

# The Villager

The Villager XLIV No. V

'SUMMER IN THE CREEK' EDITION



August 2020

Attention Highland Creekers:

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the  
HIGHLAND CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**7pm September 23 2020**

**Location: 45 Lawson Rd. Legion Branch 258**

**\*max 50 person attendance \*wear mask**

A new school year begins!  
Above: Chair of HCPS School  
Council Savitri Singh, and her  
family showing 'Huskie Spirit'  
during Teachers Car Parade.

Below:  
Summer fun at the new  
Bramber Woods Park  
Playground!

## Membership Drive

Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA) is a voice for the Highland Creek residents. The Highland Creek newspaper, The Villager, is distributed for free to all homes in the Highland Creek neighbourhood to keep residents informed and involved with our beautiful community.

Your membership in HCCA ensures that we have a strong voice to best represent the interests of our residents.

**The greater number of  
members, the stronger  
our voice.**

Membership is only \$10 per  
year per household.

Go Online To Join:  
[www.myhighlandcreek.org/  
hcca-memberships.html](http://www.myhighlandcreek.org/hcca-memberships.html)



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**Results of Highland Creek Development Survey**

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The Villager News

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

The Villager is published 5x 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.

Letters to the Editor? General Inquiry? Article Submission?

Email the Editor of The Villager, Annoj Thavalingam, [highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com](mailto:highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com)

Advertising in The Villager News:

Contact Elma Todkill 416.284.2013 or [highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com](mailto:highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com)  
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2020/21 ad structure and pricing is under review.

\*Find our current advertising rates at [www.myhighlandcreek.org/the-villager.html](http://www.myhighlandcreek.org/the-villager.html)

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, Elma Todkill, Richard Kingsley, Jey Dharmaraj, Doug and Marja Phillips, Lillian McMullin, Dr. Karm Hans, MP Gary Anadasangaree, MPP Vijay Thanigasalam and TDCSB Trustee Garry Tanuan.

Highland Creek Community Association

Website: [www.myhighlandcreek.org](http://www.myhighlandcreek.org)  
Instagram: HighlandCreekVillager  
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Address:

Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA)  
371 Old Kingston Road  
Box 97501  
Highland Creek



HCCA Board / Members

- David Adamson, President
- Bill Yarn, Vice President/Urban Development
- Elma Todkill, Secretary/Treasurer
- Josh Allen
- Blair Anderson
- Neil Jaikaran
- Chris Goethel
- Eric Guangyu Lin
- Lydia Lampers-Wallner
- Sujeev Ruban

Highland Creek Development:

- Bill Yarn
- David Adamson

Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Updates:

- Marja & Doug Phillips

The Villager News Team

- Editor. Annoj Thavalingam
- Advertising, Elma Todkill
- Design, Lora Tomasino
- Reporter, Sri Dilan
- E-newsletter, Michelle Declute

Elected Officials

- MP Gary Anadasangaree  
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416-283-1414
- MPP Vijay Thanigasalam  
Scarborough-Rouge Park  
416-283-8448
- Councillor Jennifer McKelvie  
Ward 25  
416-338-3771

2020 Submission Deadlines:	Issue	Deadline for Submission	Delivered
	September/October 2020	September 30th	3rd week of October/20
	November/December2020	November 20th	1st week of December/20

**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. \*No content or photograph can be used with out permission of the HCCA. Copyright © 2020 Highland Creek Community Association. All rights reserved.

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August 2020

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Editor’s Note:



Dear readers,

The August issue of The Villager celebrates the summer and all it has to offer. We have some great photos of our community residents out and about. In these unprecedented times, it’s refreshing to see people outside in numbers that dwarf previous summers, enjoying walks, bike rides and tending to their gardens.

Inside the paper you will also find articles on a smattering of topics, from starting a business to wildlife gardening, from development plans to coping with anxiety. Feel free to check out the centrespread, where we share the results of our recent online survey concerning condo development in Highland Creek.

Our mandate is to keep you updated on the latest news and developments in Highland Creek, and to this effect there will be two more issues before the end of the year, published in October and December 2020. During downtime between publications, you’re welcome to keep yourself informed through the HCCA website [www.myhighlandcreek.org](http://www.myhighlandcreek.org)

Best wishes,  
Annoj Thavalingam  
Editor



David Adamson HCCA  
President’s Report  
COVID-19

Since my last report, there has been a significant decline in the COVID-19 cases, allowing the Provincial Government to include the Toronto area for stage three of reopening. This indeed is a step in the right direction, beneficial to local businesses, particularly those in the food service industry that welcomes your patronage. We must still maintain safe distancing practices, the wearing of face covering and avoid large crowds until this pandemic is eradicated. I am sure children are pleased that playgrounds are now open for their enjoyment. Thanks to all the frontline and health care workers, and those working behind the scenes, for their dedication and commitment.

On June 17, 2020, I had the opportunity to attend Altamont Long Term Care facility as the Military made up of various sections completed their ‘tour of duty’ in dealing with the virus outbreak. This was the second and last group deployed at Altamont. The soldiers and all involved were recognized for their excellent work.

HIGHLAND CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

On June 23, 2020, teachers and students from the Highland Creek Public School had a drive by along the streets of Conlins, Gladys, Bobmar, Watson and Deep Dene. Many thanks to those who participated in the parade and to those who cheered them on as they drove by.

No doubt students are looking forward to returning to school and that all necessary precautions will be taken by school officials to ensure the safety and comfort of all involved.

COMMUNITY PRESIDENT’S MEETING

The HCCA hosted the Presidents’ meeting, and thanks to Bill Yarn and Lora Tomasino for graciously making their home available on July 9, 2020. Those present included representatives from the Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA), Centennial Community Recreational Association(CCRA), West Rouge Community Association (WRCA) and Guildwood Village Community Association (GVCA). Elected representatives MPP Vijay Thanigasalam and Councillors Jennifer McKelvie and Paul Ainslie were also in attendance.

