likely hit sand. Add water from the sides of the hole and you will quickly get erosion of the sand into the ever-widening hole. These are the same principles that are at work in our beloved ravine. The water comes from annual spring runoffs, rain and maybe even leaking pipes.

The ravine cuts through sand brought to the area by glaciers. Had we lived a few years back in time (say 13,000, according to Wikipedia), we would be near the shores of, or in, Lake Iroquois. All of this sand and water makes the Highland Creek ravine very unstable and dynamic.

The weather and erosion work together to move the creek around in its ever-changing ravine. Anything that we do that makes the slopes of the ravine less erosion-resistant increases the risks of change in the ravine.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has a detailed plan to help the Highland Creek Watershed and this plan includes actions to address erosion.

(<https://trca.ca/conservation/watershed-management/highland-creek/>)

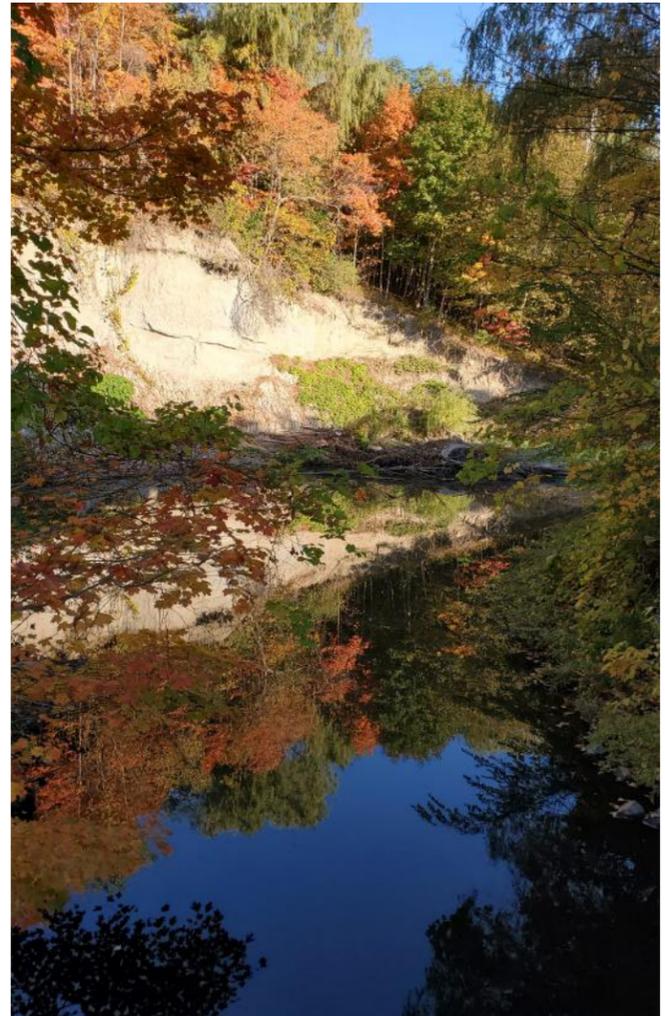
The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) recently adopted the Highland Creek Watershed Greening Strategy partnership with the City of Toronto.

As the September 25, 2020 motion by TRCA Directors Shelley Carroll and Paul Ainslie noted:

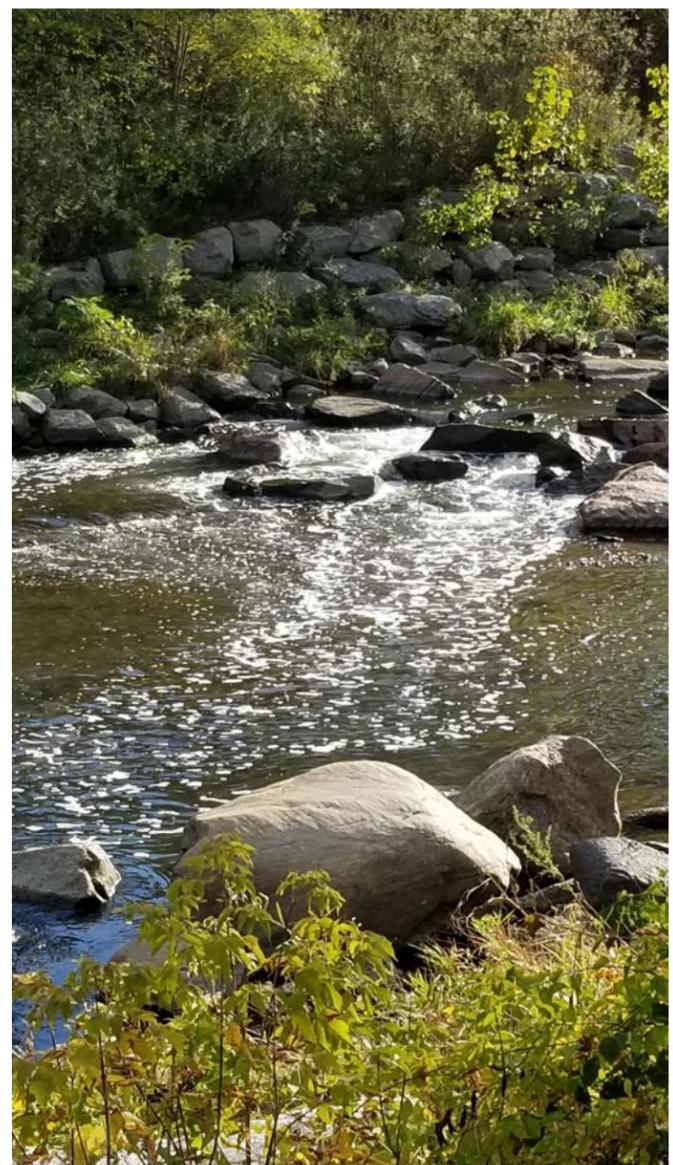
- the Highland Creek watershed has experienced major riverine erosion issues due to urbanization and lack of stormwater management
- the City of Toronto must manage impacts to municipal infrastructure, such as sanitary sewers, from ongoing creek erosion
- the City of Toronto has developed a Wet Weather Flow Management Plan (WWFMP) and a Highland Creek Geomorphic Systems Master Implementation Plan (HCGSMIP) to manage ongoing erosion through large-scale creek restoration works, sometimes requiring impacts to natural areas

These comprehensive plans will hopefully help to protect and develop a more stable Highland Creek ravine for us all to enjoy and pass on, in a better state, to our children.