A number of issues were discussed that ranged from: **HCCA:** pro-

posed UTSC student residence, BRT transportation plans along Ellesmere Road from Kingston Road to Military Trail, development plans within the Village of Highland Creek. **CCRA:** Coronation bio-gas development proposal, Rouge level crossing closure. **WRCA:** Closing Chesterton Shores as per plans by Metrolinx. **GVCA:** What’s being done to increase membership to community associations, makeup of community association boards.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH CAMPUS (UTSC)

The Scarborough Community Council held a video conference meeting on July 17, 2020, which included the Zoning Amendment Application for a proposed UTSC student residence on Ellesmere Road. Previously at a community meeting held at the Highland Creek Library by City Planning in 2018, Highland Creek residents, particularly those living close to the student residence, voiced strong objection to the proposed plans and location. They were informed at the time that revisions would be made. Due to the virus outbreak in March 2020, a scheduled follow-up community meeting was cancelled. I did, however, receive notification of the July 17, 2020 Scarborough Community Council meeting on June 30, 2020, and I sent a letter to the City Clerk’s Office to advise of my participation. I waited for over 4 hours on the telephone before being recognized, and was limited to 5 minutes, which was not nearly sufficient time to convey residents’ concerns expressed to me. The motion to accept the Zoning Amendment Application was quickly passed unanimously by Council.

Metrolinx – Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

We are fortunate to have Douglas and Marja Phillips monitoring the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) plans along Ellesmere Road, which is a residential area in Highland Creek. In the last Villager issue, they reported on the impact the BRT would have within our community. Douglas and Marja continue their investigation and have provided an updated report in this issue. We hope to arrange a meeting shortly with City Planning to share the information we have, before virtual meetings commence again.

HIGHLAND CREEK VILLAGE

Bill Yarn has been instrumental in overseeing the beautification and development plans for the Village. This has involved participation with Editor Annoj Thavalingam, newsletter committee member Lora Tomasino in developing the survey appearing in the last Villager regarding height and density restrictions on buildings within our community. The results of the survey are included in the centre spread of this issue. Bill and I continue to liaise with property developer Atree and local Councillor Jennifer McKelvie on these and other important issues.

~Continued Page 5





TAKE ACTION:

DO NOT LET METROLINX DESTROY OUR COMMUNITY

METROLINX BUS RAPID TRANSIT PLAN - ELLESMERE CORRIDOR UPDATE

By Douglas Phillips

Since our last article on the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Project in the June/July 2020 edition of The Villager, there appears to have been little progress on this project, except Metrolinx’s affirmation that the project is proceeding, as stated in their July 2020 Metrolinx Newsletter. They state that due to COVID-19, meetings have been delayed and will be virtual events in the Fall. The Highland Creek Community Association has again requested a public meeting when safe to do so, but again Metrolinx has refused; they will only host online conferences.

Technical Studies Underway

According to the Metrolinx newsletter, technical studies underway include: Archaeology, Cultural Heritage, Fluvial Geomorphology, Natural Environment, Noise and Vibration, Traffic and Active Transportation, Socio-Economic and Land Use, and Stormwater and Hydraulics. Are Ontario taxpayers getting value for their money, and why are promised studies still **not** complete?

Metrolinx Bus Shelter and Bus Route

For the Highland Creek community to better understand Metrolinx’s plans for the Ellesmere Corridor, we recently visited their project in Newmarket. This express route is 2.4 kilometres in length and runs from Davis Drive south down Yonge Street. It then converges into regular four-lane traffic to Aurora. After many years of construction, this project has just been completed.

This is similar to what we can expect in our community. The bus shelter is a standard Metrolinx design, and has been used on other Metrolinx projects. The transit system is operated by the York Regional Transit System called VIVA and operates in a commercial area. No Metrolinx bus lanes were constructed through the residential part of the Town of Aurora. It should be noted that no other Metrolinx project is on a **residential route** – the Ellesmere Corridor is the **only** planned one in Canada. The Ellesmere corridor from Kingston Road to Military Trail spans 2.85 Kilometres.

Air Quality

We noted that the VIVA diesel buses

were very noisy, the same as the PULSE buses running in our community. This brings us to the subject of air quality. “Air quality has significant impacts on public health, the environment and economy. Air pollution contributes to illnesses such as heart disease, stroke, asthma, lung disease, and lung cancer ... Exposure to air pollution in Ontario results in increased hospitalizations, as well as 6,700 premature deaths, every year” (Per The Office of the Auditor General of Ontario — An Overview of Environmental Issues — 2019 Report).

Apart from the TTC buses, Metrolinx will still run their regular buses but also plan to run buses every 5 minutes during the rush hours, 6:30 to 9:30a.m., and 3:00 to 7:30p.m., then up to every 2 minutes based on demand. The air quality and pollution should be of grave concern to all the residents of Highland Creek, and especially those residing along the Ellesmere corridor, as well as those with preexisting health conditions.

Hazards

It is essential that there be NO physical barriers to impede the fire engines and ambulances along the Ellesmere corridor. Minutes saved could mean the difference between life and death.

“Pinch Point”

Metrolinx has not given any update on how they will deal with the Kingston Road onto Ellesmere “pinch point”.

Boulevards

Metrolinx has already made it quite clear

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**Member of Provincial Parliament**

**Vijay Thanigasalam:**

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**City Councillor Jennifer McKelvie:**

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that they own all the Ellesmere corridor boulevards, including where all our mature trees grow. They will take away all the residents’ extra parking spaces. Will people have to find alternative accommodation? This could be a real hardship for many, and residents need to know a timeline for this project. They cannot be left hanging for years, such as was the case in Hamilton. Studies need to be completed and decisions made.

Take action!

**Call or write to your Government Representatives. Do not let Metrolinx destroy our community.**

*The HCCA thanks Douglas & Marja Phillips for their dedication to the preservation of our beautiful community.*  
**#highlandcreekhero**



Photo: Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Mulock Dr. & Yonge St. through a commercial area. No project of this kind has been constructed in Canada through a residential area.



David Adamson

HCCA President's Report (CON'T)

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION –

HIGHLAND CREEK BRANCH 258

As reported in the last Villager, RCL Branch 258 has purchased a new home and will be moving from 45 Lawson Road to 305 Morrish Road. Currently the Planning Committee is reviewing developer proposals for our new location and a selection is expected to be made shortly. Once this is done and the Branch has gone through the approval process, work will then begin and hopefully this will be completed by the Spring of 2021. I can assure you that the Planning Committee has been working diligently in the best interest of the membership and the Branch in dealing with the renovation and relocation plans. In the meantime, Branch 258's patio area is open to the public over the weekends with safe distancing practices being followed.

Conclusion

I would like to express my appreciation to: Members of the board of directors and committee members of the HCCA who have submitted reports to the Villager, those who have worked tirelessly in putting the Villager together, those who assist, including local residents, in delivering the Villager, as well as those that attend and participate in the Highland Creek Village development plans. And of course I would be remiss in not recognizing the 'work party' who do a splendid job in maintaining the ambience of the Wesleyan Cemetery and surrounding areas.

All of the above is all done by unpaid volunteers and I thank you for your efforts and support during these challenging times.

Should you wish to contact me on any items in this report, I can be reached by email at: [dw.adamson@rogers.com](mailto:dw.adamson@rogers.com) or telephone (416) 281-7758

Thank you all and Bless You!

David Adamson


Highland Creek


Community Association

President

In August, Highland Creek Community Association Representatives met with Premier Doug Ford and MPP Vijay Thanigasalam during Premier Ford's tour of Scarborough.

Photo Credit: Tas Borovilos. Pictured from left to right: David Adamson, Premier Doug Ford, Bill Yarn, MPP Vijay Thanigasalam





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We thank all of our many loyal customers for their ongoing support and wish you health and safety during these difficult times.

highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com

Summer In The Creek Edition





# Toronto Catholic District School Board Summer News

## 2020 Graduations

As we concluded the last few months of the 2019-2020 school year in a very different way, we still made sure not to miss one of the most important milestone in a young person's life - Graduation! Celebrations took place for most of our Catholic school communities, whether live in-person, drive-by, virtual, or special memories shared on YouTube!

For example, **Francis Libermann** Catholic High School held their first ever 'Drive-by' graduation procession, beginning at Woodside Mall in Scarborough and continuing to the school premises. Even Mother Nature blessed the celebration with beautiful weather all afternoon. Trustee Garry Tanuan joined the events and shared heartfelt messages with all the graduates.

## 2020 Filipino-Canadian Heritage Day Celebration

On June 12, 2020, we celebrated the first-ever virtual 2020 Filipino-Canadian Heritage Day and Month.

## September Return to School Updates

The Provincial Government announced on

July 30 The Return to School plans for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, which includes the implementation of additional public health protocols and providing over \$300 million in targeted, immediate, and evidence-informed investments. The TCDSB is working with the Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health to ensure a safe return to school for everyone. We appreciate your full support in ensuring the health and safety of everyone concerned.

Elementary school children from Kindergarten to Grade 8 will attend schools 5 days per week, with one cohort for the full day, including recess and lunch.

Secondary schools will open on an adaptive model, with class cohorts of approximately 15 students, attending on alternate days, or alternate schedules that would represent in person attendance for at least 50% of instructional days.

As this is an evolving situation, please consult the TCDSB as well as Ontario Ministry of Education websites for the most up-to-date information.



2020 TCDSB Top Scholar

Congratulations to Top Scholar for Ward 8, **Samantha Wong!** A graduate of Francis Libermann Catholic High School with an overall average of 98.67 percent, Samantha has been an involved member of her school community, most recently re-establishing the **Debate Society**. She was awarded a Scholar's Award at the University of Toronto Scarborough where she will be studying Co-op Management in the Fall. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree, she aspires to pursue a career in finance.

*"Congratulations to Samantha on this major accomplishment as one of this year's Top Scholars. We wish her all the best in her studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough, and look forward to watching her continue to succeed in years to come."*

- **Garry Tanuan, Trustee, Ward 8**

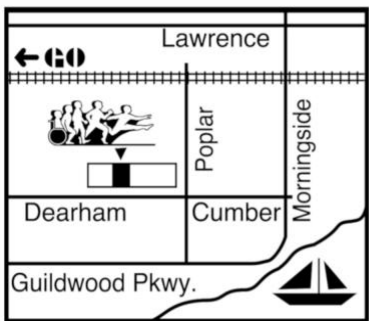
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# Update from M.P.P Scarborough-Rouge Park: Vijay Thanigasalam

Dear Highland Creek Community,

I hope you are all keeping safe during these difficult times. With the economy opening up again and kids getting ready to get back to school, it is important to make sure that we continue to follow health protocols in all activities we do.

### Reopening the Economy

At the time of writing this, our government, in consultation with Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health and the City of Toronto, is in Stage Three of re-opening the economy. The decision to reopen more businesses and public spaces across the province is based on positive local trends of key public health indicators, including lower transmission of COVID-19, ongoing hospital capacity, public health capacity to conduct rapid case and contact management, and a significant increase in testing.

### Reopening Schools

September is just around the corner and I know that many parents are worried about what reopening schools would look like for their children. Let me assure you that the safety of your children is our government's number one priority. Our government’s plan for the safe reopening of school for students, staff and school communities this September prioritizes student health and safety, provides school boards with unprecedented resources and flexibility to implement this plan, and accommodates regional differences in public health dynamics.

At the time of writing this, to support the reopening of schools in September, the government is investing over \$300 million in targeted, immediate, and evidence-informed investments to maximize the safety and well-being of Ontario’s two million students. I have highlighted some of the details below:

- \$50 million to hire 500 nurses in schools
- \$50 million in Personal Protective Equipment for students & staff
- \$75 million to hire over 1200 custodians, procure cleaning supplies and promote hand hygiene

All publicly-funded elementary schools will be reopening province-wide, five days a week. Most secondary schools will start the school year in an adapted model of part-time attendance. Class cohorts of up to 15 students will alternate between attending in-person and online, with at least half of their time in-class. Secondary schools with lower risk will reopen with a normal daily schedule, five days a week. As always, our government respects parents’ choices, and therefore parents will have the choice of whether or not their child will attend school in-person. Meanwhile, school boards will ensure remote learning is available for all students.

### Coronation Update (As of July 31, 2020)

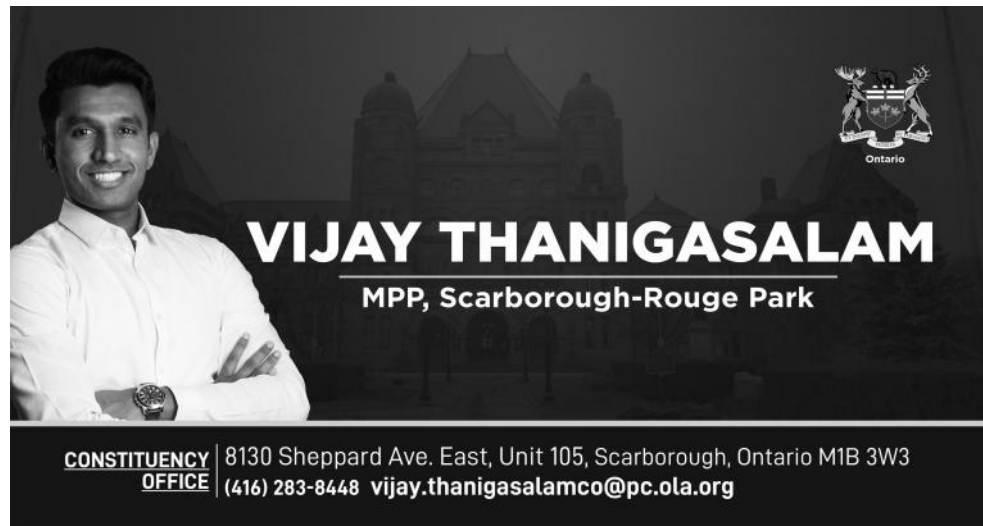
The Ministry’s role in the review of this application is to ensure the proposed Coronation Organics Processing Centre and Anaerobic Digester Facility does not impact the health and safety of the public and the environment, including on-site truck traffic and any potential emissions from the site (air, noise, dust, sewage discharges). The Ministry expects that the City of Toronto will also review the traffic study, as decisions on whether this is an appropriate activity for this area is the responsibility of the City.