Together, we must ensure that our actions, in our backyards and in our community, build a better Highland Creek.



Above: The Highland Creek Ravine
Below: The Highland Creek
Photo credit: Marianthi Ioannou



OUR HIGHLAND CREEK POST OFFICE OFFICIALLY CLOSED

***THE HIGHLAND CREEK PHARMACY REMAINS OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

By Elma Todkill
HCCA Executive Board

As of March 31, the postal outlet in the Highland Creek Pharmacy has closed. Canada Post has done a review and determined that the market could serve area customers well without this partner, and so the contract was not renewed. The red mailbox has been moved to Morrish Road south of Old Kingston Road on the southeast corner.

Postal Box customers will be moved to the Ravine Park Plaza Post Office at Lawson and Port Union, inside the Shoppers Drug Mart. No change of address would be required, and Canada Post is focused on ensuring that the new location will have more convenient hours and provide a positive customer experience. Alternate locations are in Shoppers Drug Marts at:

**Abbey Lane Plaza, 91 Rylander Blvd.
Morningside Crossing, 255 Morningside Ave.**

The Highland Creek Community Association has spoken with our MP Gary Anandasangaree, and his office has contacted Canada Post to see if the post office may be restored in any capacity. Since the facility has already closed, it is unlikely there will be any change.

History of the Post Office in Highland Creek*

In July 1852, a post office was granted to William Chamberlain and the name Highland Creek became officially recognized as an alternative to the all-encompassing Scarborough name. In fact, Highland Creek was so prosperous that it was divided in 1879 with the west side of the valley becoming "West Hill" and the east side remaining "Highland Creek".



Photo:
Last days of the post office in Highland Creek Village.

While the settlement of the community can be traced back 200 years, 2002 marked the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Village post office, and thus "official" recognition of Highland Creek as a distinct community. The post office started by Chamberlain in 1852, moved about for more than a century, housed in Helliwell's Hotel, Tredway's and Knowles' general store, W.D. Morrish's store and finally in the drug store in the Highland Creek Village.

*(*History of Highland Creek Post provided by Clancy Delbarre, a former President of the Highland Creek Community Association)*

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Spirit Week at Highland Creek Public School

If there's one thing we have learned over the past year, it has been to expect the unexpected and learn to go with the flow. For the first time in recent memory, March Break has been moved to April. Can we officially call it "Spring Break" now? Usually the March Break would have started the week of March 15th; however, the one week break was moved to the week of April, 12th, 2021 to help control the spread of Covid-19. While it certainly is easy to focus on the negative, it's much more productive to be creative, which is exactly what Highland Creek Public School did!

Our school decided to bring some of that March Break spirit to the school week of what would have been the March Break 2021. The staff came up with the amazing idea to have Spirit Week! Every morning we walked to class listening to music over the PA system chosen by students from different classes, and I can honestly say the students of Highland Creek Public School love a variety of genres of music.

As for the Spirit Week programming, each day had something different: Monday was a Kaleidoscope Themed Day where everyone wore bright colours and interesting tie dye. We went on a community walk with our individual classes, proving how much fun it can be to just go for a walk and find many new things that perhaps you pass by when you are in a rush to get to school or work. On Tuesday, we had a scavenger hunt around the school, which was really interesting because there were three levels of difficulty for different grades. On Wednesday, it was Green Day and Art Extravaganza! Classes had the choice of painting with herbal tea bags, making our own

bouncy balls (which was harder than it sounds!), and fizzy paintings with vinegar and food colouring. On Thursday, each class watched a movie of their own choice and ate snacks, which was fun just to slow down and hangout. On Friday, we had the Quebec inspired Carnival Day except without the snow! There were various stations, and each class had their own equipment in a bag with sanitizer which was really awesome because we didn't have to worry, we just had to have fun. There was a sports equipment station, chalk art, trivia, four squares, and a dance party! The grade 7/8 class can be really shy but even we got into it, especially since we were asked if we had any song requests, which we definitely did!

Thank you to Principal Halabi and the teachers for taking the time to plan and prepare a fun week for everyone, it really meant a lot to the students of Highland Creek!

~By: M.I

I couldn't have said it better! Our grade 7/8 reporters have outdone themselves in highlighting Spirit Week at Highland Creek! We are so proud of our students for all that they are doing and for how well they are adapting to all our safety measures and new ways of engaging in activities in the building and out in the school yard.

Our Holiday assembly, although feels far back, was a wonderful virtual presentation. The class performances were lovely and heartwarming. Our students with the direction from our dedicated staff, prepared well-decorated scenes for the different parts of the show and included a variety of genres to entertain all viewers. We were happy to see our in-school and virtual families celebrate this event together.

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- Naturopathy

After our Winter break, we thank our staff and families for seamlessly pivoting to learning remotely. It takes a team effort! In February, we enjoyed an Anti-Bullying presentation together online that also included some cool magic tricks. March events have been beautifully captured by our grade 7/8 reporter. You can feel the excitement of all!

Our School Council meetings this year are running virtually, and we welcome all our families to join our meetings.

We welcome spring and the warm weather it brings. We hope it offers a renewed sense of hope and brighter days ahead.

~May Halabi, Principal

Volunteer + Bonus Hour of Exercise!

The Villager is in search of volunteer distributors for this issue of the paper. If you are interested in helping spread community news to your neighbours, please contact Mr. Blair Anderson at longsam1943@sympatico.ca



From Grade 8 Science Award to NASA Engineer — Dr Adrian Tang

“I have always contended that receiving the Science Award when he graduated from Highland Creek Public School was a turning point encouraging him to reach higher and higher. “ ~ Frankie Tang

Dr. Adrian Tang is an accomplished engineer who grew up in the Highland Creek community. After graduating from Highland Creek Public School and R.H. King Academy, Adrian went on to do a Masters at Ryerson and shortly afterwards was invited to do his PhD at UCLA. He has now been working at JPL/Nasa in Pasadena for about 10 years. The Science award he first earned at his Grade 8 graduation was only the beginning of what would come to be a prestigious and impactful career. The following is an account of Dr. Tang’s most recent accomplishment, reproduced from UCLA’s electrical engineering website.



Dr. Adrian Tang

Dr. Adrian Tang recognized as 2021 “Outstanding Young Engineer” by IEEE MTT-S

As recognition for his outstanding achievements as a young member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineer’s Microwave Theory and Techniques Society, Dr. Adrian Tang of UCLA has been chosen as a 2021 recipient of the Society’s Outstanding Young Engineer Award. In contrast to the Society’s other accolades, the Outstanding Young Engineer Award is distinct for its recognition of the person behind specific achievements, as opposed to the achievements themselves.

Dr. Tang’s revolutionary work surrounding the infusion of complementary metal-oxide-semiconductors (CMOS) in space instrumentation allows for entirely different measurement and visualization techniques of our planet’s atmosphere, more specifically how water and greenhouse gases are able to traverse it. These new instrument design techniques offer researchers a new lens through which to study

the process of climate change, and can even help in updating existing models and trends. One of the planetary science instruments benefiting most from Dr. Tang’s work is the Planetary Instrument for Submillimeter-wave Surface and Atmospheric Reconnaissance and Research in Orbit (PISSARRO). This instrument allows scientists to observe planetary moon surfaces and even detect water on ancient celestial bodies like asteroids and comets. Dr. Tang’s work allows science instruments like this to operate on a scale and scope magnitudes beyond what was previously possible. With this new data we are able to gain a deeper insight not only into our own planet, but also planets throughout the galaxy that may contain life. These incredible developments were put on full display during a NASA sub-orbital mission in 2019 that Dr. Tang led, named the Reck-Tang Limbsounding Experiment or “ReckTangLE.”



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UTSC / Pan Am Centre Zoom Meeting

By Lydia Lampers-Wallner, UTSC Liaison, HCCA

Andrew Arifuzzaman, Chief Administrative Officer at UTSC, provided an excellent update to the UTSC Community Advisory Group during a Zoom meeting in January 2021. Andrew briefly walked us through some of the progress-to-date, and projected ongoing changes over the next 25 to 50 years, referring to the UTSC Campus Master Plan 2011. The overarching goal of the Master Plan is to develop sustainable and environmental methods addressing climate issues, and to improve transportation necessary to support the university's projected growth. Town Hall meetings for consultation and information were held with different community organizations.

As a result of the Master Plan the following projects were completed:

- Instructional Centre, 2011**
- Environmental and Chemistry Building, 2016**
- Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre, 2014**

Presently, UTSC is developing a Secondary Plan to continue focusing on growth and development. Andrew also mentioned that the UTSC student population has increased steadily to its current count of 10000, which continues to present challenges to be addressed. Some of the ongoing projects include:

⇒ **Indigenous House (2022)** will bring both Indigenous and non-Indigenous lifelong learners, together

focusing on Indigenous ways of knowing both locally and from across Turtle Island. There will be opportunities for elementary and high school students to visit as well.

⇒ **Student Residence (2023)** will have 750 beds, integrated dining facility, mixed spaces for workshops and an outdoor roof garden and terrace.

⇒ **Scarborough Centre for Literature, Arts, Media and Performance** will be a hub for the arts community of Scarborough.

⇒ **Wooden parking structure** to be built using advanced environmental and sustainable technology. The process will use 40% less carbon.

⇒ **Field House**, an outdoor athletic facility.

Time was provided at the end to raise questions for Andrew Arifuzzaman. David Adamson, President of the Highland Creek Community Association, asked if the new Student Residence would only be available for first year students. The concern for local communities would be where the students would reside during the following years. Andrew responded by noting that campus townhouses will be upgraded to provide on-campus residence for students continuing their studies at UTSC. Hopefully, this will reduce the demand for housing in local communities.

Another concern noted by local councillors, Paul Ainslie and Jennifer McKelvie,

were Metrolinx's plans for changes to our local transportation system. They noted that community members are concerned about the proposed DSBRT and wish to be consulted as changes are proposed.

Paul Ainslie also enquired if outdoor basketball courts were part of the plan. Andrew responded in the negative, while pointing out that grounds are available for playing frisbee, soccer, quidditch, etc on the old tennis courts.

Another member pointed out the need for communications with the university providing employment opportunities for community members.

Andrew then turned the meeting over to members of the **Landscape Master Plan** to provide us with their project update. In brief, their focus is how to integrate the grounds and buildings at UTSC such that it is environmentally-friendly and accessible to all students. For example, consulting with the Toronto Ravine Strategy, efforts are directed at integrating and connecting the ravine with broader biomes and networks. In addition, Indigenous ways of knowing will inform and be incorporated within the Landscape Master Plan.

Hopefully, as Andrew Arifuzzaman mentioned in his introduction, there will be in-person townhall meetings in the future – covid permitting, so that community members can become familiar with the changes and have the opportunity to comment.

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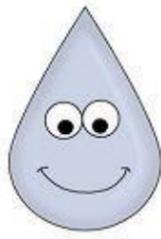
At this time outdoor gatherings are as possible to celebrate Earth! Use these activities at home, or here. Here are some ideas of practical,

I can help the earth by:

- Walking! Good for your health, good for Earth zero emissions
- Cycling! A bicycle is an excellent means of transportation
- Use and reuse items that help reduce single-use plastics, like reusable cups, straws, bags and containers
- Collect one piece of garbage per day: if each of us took advantage of our walk to pick up a piece of garbage on the ground: our streets, beaches, and forests would be much cleaner!
- Consider making your own cleaning products and ditch conventional household products containing chemical components that are dangerous for your health and the environment.
- Grow your own vegetable garden in the back yard garden or apartment balcony. Start growing your own vegetables and herbs and flowers for our friends, the pollinators!

Word Search

B	P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E
P	O	C	L	E	L	O	I	L
R	U	O	R	G	A	N	I	C
O	C	S	P	R	A	L	O	S
V	C	C	O	M	P	O	S	T
I	P	E	L	G	I	V	O	I
D	R	R	L	N	S	R	E	H
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H	T	R	O	R	T	E	A	E
C	R	O	R	A	A	W	I	N
O	H	A	S	G	W	U	R	H

		
Conserve Water	Recycle Paper-cans-plastic	Remember to turn off the lights.
		
Plant a Tree	Use recyclable bins	Use canvas recyclable bags

As a visual reminder post on your refrigerator!
 #Conservationpractice #HCCACares

Get to know your environment

Get to know your neighbourhood streets to the Highland Creek - grab a bag, take way (wear masks & gloves) - Clean up your as pathways, sidewalks, parks, trail system give away what you do not need - opt for mates rather than sit in front of a computer dirt & smell the earth - Educate yourself in our local ecosystem & on environmental daily life & just do it - Make a list of all feel grateful for the abundance She provides - sit under the stars and watch the & name constellations - turn off lights, I

LOCALS VOLUNTEERS CARE FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SHARED SPACES (Earth Day 2019)



and activities are prohibited. But it is still possible to make the most of this slowdown to organize environmental activities alone, or with your family! Get creative, and fun activities for all ages.