Questions about the City’s receipt of the study and timelines for reviewing it should be directed to the City Manager, Chris Murray (chris.murray@toronto.ca).

**Masks:** If you are a senior in urgent need of masks, please contact my office and we will try to get you some. If you have any questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 and the supports our government is offering, please visit [www.covidsupports.ca/rougepark/](http://www.covidsupports.ca/rougepark/) to learn more, or you can always reach my office at 416-283-8448 or alternatively by email at [vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org](mailto:vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org)

Wishing you all the best,

Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP Scarborough-Rouge Park



## HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

Please contact my office at (416) 283-8448 or [vijay.thanigasalamco@pc.ola.org](mailto: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
- Education Issues
- Senior Services

### Important Numbers:

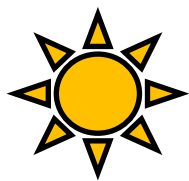
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Service Ontario	416-326-1234	Toronto Hydro	416-542-8000
ODSP/Ontario Works	416-397-1000	WSIB	416-344-1000



**Above:** Amigos Restaurant is Open for Business In Scarborough- Rouge Park

**Left:** Dana & Sri and MPP Vijay Thanigasalam





Bramber Woods Park playground rebuilt  
this summer; it's playtime!



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WHEN

September 15, 22, 29  
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Second Seating: 8:00PM



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Clockwise from left: Monarch butterfly on perennial sunflower; black swallowtail caterpillar feeding on heart leaf alexanders; masked bees on flowering raspberry; densely planted wildlife garden with yellow coneflowers. Photo credit: Richard Kingsley.

## Native Plants Support Life

By: Richard Kingsley

With no regard for ecological sustainability, horticultural nurseries have been pushing exotic cultivated plants, including many invasive species, as the must-have for our gardens.

A neighbour recently opined to me that everybody has got Hydrangeas. Forsythia, another common garden shrub, is from the Korean peninsula and has hardly any wildlife value to insects in Canada.

In recent years, many homeowners have turned a patch of their land into a wildlife garden. This could be an English cottage garden or a Dutch garden or a recreation of natural habitat. It can be done in many ways.

Why, you may ask? We are currently at the beginning of an extinction crisis, which is a one in a hundred million year event. It is estimated that the planet is now losing around 100 species every single day. Much of our land is covered in concrete or laden with chemicals, so bees have to travel ever farther from food to shelter and back. Suburban gardens represent a potential oasis where pollinators can find both food sources and shelter in a place that is free of chemicals. While each garden is small, it can become part of a huge patchwork of plants to support insects and birds.

Completely changing your garden may seem a daunting task, but if you replace just a few plants each year, you will soon notice a difference. Highland Creek is built on an old sandy plain. Choose native plants that thrive in sandy soil and buy them from native plant nurseries, which are listed on Google. None of these growers will use systemic pesticides. Native plants generally support many times more species of insect than exotic plants. Choose a range of plants that flower from spring to fall and don't listen to naysayers who say that native plants are just weeds. All plants are native to somewhere and our native plants are just as beautiful. Since World War II, our view of how to manage gardens has been influenced by corporations who persuaded us that chemicals to kill insects and weeds were essential for great gardens, as was the fertilizer to make the flowers grow and bloom. Wildlife gardeners practice integrated pest management and chemicals are avoided. I have never used pesticides on my plants. Instead, I site plants properly, wait for natural predators to do their work or I remove bugs manually. Pesticides kill everything in sight, including all the beneficial predators, and this prevents nature from ever finding its own balance.

The best reason of all to grow a wildlife garden is for your family. They will enjoy seeing caterpillars complete their life cycle and watching the aerial antics of hummingbirds as they compete for access to flowers. You will have more pollinators, and more birds will come to feed on the insects. The ecological dynamics of your garden will change. When you see all the bugs, you will catch the bug and become a wildlife gardener too. Try it.



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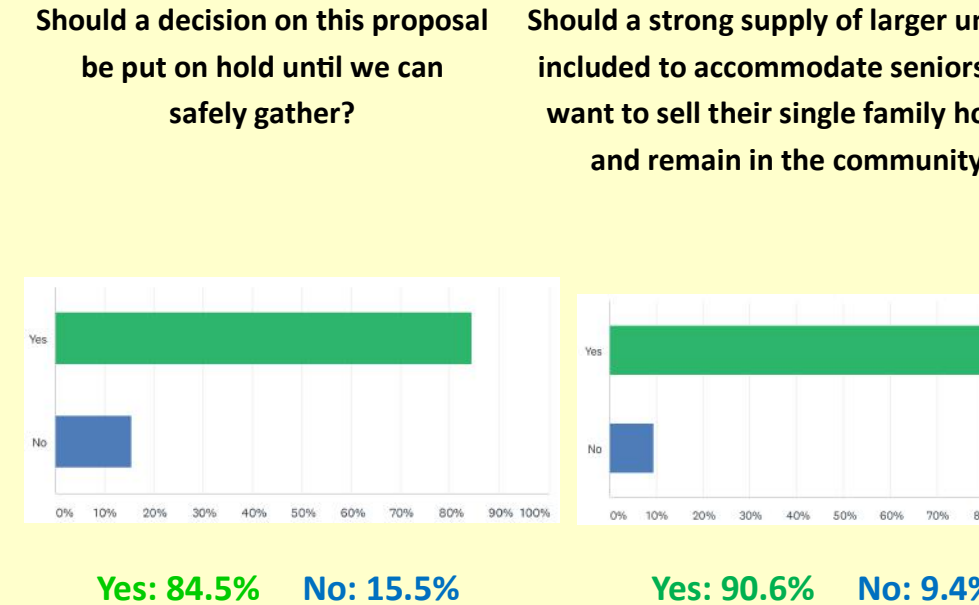
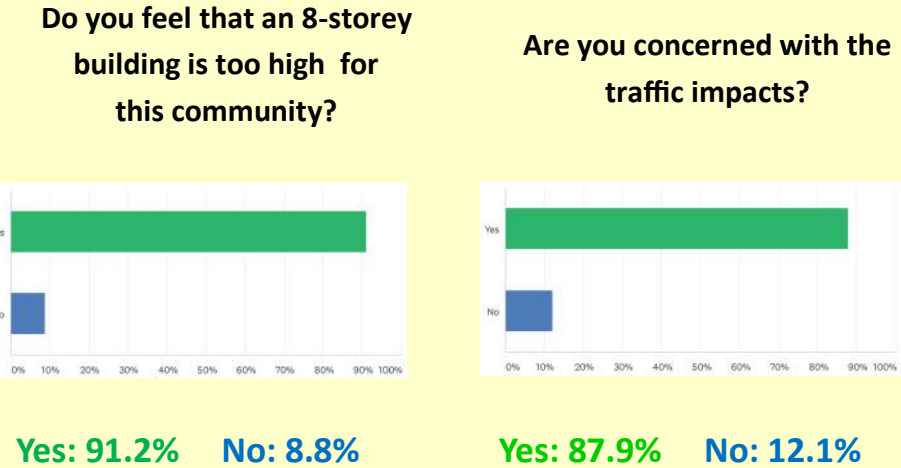