E	C	A	S	A
C	C	S	U	E
O	L	L	S	S
L	I	E	T	U
O	M	O	A	O
G	A	E	I	H
Y	T	L	N	N
S	E	C	A	E
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S	A	E	L	G
M	N	R	I	T
D	G	E	T	O
R	E	T	Y	I

- Wind
- Ecology
- Compost
- Provide
- Sustainability
- Reuse
- Greenhouse
- Recycle
- Restore
- Gardening
- Protect
- Pollinators
- Solar
- Organic
- Mulch
- Preserve
- Water
- Earth
- Climate Change

ACTIVITIES

at parks, creeks & trails - Say Hello to your neighbours - take a stroll & pick up garbage along the streets - Re-use rather than buy new - take a walk & talk with your housemate - Turn off the TV or T.V. - Put your hands in the dirt - Learn about native plants and animals with a field walk - Practice some of the green practices you can adopt into your life - Protect our Earth provides & choose to live green - Wake up early to watch sun - Watch the moon move across the sky discover stars - Light candles & talk

Earth Activity Pages put together by Lora Tomasino, Annoj Thavalingam and Elima Todkill

Highland Creek Spring Clean Up Day Cancelled

The HCCA contacted the City before scheduling the annual Highland Creek Community Spring Clean-Up. Due to current lockdown and safe distance practices, the annual Highland Creek Spring Clean-Up is postponed until further notice.

It is traditionally a wonderful day with your neighbours to get outside after a long winter and care for the shared spaces we enjoy and love. The annual event may take place later in the year, so stay tuned.

If you would like to receive notice of community clean-up days, follow **highlandcreekvillager** and **myhighland-creekto** on Instagram, and **highland creek community 2.0** on Facebook.



Although this year we are unable to spend Earth Day with our friends, Highland Creek we can clean our yards together with our housemates, like Mr. Luigi and Big Brother Rocco!

(Pictured L-R: Mr Luigi, unofficial mascot of The Villager with big brother, Rocco)

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Changes to the Highland Creek Transportation Master Plan

Updates from City Planning

By Annoj Thavalingam

On April 19, 2021, executive members of the Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA) virtually met with municipal officials from City Planning and Infrastructure Planning. The meeting, organized by Councillor McKelvie, provided an update of transportation streetscape upgrades envisioned for the Highland Creek Village. Mr. Edward Presta, project manager at Infrastructure Planning, led the meeting.

A number of potential enhancements were presented for the Village, all of which being many years from execution. Some of these changes included:

- New signalized intersections at Military Trail and Hwy 2A, as well as the Lawson Overpass and Hwy 2A
- Blocking off access to Hwy 2A from Morrish Road and from the east side of Kingston Road
- Additional lanes for Military Trail at its southeastern end, to accommodate new real estate development
- Converting angled and perpendicular parking to parallel parking along the north and east ends of the Old Kingston and Morrish Rd intersection.
- Completing sidewalks that end abruptly, and paving new ones where they are lacking
- Provide direct cycling connections to the UTSC and Rouge Hill GO Station

These recommendations are the result of multiple public consultations held by the City during 2014 and 2015. Presta pointed out that the current list of recommendations is largely unchanged from recommendations list prepared in 2015. Due to fiscal limitations, these proposed changes are many years away from implementation.

To overcome this roadblock, Presta emphasized the importance of support from prospective real estate developers to help co-fund transportation and streetscape enhancements. He confided that the rate of development in the Village has not met City expectations over the past two decades, attributing the lag to strict zoning and height restrictions in the Village. It must be noted here that these restrictions also play a role in helping maintain the Village's heritage and distinct character.

Next steps for the recommendations report released by the City include a 30-day public review process sometime between April and June, followed by the transportation plan's finalization during the summer.

The City has made it clear that development is needed in the Village to accelerate streetscape and transportation improvements. Thus, the community will need to walk the fine line of ensuring responsible development, while also preserving the Village's unique character.

Please visit myhighlandcreek.org/the-villager.html for the full transportation report.

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- OUR FIRST EVER WINE FLIGHTS THAT SHOW CASE OUR INTERNATIONALLY
RECOGNIZED WINES!**
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43rd Division Report

By Joy Loewen
Community Police Liaison, HCCA
joyloewen.cplc@gmail.com



The Covid pandemic continues to keep major crimes down in all areas except for motor vehicle theft and theft from a motor vehicle. Recently there were several vehicles on Collins and Gladys Road that were broken into. Any break-ins should be reported on-line at torontopolice.on.ca/core or through the non emergency number 416-808-2222. Please do not leave valuables visible and don't leave your vehicle unlocked or idling unattended without precautions in place.

To get the latest data on all major crimes, visit data.torontopolice.on.ca and click on Data Analytics and Major Crime Indicators. There is a lot of great information on the site that is available to all.

As always, you can reach out to me at the email below with any issues or concerns.

Poetry Corner

A rose bud of beauty appears on the scene scented full of essence
two cellophane wings clinging to the petals of a sweetie floret
life becomes new again as spring resurges with sunlit liquescence
Springtime jewels enhanced by the blaze of a salubrious ray
glitters of the morning placing us among the living once again
acquiescent rebirth, we can finally envision a beautiful day
Baseball fields, cracking bats and whooping laughter glances
children playing in fields of flowers restored, revived, alive
park bench kisses, moonlit walks and balcony romances
Soon the days will seem much longer, as we stroll delightful
wildlife will re-echo her song, and we'll feel powerful ,
once again.

~Mystic Rose



"We're still standing" and as soon as it's permitted to fully open safely, there will be celebrations. Namaste.



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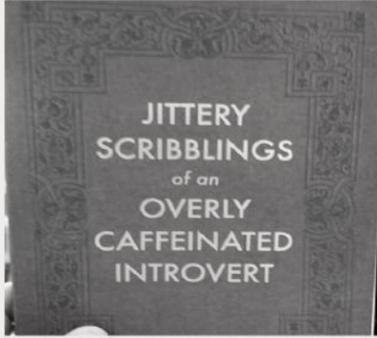
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Mental Health and Well-Being

The Toronto District School Board is committed to providing mental health and well-being support for students, their families and staff. For more information, including helpful resources and coping strategies, please visit the TDSB web page for Mental Health and Well-Being (<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/In-Person-Learning/Resources-During-Covid-19>).

TDSB Participates in Ontario's Budget Consultation

On Friday, February 12, the Toronto District School Board submitted our funding request as part of Ontario's Budget Consultations, which highlighted the following key budget areas:

- Special Education and Mental Health Support
- Technology
- Pandemic Impacts
- Capital Needs
- Education Development Charges

Greek Heritage Month

March was Greek Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board. It was an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada, and an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture.

The theme for this year was:

1821-2021
Freedom and Unity – Ελευθερία και Ενότητα
Learning From Our Roots...Shaping Our Future

Black Mental Health Day

On Monday, March 1, the Toronto District School Board recognized Black Mental Health Day. Held on the first Monday of March, Black Mental Health Day acknowledges the deeply rooted impact anti-Black racism has on the emotional well-being of Black communities.

Student Transportation

At the TDSB, busing service may be provided for elementary students (K-5) residing 1.6 km or more from their designated school. TTC tickets can be provided for middle school students (grades 6-8) residing 3.2 km or more from their designated school. The health and safety of students is our top pri-

ority, and the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG), working with school bus operators, has put a number of COVID-19 protocols and precautions in place to help ensure the safety of students and drivers on the bus.

Please note that the TDSB's Empty Seat Policy (PR504) has been put on hold for the 2020-21 school year to help promote physical distancing on school buses, as well as to help the TSTG and bus operators effectively plan bus routes and seating arrangements in line with COVID-19 health and safety precautions.



Gary Tuanan
TCDSB

Dear Family and Friends,

As we head into Spring and the promise of warmer weather, we also celebrate the most sacred time of the year, Easter Sunday! Easter is the greatest celebration in the Catholic Church, as it is the culmination of Holy week and celebrates the resurrection of the Risen Lord, marking the foundation of Christianity.

Congratulations to the Filipino community on the 500-year anniversary celebration of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines! See the TCDSB QJCP Quincentennial Commemoration virtual event that includes a special Vatican Mass held on March 14, 2021 celebrated by Pope Francis.

For this year March Break been postponed by one month to the week of April 12, 2021 to keep students in the classroom and prevent further community COVID transmission.

The TCDSB is taking immediate steps to address systemic racism across the Board, more specifically Anti-Black racism by implementing positive system changes. A newly formed TCDSB Board, *Race Relations Committee*, has been created through a motion I put forth, which I also head as Chair of the committee. Director Brendan Browne writes,

"We are taking immediate steps to launch our identity-based data collection which will better equip us to identify and monitor disparities within our school system. This data will inform decisions that change outcomes for black students."

The Equity Department is working to create a Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy (DABR).

TCDSB website www.tcdsb.org
Trustee Garry Tuanan: 416-512-3408 or 416-222-8282 ext. 2659

A Naturopathic Perspective – Dr. Karm Hans

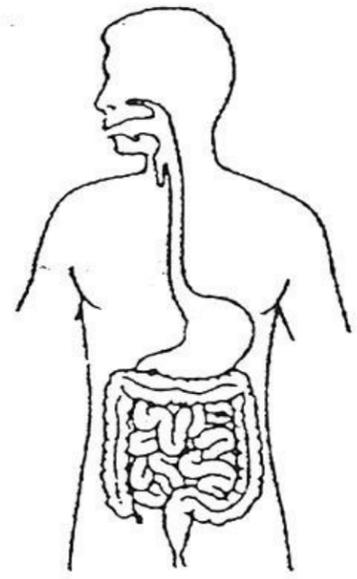
Heartburn & Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)

I often see patients with symptoms of heartburn and gastroesophageal (GERD) in practice. It often surprises people how different the naturopathic approach is to deal with these symptoms. In many cases, the protocols can be very simple. In this article I will be describing the underlying mechanism of these symptoms. Periodic heartburn symptoms on their own are not generally cause for concern. If the frequency of heartburn increases, then it is classified as GERD and is definitely a concern that should be addressed.

At the end of the esophagus there is a sphincter called the lower esophageal sphincter (LES). You can think of this sphincter like a door. The door should open to allow food to enter the stomach and then close. Sometimes this door can stop closing completely and stay slightly ajar. This is when symptoms of heartburn happen. Acid from the stomach can start to flow back to an area that is not suited to deal with acid. When this happens frequently, there is irritation and inflammation of the esophagus. Over time, this can lead to a narrowing of the esophagus and increase risk for esophageal cancer.

Conventional treatment for GERD is a class of medication known as proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), along with avoiding food triggers (e.g. citrus, chocolate, coffee, tomatoes, spicy foods etc). PPIs can be really fantastic to get things under control but they are only meant for short-term use. This class of medication has many potential side effects with long-term use, such as osteoporosis, malabsorption, cognitive decline, etc. From a naturopathic perspective, we want to help balance the level of stomach acid and not just suppress it. Remember the door at the end

of the esophagus - the LES. This door is affected by the balance of neurotransmitters, hormones and acid stimulation, which PPIs suppress. If you really look at the physiology involved in heartburn and GERD symptoms, the obvious approach to resolve the symptoms is to fix the LES.



As a result, the naturopathic approach to address heartburn and GERD include the following:

- Identify potential triggers
e.g. diet, lifestyle, underlying health conditions such as hypertension and diabetes
- Protect the lining of the digestive tract from the back flow of acid
- Strengthen the LES, using herbs, abdominal massage, visceral manipulation, etc.

If you suffer from heartburn and GERD, consider seeking support to look at the underlying causes of the condition. This is especially important for individuals who have been taking PPIs long-term. If you would like to learn more, feel free to reach out.

Dr. Karm Hans is a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine at Equilibria Health Centre in Scarborough

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Hello Folks!

Spring is finally here and I am sure we can all agree we are excited to welcome a new season and turn over a new leaf. COVID-19 continues to challenge us all at every turn, and the global pandemic has meant we need to be nimble to serve guests in our ever-changing world. Oscillating between being open, being closed, open with restrictions, open as a drive through (or the many other operating models our incredible teams have developed) has changed the nature of our guest interactions and can make it difficult to focus on our mission and long-term strategic goals.

If you are like our Zoo over the past year, you have explored the key question - How do we adapt and find ways to keep our community, our guests and our supporters connected to the work we do? How do we reach out when the Zoo is closed to guests and we are unable to cultivate these important relationships in person?