To view Atree Developments Application: [myhighlandcreek.org](http://myhighlandcreek.org)

**‘Atree Developments’ is seeking amendments to build TWO 8-STOREY CONDO BUILDINGS with 620 units in South Highland Creek Village on 3 acres of earth bordering the Highland Creek Ravine.**

**Application Summary:**  
Two 8-Storey Condo Buildings at 1625 Military Trail/6000 Kingston rd  
620 units. Unit size starting at 380 sq ft  
2.5 levels underground parking  
577 parking spaces,  
466 bike racks

**\*The City planning rules in Highland Creek Village allow no higher than 3 to 6-storey buildings.**



## HIGHLAND CREEK DEVELOPMENT SURV

On June 13th, 2020, the Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA) la  
opments in the neighbourhood. In particular, the survey centered around  
along the Highland Creek ravine at Military Trail and Old Kingston Rd. Env  
hear how residents felt as well. Over a span of seven weeks, 431 responde  
respondents to be unsupportive of developments that detract from the h  
be held throughout the planning process, to ensure that residents are info  
cerned that the COVID-19 lockdown is being exploited to fast-track impor  
The percentages below the bar graphs represent the proportion of respon

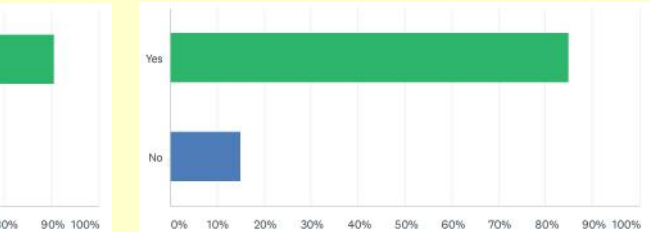
Select comments from survey respondents:

- “I’m concerned about traffic access from the west into the development, and increased traffic and speeding along Military Trail, which con
- “Senior rental apartments are needed desperately in the area and definitely not units under 1000 square feet. [There] needs to be one- or tw
- “As a young single person who loves this community, it is exhausting to be constantly excluded and pushed. This type of housing is exac
- “The community doesn’t have the infrastructure to support a higher density.”
- “Too many empty stores and would like to see revitalization in the village...We need to bring in population density so stores in the village c
- “We need growth in Highland Creek but not at the expense of our unique & beautiful community.”
- “I oppose the proposed amendment requests from Atree Dev. 6 storey buildings building at 1625 military trail /6000 kingston rd. I oppose a focus on restoring our heritage village and neighbourhood. Get rid of the single family dwellings used for car lots. Get rid of the polluting a Highland Creek versus using this neighborhood to support UTSC.”
- “Need to get more people moving to highland creek to support community and businesses. But, not at expense of increasing the height of
- “This sort of massive high density development is completely out of character for the community, and the local infrastructure is ill equip to single family homes is a bad fit.”
- “More density in the community is actually beneficial for the area. It creates more affordable housing and is a better use of limited space. It
- “There is very little green space left in the highland creek area. Whenever there is development going on it really disturbs the wild life in th 1998. Even the residential houses are being rented out to students and the streets are being used as a parking lot all night. With a three ho hicles parking over night in the area and very little if any bylaw enforcement being done about it. You call 311 about it and you get attitude
- “I think 8 storey’s is max but not higher. I support the idea and do not worry that it will have any negative effect on our beloved neighborho stores and shops in the village to go with the added people. Perhaps a small supermarket again. Let’s move Highland Creek into the future
- “This development is not in the character of the highland creek community. It will lead to air pollution, noise pollution, and damage to the l properties for speculators targeting students of the university, which will contribute to even greater unaffordability in the area in the mediu
- “We are experiencing a boarding house for students in our neighbourhood and the lack of care of this dwelling. We have lived here for 43 y village, the parks and trails close by, the walkable streets--a great family neighbourhood. Over the last 10 years we have seen many chang the community as we get older as we have three of our four children and grandchildren living in the community!”
- “Until those who live within 1000 metres of the development can see what it fully entails and then have time to discuss possible compromi
- “I think having a survey that involves the entire community is a great idea. However, I feel like this question by little biased towards negativ plan with consideration to all age groups and races. Definitely having a section for seniors should be considered. I think the builder should an eight story building. there should be a mix of luxury units with more basic for others to afford. I also think that a pedestrian bridge across tunity for my input.”
- “The developer knew the 6 storey regulation but went ahead & changed their original proposal. I believe they think they enough influence v expense of our unique & beautiful community.”
- “By allowing the changes to take place the highland creek area will continuously change and would not be the home we know it to be. It w

\*Survey Results submitted to City Council Rep. J

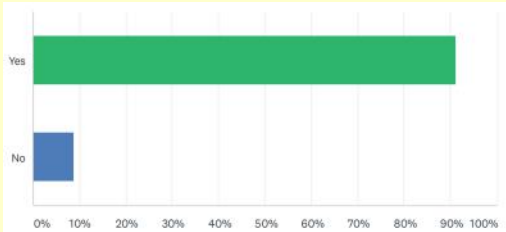


units be  
s who  
omes  
?  
Are you concerned that this proposal  
will create a concentration of student  
housing and change the fabric of our  
community?



Yes: 84.9% No: 15.1%

The City planning rules in Highland Creek Village  
allow for a maximum of six-storey tall buildings.  
The developer is seeking an exemption to this  
rule in order to build two eight-storey condo  
buildings. Do you believe the City planner should  
enforce the six-storey rule and disallow the con-  
struction of eight-storey buildings?



Yes: 91.2% No: 8.8%

## KEY RESULTS:

launched an online survey to gauge how local residents feel about upcoming property devel-  
the proposed development of twin eight-storey condominiums (by Altree Developments)  
environmental and traffic concerns, among others, stood out to the HCCA, and we were keen to  
ents offered their opinions and feedback on our survey. The results revealed the majority of  
heritage nature of the community. Under ordinary circumstances, public consultations would  
ormed of development plans, and can readily provide constructive feedback. The HCCA is con-  
stant decisions, decisions that may irreversibly impact residents without their say.  
dents who answered Yes or No to the corresponding questions.

tinues to be a problem.”

vo-bedroom units for older adults who love the area and wish to stay.”

tly what Highland Creek needs to support ALL people to be a part of our community.”

can survive.”

an increase to the allowable density of 2.0. I want City Council and City planners please  
automotive business. Take Care of the neighbourhood and taxpaying residents that live in

allowable buildings, which will also set a precedent that we don’t want “

o support it. Shoebox style apartments barely larger than a hotel room in a community of

t will also revive the decaying and under used village.”

e area. There is a very noticeable amount of traffic in the area since we moved here in  
ur parking limit in the area, this is not being unforced. There is also many commercial ve-  
sometimes.”

ood. We need to preserve the past but embrace the future! Hopefully we can get more  
and have a space that is viable to all.”

ocal ecosystem. Furthermore, this condominium will likely be exploited as investment  
um and long terms.”

years and we were attracted to this community because of the stores and services in the  
es--infilling of empty space everywhere. We would love to have the opportunity to stay in

ses I would be against this proposal as per my understanding of it.”

ves feedback. I am excited to have new growth in Highland Creek. I do hope that as well  
d also consider adding some beautification to Highland Creek as a contribution to having  
ss from the condo unit to Colonel Danforth Trail would be ideal. Thank you for the oppor-

with the city to have their way. This is all about \$\$\$\$. We need growth in HC but not at the

would have major impacts on ecosystems and wildlife. “

ennifer McKelvie.ca councillor\_mckelvie@toronto.ca # 416 338-3771



### Why Join the HCCA?

Your membership in HCCA ensures  
that we have a strong voice to best  
represent the interests of  
our residents.

Your membership payment each year ena-  
bles us to advocate and work on your be-  
half for:

- ◆ HCCA representation to all levels of government.
- ◆ Advocate for the residents on Highland Creek proposed developments.
- ◆ HCCA Volunteers create and deliver for free The Villager News 5x a year to keep the community informed and involved in our beautiful community.
- ◆ Plan and coordinate annual family events to bring the community together, to celebrate and enhance our community culture and sense of belonging.
- ◆ The HCCA participates in and financially supports community activities such as: Highland Creek Heritage Festival, Spring Clean-up, I Love Highland Creek Social, Pumpkin Parade, Winter Festival of Lights, and Port Union Waterfront Festival.
- ◆ Beautification and restoration of the Highland Creek Village.
- ◆ Plan and attend meetings, provide community input, and report on local issues such as Rooming Houses, Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit proposed for Ellesmere Rd, Proposed largest waste transfer and Bio-Gas Plant in Ontario, Altree Developments' amendment proposal for 2 x 8-storey condo buildings on the Highland Creek Ravine.
- ◆ Permit and building submissions.
- ◆ Members of HCCA provide regular maintenance to shared spaces, such as Wesleyan Cemetery, community cleanup of Highland Creek Village and area parks.  
Support your community by becoming a member





## Update from MP Scarborough-Rouge Park, Gary Anandasangaree:

COVID-19 is the challenge of our generation. Millions of Canadians have lost their jobs, lost hours, or lost wages, and businesses of all sizes are facing uncertainty. I also want to acknowledge the thousands of Canadians who have gotten sick in the midst of this pandemic and also extend my sympathies to the families of the over 8,000 Canadians who lost their lives to this terrible virus. Canadians have made great sacrifices, and our Government stepped in with immediate action to support Canadians while they fought to stop the spread of this virus. Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan is ensuring that Canadians have the support they need to put food on the table and keep a roof over their head.

Our government has been clear from the beginning: Canadians should not have to choose between protecting their job or the health of themselves or their loved ones. Representing nearly 14 per cent of Canada's gross domestic product (GDP), the Plan includes more than \$230 billion in measures to protect the health and safety of Canadians and provide direct support to Canadians, businesses and other employers, and up to \$85 billion in tax and customs duty payment deferrals to meet liquidity needs of businesses and Canadian families. Some of these measures include:

- The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) that has provided support to 8.16 million individuals.
- Assisting 688,000 businesses through the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA).
- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) which has supported about three million employees by helping them stay in the workforce or return to work.
- A special one-time \$300 per child top-up of the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) which has benefited approximately 3.7 million families.
- Issuing a special one-time top-up to the GST credit for 12 million low and modest-income individuals and families. On average, single adults received \$400 in additional benefits, and couples almost \$600.
- Bringing forward the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) to provide assistance to over 600,000 students. It provides a \$1,250 base benefit amount to eligible students, and an additional \$750 per month to those with dependents or a disability.
- Making changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program that will help employers hire summer staff and provide young Canadians access to the jobs they need during this unprecedented time. This program will help create up to 70,000 jobs for youth between 15 and 30 years of age.
- A one-time tax-free payment of \$300 to recipients of OAS and \$200 to those on GIS which will help to support 6.7 million seniors.
- Investing \$350 million in the Emergency Community Support Fund to support charities and non-profits in their important work and get vulnerable Canadians the resources they need.
- Providing \$100 million to national, regional and local organizations across Canada that are able to reach people and communities experiencing food insecurity.
- Investing \$2 billion to support diagnostic testing and to purchase ventilators, more masks and face shields, gowns, and hand sanitizer and other pieces of protective personal equipment, including for bulk purchases with provinces and territories.

The combination of these measures and many others brought forward by our government represent the most comprehensive and substantial investment in Canada's history. Our investments have meant that Canadians and Canadian businesses, instead of closing their doors, will be better positioned to come roaring back as we safely reopen the economy.