For your Toronto Zoo team, in times of crisis our priorities are clear - we will do everything we can to protect the health, safety and well-being of staff that still must come to the Zoo every day, and our animals will continue to be cared for with the same high-quality standard. Once those non-negotiable needs are met, we look at how we can reconnect with our community.

Our conservation partners, the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy, have taken advantage of this time to take a deep dive into what our guests and the public are aware of when it comes to conservation, what it means to them, and the role their Toronto Zoo has played in their understanding. One of the key findings of their study was that respondents who frequently visited the Zoo had a far higher level of awareness of specific environmental issues. For example, frequent Zoo guests have a significantly higher level of understanding on the importance of electronic recycling on preserving gorilla habitat, or the impacts of unsustainable palm oil production on orangutan survival.

Armed with this new data, our challenge is to determine how we expand that knowledge to those who are not regular Zoo attendees and want to help wildlife? How can we work to expand our audience's understanding of the many environmental issues that exist globally, and not just in our Canadian backyards?

The study also showed that nearly all (85%) of respondents acknowledge that humans are at fault for wildlife extinction, but much fewer (52%) believe they personally can make a difference on wildlife conservation. But importantly, the report also showed that people who were more aware of conservation activities also believed they could personally make a difference for wildlife conservation.

The results of the study are exciting because they are a clear endorsement of your Toronto Zoo's role in conservation education, as well as a call to action to expand that educational role to a broader audience through digital programming. Even as we manage the COVID-19 closures, your Toronto Zoo will focus on how we can continue to develop clear messaging and calls to action for people to get involved and make a substantial difference in wildlife conservation through their daily choices.

We hope you continue to stay healthy through these challenging times, and take care of yourselves and each other. We eagerly await when we can reopen our doors, and we look forward to welcoming you all back to the Toronto Zoo and continuing this important conservation work.

We are all in this together. Thank you for being part of our wonderful Zoo community and continuing to support your Toronto Zoo! #ClosedButStillCaring

~Dolf Dejong, CEO Toronto Zoo

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MP Gary Anandasangaree

Dear Highland Creek,

The current rise of COVID-19 numbers in our city and across the country are a reminder that we should not let our guard down when it comes to combatting COVID-19.

By doing our part together, we can ensure that this spring and summer are better than ever.

Wearing a mask, washing our hands frequently, practicing physical distancing, limiting non-essential trips outside of our homes, downloading the COVID Alert app, and, when your time comes, getting vaccinated, will all ensure we protect ourselves and each other from this pandemic.

Federal Budget

Since 2015, our government has continued to make strong and progressive investments in the future of Canada. We entered this crisis in a solid fiscal position, which allowed our government to provide unprecedented support to Canadians during the pandemic. With more than a million vaccines arriving in Canada each week, Canadian workers and businesses can count on continued support from our government throughout this recovery.

The 2021 Federal Budget will be tabled on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 4:00 PM. As part of the process leading to Budget 2021, our government consulted thousands of Canadians from across the country, including several businesses and community organizations in Scarborough – Rouge Park.

As we continue to build Canada back better, our economic blueprint for the future will ensure we continue creating jobs, growing our economy, and strengthening the middle class.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

This March, our government exceeded our government's initial goal of having 6 million COVID-19 vaccine doses arrive in Canada.

Our vaccine supply is accelerating, with Canada ready to receive millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines throughout April.



MP Gary Anandasangaree meets with students from the Black Students in Law and Policy, Women in Politics, and Political Science Students Association at UTSC for a discussion about shaping a more inclusive campus, and more equitable Canada.

The big lift is upon us, and each day we are getting closer to the light at the end of the tunnel.

For the latest information on COVID-19 vaccines, I encourage you to visit my website: <https://garyanandasangaree.libparl.ca/>

Reducing Poverty in Canada

Our government knows that vulnerable Canadians have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and we're encouraged by the estimates showing that the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and other measures were effective in preventing declines in employment income for many Canadian families.

With Canada's first-ever national Poverty Reduction Strategy, we are making significant progress towards meeting our goal of reducing poverty by 50% by 2030.

We know there's still more to do and we'll continue to work hard to ensure every Canadian has a real and fair chance at success.

Supreme Court Ruling on Pollution Pricing

The Supreme Court of Canada has reaffirmed the constitutionality of a national price on pollution and determined that the matter is critical to our response to an existential threat to human life in Canada and around the world.

This decision is a win for the millions of Canadians who are demanding climate action, and for families who will continue to receive more money in their pockets in pollution pricing rebates. We have a comprehensive climate plan that is creating good jobs and growing our economy.

Because of our plan, for the first time in our history, Canada will meet and exceed its climate goals. Climate change is real, and we will continue taking action to protect the health and well-being of future generations.

Community Support

Until it is safe to meet again in-person, my team will continue to provide virtual support to the residents of Scarborough – Rouge Park.

If you need assistance with any federal services, please do not hesitate to contact us at (416) 283-1414 or via email at Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca.

GARY ANANDASANGAREE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
SCARBOROUGH-ROUGE PARK



My office is here to assist you with any Federal issues

- COVID-19 Federal Supports
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Jennifer McKelvie, City Councillor, Ward 25



Dear Neighbours,

Toronto Public Health has a vital role in vaccine distribution and follows the Province of Ontario's prioritization plan. At the time of writing this article, registration was open for residents 70 years old and above. The City of Toronto's vaccination information website has helpful information, including what to expect at a vaccination clinic and the provincial eligibility timelines by age. Please visit www.toronto.ca/

COVID-19-vaccines for up-to-date information. The City of Toronto has also set up a single registration resource for residents to book appointments at clinics operated by the City and our hospital network at vaccineTO.ca.

In addition, the City is piloting transportation options for seniors aged 70 and over by extending service hours for assisted ride services provided by community organizations. To book a ride, you can contact "Scarborough Ride" by calling **416-736-9372**. This spring, the City of Toronto will begin installation of new playground equipment at the Highland Creek Community Park, 3500 Ellesmere Road. Thank you to the over 140 residents that provided input into the design. Based on your advocacy we were able to include additional play equipment and seating in the park. This playground enhancement represents a \$270,000 investment in our community. I look forward to cutting the ribbon with you this year!