To be clear: the well-being of Canadians had to come before all else. Protecting the health, safety and well-being of Canadians, and their economic well-being and security first.

The Government of Canada has your back and together, we will get through this and build a better, fairer, more resilient country.

### GARY ANANDASANGAREE *Member of Parliament Scarborough-Rouge Park*



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- Employment Insurance
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#### Constituency Office

**3- 3600 Ellesmere Road  
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416.283.1414 | Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca

@Gary\_SRP | /GaryForSRP



## Amendment Proposal Approved by Council for 9-Storey Building in HC: New UTSC Residence slated for Ellesmere Road

By: Annoj Thavalingam

If you've passed along Ellesmere Road near the UTSC in recent weeks, you may have seen a parcel of land cleared and fenced off. Construction of a new student residence, for first-year students, has begun on the north side of Ellesmere Road between Military Trail and Conlins Rd. Set to open for the school year of 2023-24, it will feature 750 beds over nine storeys, and be built with energy-efficient "passive house" design.

Development of this residence first required a zoning amendment to be drafted and passed by the Scarborough Community Council and Toronto City Council. The amendment was approved at the end of July 2020 following the submission of various study reports by the UTSC, concerning matters such as transportation impact, stormwater management, natural heritage impact, etc.

The amendment also enabled the University to extend their initial five-storey building proposal to nine-storeys, a height comparable to the Environmental Science & Chemistry building located north of Ellesmere Road on Military Trail.

The development of mid-and high-rise student residences have been laid out in the UTSC Campus Master Plan as early as 2011. As enrolment numbers continue to increase, there is a concurrent need for housing, met by this new residence. Likely, this residence will also draw students away from multi-tenant housing around Highland Creek.



A rendering of the proposed UTSC Student Residence building at 3300 Ellesmere Road. Image via submission to the City of Toronto.

However, the location and scope of this residence drew concerns at a public consultation, held at the Highland Creek Public Library in April 2018. Residents, especially those living near the proposed development site, flagged potential impacts upon traffic, shadowing and the unseemliness of a towering building over two-storey homes. Unfortunately, the venue was too small at the time to comfortably accommodate all interested residents.

Yet, the polarized response at the meeting prompted the University's assurance that future public and community meetings would take place before the proposal is finalized. Unfortunately, public meetings did not materialize since 2018, hindering further opportunities for discourse between the University and Highland Creek community.

Since then, the Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA) did not receive word on the progress of this proposal until three weeks before its zoning amendment hearing before the Scarborough Community Council. The President of the HCCA was strictly limited to five minutes to voice his feedback from Highland Creek residents, before the zoning amendment was swiftly passed by Council.

The construction of the new UTSC residence naturally follows from the rising need for student residences. Even so, UTSC projects are not necessarily insulated from the broader community. Moving forward, more frequent and meaningful dialogue needs to be facilitated between the UTSC and residents of Highland Creek. The compromises and connections made today will ensure an equitable balance of fulfilling UTSC's vision, while preserving Highland Creek's residential and heritage qualities.





# ANXIETY: How To Cope Naturally

by Dr. Karm Hans ND

Many people have dealt with some degree of anxiety. It is common and normal to worry from time to time. For example, if you have a job interview or upcoming exam, you may feel some symptoms of anxiety. When those symptoms are present for extended periods of time and are affecting your quality of life, it is definitely time to seek some support. Anxiety is one of the most commonly diagnosed mental conditions in Canada. The most common symptoms of anxiety include the following:

- Increased heart rate and blood pressure
- Trouble with concentration
- Issues with sleep
- Feelings of restlessness
- Rapid breathing
- Feeling weak/tired
- Digestive issues

### Holistic Approach to Treating Anxiety

First and foremost, we must treat the underlying cause. It is in this quest that an individual is able to truly experience healing.

#### 1. Hormonal imbalances

All of our body systems are interconnected. Some of the main symptoms we consider when dealing with anxiety is the balance of our adrenal (stress) glands, thyroid and reproductive hormones (eg. symptoms can worsen during certain points of a women's menstrual cycle). If imbalances are present in these systems, it is only when they are corrected that patients are able to see the symptoms fade.

#### 2. Food sensitivities

The old adage - We are what we eat - is very true when it comes to dealing with anxiety. It is interesting to see if certain foods are contributing to anxiety symptoms. These can include coffee, sugar and processed foods to just name a few.

#### 3. Lifestyle factors

Stress is a huge factor when it comes to dealing with symptoms of anxiety. Eliminating sources of stress is not always possible, but identifying triggers and developing coping strategies can dramatically help.

#### 4. Genetic predisposition

In some cases, patients will say they are just anxious personalities. This can be true; some people can be more anxious than others. Medically this is not an issue. It can become an issue when symptoms are affecting the individual's quality of life. Identifying this as a potential factor is also important when it comes to treatment.

As Naturopathic Doctors, we treat the individual and not the symptoms. This is how we are able to get overall change that is long-lasting. Below are a few strategies I may consider when treating a patient who wants support with symptoms of anxiety.

#### 1. Counselling

It is important to find the right type of counselling which suits your specific needs. If you have tried it before and found it was not effective, I would encourage you to speak with a variety of practitioners until you find one that resonates with you.

#### 2. Learning coping techniques

These can include but are not limited to: meditation/guided visualizations, positive affirmations, self care techniques, sleep hygiene etc.

#### 3. Develop a protocol using a variety of strategies

Examples include diet, botanical herbs, acupuncture, supplements, detoxification etc.

Dr. Karm Hans is a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine at Equilibria Health Centre. For more information visit [www.equilibriahc.com](http://www.equilibriahc.com).



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# I DON'T WANT TO MOVE....

*A letter from Lillian McMullin*

My husband and I love living in the West Rouge – Centennial area. We want to stay here but that may be impossible... Let me explain.

We moved here 28 years ago. We looked long and hard at different locations before deciding on West Rouge. When we purchased our home, we asked the builder about future seniors' residences. He showed us a "Plan of Subdivision" and pointed to the designated site for a retirement home. This was very important to us and helped us with our decision. We were in our 40's and felt that 20 to 30 years ahead, we may not want such a big home. We needed to be assured that senior residences would be available to enable us to stay where we put downroots...BIG MISTAKE. Townhouses are now on the designated site. This has presented a big problem for us and for many others in the neighbourhood.