Local Road Safety

To help improve local road safety, City staff are preparing a traffic study to explore the possible installation of a crosswalk at Morrish Road and Euclid Avenue. A marked crosswalk helps alert drivers to expect crossing pedestrians and helps pedestrians move safely, conveniently and predictably. I would like to thank the Highland Creek Community Association and Cardinal Leger Catholic School Parent Teacher's Association for their local advocacy in support of this road safety enhancement. To share a letter of support for this road safety enhancement, please contact my office via e-mail, councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca.

A new playground is coming to Highland Creek Community Park



Highland Creek Community Park Playground - Base Design Shown

In addition, the City offers various solutions to calm traffic and increase pedestrian safety on our local roads. Residents can contact my office to recommend locations for digital radar speed signs. These signs show motorists the speed that their vehicle is traveling, while encouraging them to slow down.

Our office also distributes "Slow Down" signs that you can display on your front yard. The signs serve as a simple reminder to people driving through your street to watch their speed. If you would like a sign, please email us and we will drop one off to your doorstep.

1625 Military Trail and 6000 Kingston Road

City of Toronto staff are working on their final report for the development proposal at 1625 Military Trail and 6000 Kingston Road. As part of the City's review, staff will continue to consider feedback from the public. To share your comments, please email City Planner, Christian Ventresca at Christian.Ventresca@toronto.ca.

The final report, including recommendations and proposed community benefits, will be posted publicly for your review and will be considered by Scarborough Community Council, followed by Toronto Council. We will notify the community through our e-newsletter when the final report is posted and will provide the links for public comment.

Political Blind Date

I had the unique opportunity of joining TVOntario as a guest on Season 4 of Political Blind Date! Each episode features two Canadian politicians who are sent on "blind dates" with one another to learn more about the other's personal life, work and political perspectives.

I was paired with MPP Andrea Khanjin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). On my date, it was wonderful to show MPP Khanjin around Scarborough – Rouge Park, with coffee at Mr. Beans, a walk in the ravine at Colonel Danforth Park and canoeing at Rouge National Urban Park. You can watch the half-hour episode online by visiting www.tvo.org/programs/political-blind-date.

We're Here to Work for You

For local updates, please sign up for my weekly e-newsletter at www.jennifermckelvie.ca. You can also follow me on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter, via my handle [@McKelvieWard25](https://www.instagram.com/McKelvieWard25). My office continues to serve our residents. Please email me at councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca.

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MPP Vijay Thanigasalam

Dear Highland Creek Residents,

I hope everyone has been keeping safe.

Please note that the below information may have changed since publication. Please feel free to reach me by email at vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org or by phone at 416-283-8448 for the most up-to-date information.

Book Your Vaccination

Our government has launched a provincial booking system and customer service desk to support COVID-19 vaccination appointment bookings at mass immunization clinics. If you are 60 years and older you can book your vaccine now. Please make an appointment by visiting <http://www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine>, where you will be guided to the provincial booking system or to the local public health unit to make an appointment, as some public health units will be using their own booking system or call centres that are already in operation.

Individuals who require assistance with booking can call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line number at **1-888-999-6488**. If you still have a red and white health card please call that number to help guide you.

As vaccine supply increases, our government has expanded the delivery channels available to administer COVID-19 vaccines to include pharmacies and primary care settings. Over 325 pharmacies are offering the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine to people 60+, by appointment only. Please find the list of those pharmacies by visiting <http://ontario.ca/bookvaccine>.

Highland Creek Supports Community with Food Donation

I want to send a huge shout-out to Bill Yarn from the Highland Creek Community Association for being a true leader in our community. Highland Creek Community Association and Ital Pasta have made generous donations of over 105,000 pounds of food to the Toronto Daily Bread Food Bank.

This is an incredible example of the Ontario Spirit we hope to see. Thank you, Bill, and the Highland Creek Community Association, for all that you are doing for our community during these exceptional times.

633 Coronation Drive BioGas Plant Application Withdrawn

I am pleased to inform you that on February 17, 2021, the proponent notified the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, & Parks of their wish to withdraw their Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) of the proposed Coronation Organics Processing Centre and Anaerobic Digester. As a result of the gaps in municipal zoning approvals, the Ministry has stated that the proponent must work with the City of Toronto to address the zoning challenges before continuing with an ECA application.

Since last March, my office and I have been fighting to ensure that the voices of my constituents are heard. Constituents asked for an extension of the online consultation on the Environmental Registry and my office was able to get this extension for additional months allowing enough time for residents in the area to make their voices heard.

I want to thank all the residents and community organizations who immediately approached me with their concerns on this project and advocated for their community. I will always stand with the residents of Scarborough-Rouge Park.

Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy

As the pandemic continues to unfold, as your representative of the Ontario government, it remains my priority to advocate for the protection of your health and jobs.

Last month, the Ontario government released Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy. Your health remains my utmost priority – you cannot have a healthy economy without healthy people.

I know that parents have been hit hard during the COVID-19 – that is why we are providing the third round of payments to support parents through the Ontario COVID-19 Child Benefits, totalling \$1.8

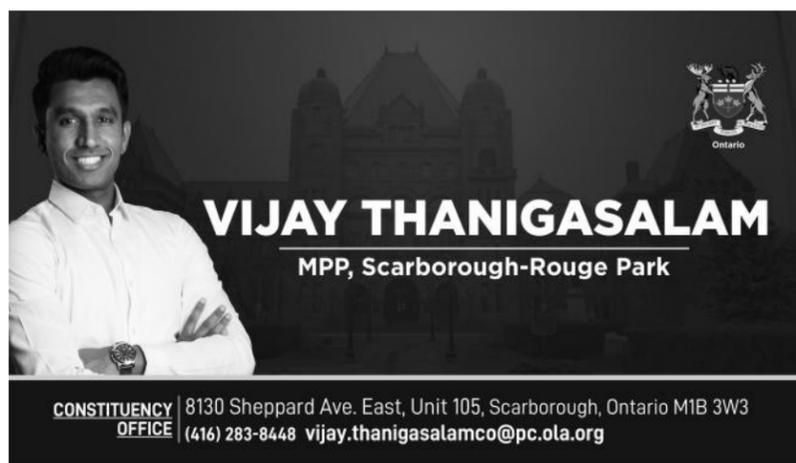
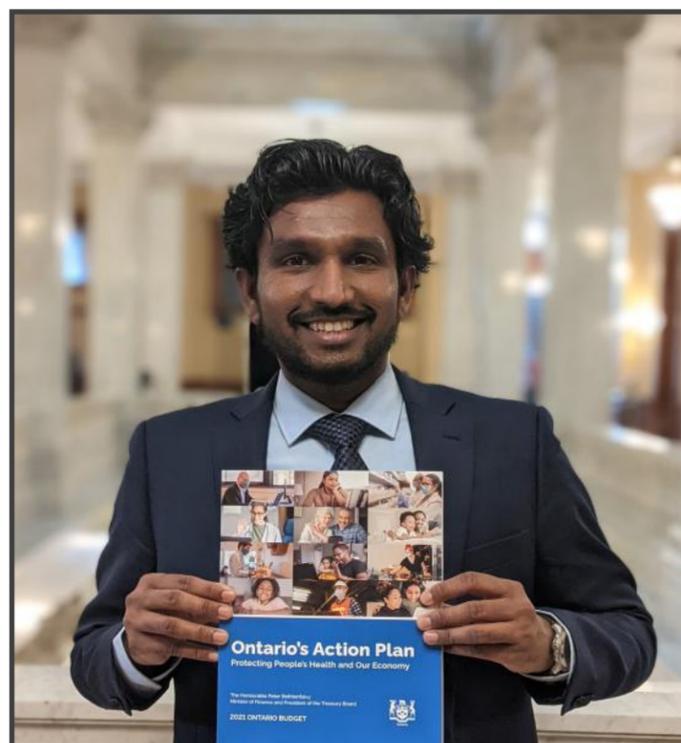
billion since March 2020. Parents will now receive:

- \$400/per child aged 0 - grade 12
- \$500/per child with special education needs up to age 21

I have heard from many small business owners across Scarborough Rouge-Park that during the COVID-19 pandemic they have been most affected by the necessary restrictions to protect people. Knowing that small businesses are the cornerstone of Ontario, I am proud to announce that Ontario is investing \$3.4 billion to provide a second round of payments through the Ontario Small Business Support Grant to eligible recipients.

Recipients will receive a minimum of \$10,000, and up to \$20,000. To learn more, visit www.ontario.ca/budget

My office and I are always here to help. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to my office email at vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org or call 416-283-8448.



HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

Please contact my office at (416) 283-8448 or vijay.thanigasalamco@pc.ola.org

if you need help with any provincial matters such as:

- Marriage, Birth, or Death Certificates
- Family Responsibility Office
- Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- Driver's Licenses, Health Cards, or Photo ID Cards
- Health Care Issues
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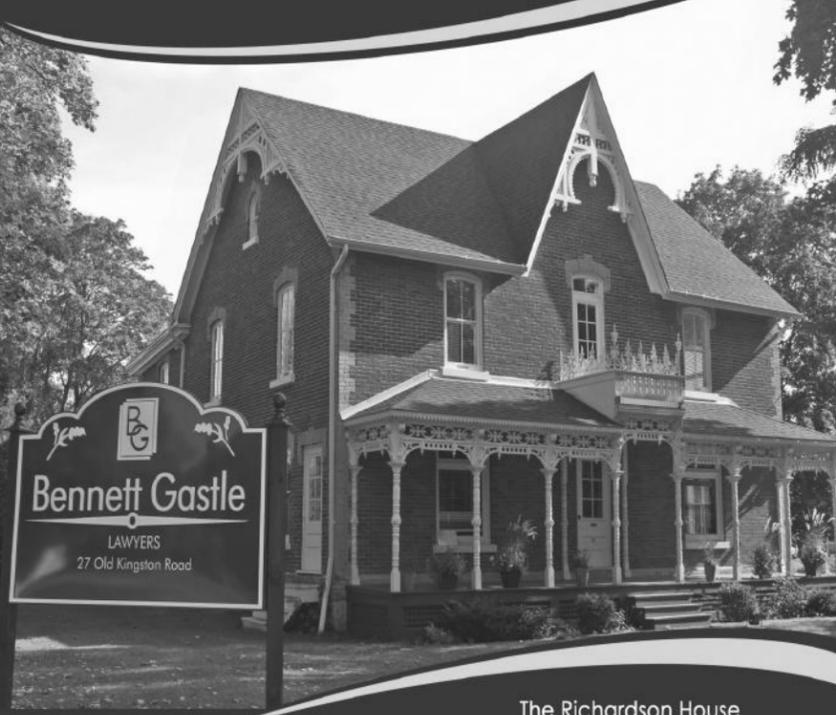
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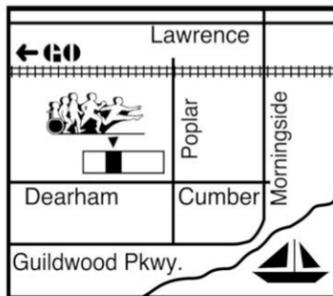
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Join The HCCA

WHY JOIN?

The HCCA is made up of Highland Creek residents who volunteer in various ways for the betterment of the whole community. Your membership payment each year enables us to advocate on your behalf. The Highland Creek Community Association represents the interests of residents: bringing our concerns to all levels of government and advocating on the behalf of residents.

Highlights of Community Service 20/21: the HCCA conducted 2 surveys, giving residents a voice on proposed developments and location of a village common gathering space, and provided communications from ongoing advocacy to keep residents informed on local developments, environmental concerns and social concerns. The Association also coordinated 105,000 lbs. of food donation to the Daily Bread Food Bank and is working towards raising 400,000 lbs. of food donations by year end.

How to Join the HCCA

- Mail-in: Membership Form & \$10 or \$20 Fee**
- Drop in Box: Highland Harvest Drop Off Box**
- Register online: myhighlandcreek.org**
- HIGHLAND CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**
265 Port Union Road P.O.Box 97501, Scarb, ON M1C 2L0

The HCCA provides community input and reports on local issues affecting the lives of residents. HCCA Volunteers coordinate annual events bringing the community together, and enhance our community culture and sense of belonging. The HCCA is working for the beautification and restoration of the Highland Creek Village and also provides maintenance of shared spaces, such as Wesleyan Cemetery, and community cleanup of Highland Creek Village and area parks. HCCA Volunteers also produce The Villager, our local newspaper, and manage web presence, social media and e-news, offering residents local engagement.

For more information on the HCCA, visit MYHIGHLANDCREEK.ORG

How to Join the HCCA:

Complete the membership form and mail in, or go to Highland Harvest and place in drop box. For easy online sign-up, visit [HCCA Membership - HIGHLAND CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION \(myhighlandcreek.org\)](http://HCCA Membership - HIGHLAND CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (myhighlandcreek.org))

HIGHLAND CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

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