We are not unique in our thinking. I volunteer at Port Union Recreation Centre and have had discussions with other seniors about our housing situation. There are families in our area who have lived here for over 50 years. Sadly, many are without their spouse and find it difficult to stay in their home. Some of the comments I have heard are: "It is too expensive to maintain"; "it is too lonely living alone"; "cost of living has escalated but pensions stay the same"; "I don't want to move from my area."

Some couples have age-related medical issues and find they cannot keep up with the physical work involved in owning a home. One woman explained that she would enjoy life more if

she could sell her home and rent a senior's apartment. Real estate has escalated to the point where the old saying "Property rich, cash poor" applies. While some seniors lived comfortably when both were living, their income lowered with the passing of their spouse. Cost of living continues to increase. By the time all home expenses are met, there is little left for pleasure.

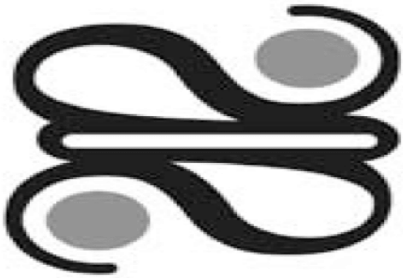
I know some senior members who have sold and moved into condos away from the neighbourhood. Others have moved to seniors residences in Pickering, Ajax and Whitby. That doesn't seem fair to me. If those areas can offer accommodations to seniors, why can't we? I have approached our politicians for help and was told to "go talk to the builders in your area".

What we need in our area is an apartment building for ages 65 and older. Our seniors are not asking for government subsidies. They are willing to pay their way. They just need a place to call home, in their own neighbourhood. I have been told that land is available to house such a building. However, how does one go about asking our government for help in establishing such a residence? Our younger families in their 40's will have the same problem unless something is done now.

It is important that our community residents understand what the future holds for them. Land for development is becoming scarce. Who do we approach to help with this problem?

***Lillian McMullin is interested in hearing from residents who share her concerns or have ideas on how to address this issue. You can email her at [Lillianmcmullin@rogers.com](mailto:Lillianmcmullin@rogers.com) or send your comments to [highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com](mailto:highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com)***

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



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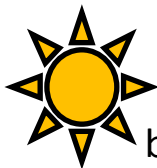
At this time, we're  
closed, BUT we have  
online yoga classes,  
& you can shop by  
appt in our boutique



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# BIOGAS Waste Facility Proposal

by Kathy Rowe

This aggressive proposal has made for a busy summer for the core group of area residents who have been working with me on this matter. Here is a recap on what you need to know, should the province grant approval to this proposal.

- The proponent (Coronation Organics) will build two anaerobic digesters and a storage facility on a parcel of land at 633 Coronation Drive. This will be the largest plant of its kind in all of Ontario and possibly all of Canada.
- The plant could operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- The plant operation proposes to process food waste from outside of Toronto (within Ontario) to produce fertilizer and gas. The gas will be sold back to Enbridge.
- It is estimated that over 100 trucks will be coming and going from the site daily, as they travel to and from the 401 HWY. A truck route has not been revealed, but you can be sure that Beechgrove, Manse, Coro-

nation, Lawrence, Morningside and Port Union will be in the mix.

- The facility will emit at least 6 toxic and greenhouse gases and particulates.
- In July, Coronation Organics hired a company to conduct a traffic impact study. You can find this study’s results on the proponent’s website:  
[www.coronationorganics.com](http://www.coronationorganics.com)  
(Please note that the City was NOT consulted for this traffic study).
- In August, Coronation Organics hired a company to conduct a noise impact study (this study is slated to be complete by August 31, 2020).
- Once the noise impact study is complete, public commentary to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) will re-open.

What can you do??

- Contact the ERO (when submissions re-open) and submit written concerns\*
- Read and sign the petition (which has

over 8,000 signatures!\*)

- Write to provincial and municipal elected officials\*

\*See our website [www.ccranews.com](http://www.ccranews.com) for links and details regarding submissions.

I want to thank the members of the group who continue to work tirelessly on this issue. You know who you are. In addition, I want to mention those who have helped us along the way. Thank you to the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) for the much needed advice, CCRA, West Rouge Community Association and the Highland Creek Community Association for supporting this cause and helping with the cost of lawn signs!

I will continue to update Centennial residents via our E-blasts and this publication as information becomes available.

Kathy Rowe, CCRA President

## The Secret Garden

You walk into a secret garden in the middle of a hidden alcove

The hawks are flying high and the silent sky whispers stay a while

On the fence are morning glories climbing towards the sun

there’s a bench that awaits you, strewn atop the wood, a rose

It has been sent to you by your guardian angel with a message, “You are loved beyond all measure”,

So many flowers growing, blooming, reaching, scenting this place

peppered carnation of strong, orange marigolds of fired beauty, california poppies, dainty flowers with lacy faces

day lilies, cornflower blue beauties, all here to bless you

Come rejoice and heal in this garden of hope and dreams

Allow yourself the pleasure of smiling, become whole again

Beneath the tutelage of faith you can be part of this scene, so bloom, of your accord.

by Vienna Bombardieri



# Are you HARD TO INSURE?

உங்களுக்கான காப்பீட்டைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ள கடினமாக உள்ளதா?

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**Having an idea is the *first step* in opening a business!**

By Jey Dharmaraj

We tend to spend more time and energy planning a holiday or our next restaurant visit, than we do on some more important matters! Most of the time, decisions to start a business are made by calling friends or family. Entrepreneurs are driving the economy in North America. However, the failure rate is high and this can be minimized with some forethought.

It helps to do a market analysis, to see if there is a need and market for this business idea. Evaluate resources needed in terms of finances, people and materials, and importantly, the time needed to generate cash flow and a return on your investment, by performing a simple feasibility study.

Tap into advice from professionals, and research before you take the plunge to start a business. Look at global and local factors that can affect your plan including technology. Examine the changing demographics. And finally, think through the reason for the existence of the business and mission. This is what sets you apart. Review this for some great insights: <https://www.branex.ca/blog/starting-a-small-business-in-toronto-canada/>

I am reminded of what Thomas Edison once said:

*"The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are, first, hard work; second, stick-to-itiveness; third, common sense."*

Take a critical look at your skillset to make sure that you have this "stick-to-itiveness". This will sustain you during moments in the valley and those 'dark shadow' times when you doubt yourself or make poor decisions, leading to negative self-talk and a defeatist attitude. Establish that you have what it takes to make it through the start-up nights before the day of profit dawns. We will look at more next time. Research, research and research!

*Jey Dharmaraj is a business and marketing professional with global and local experience.*

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