

The Villager

The Voice of the Highland Creek Community Since 1976

www.myhighlandcreek.org

The Villager XLV No. II

Festival of Lights EDITION

FREE



In Highland Creek we kick off a magical holiday season with our annual 'Tree Lighting Ceremony'. Every year for so many, the Highland Creek Festival of Lights Tree Lighting Ceremony gathered neighbours together to welcome Spirit of the Season and stroll through the village shops with hot chocolate in hand. The countdown to light up the tree, the car-olers, visits with Frosty

The Snowman, and of course the appearance of Santa Claus riding in on a red fire truck ready to hear the Christmas dreams and wishes of the young ones amongst us, — *these will be sorely missed this year...*

This heartwarming family evening has previously been brought together by efforts of local volunteers from the Highland Creek Community Association.



"HO! HO! HO!" Says Mr. Luigi
'Unofficial Mascot of The Villager News'

HC Village Common

Have your say: Questionnaire at myhighlandcreek.org

Where Will Highland Creek Establish A New Park?

By Annoj Thavalingham

The Highland Creek Village is dear to many, with its heritage structures, quaint ambiance and history stretching as far back as the mid-1800s. While much of Highland Creek has changed with the times through suburban expansion and establishment of the UTSC, the Village core along Old Kingston Road has better resisted

change. The preservation of its heritage character has also meant a slow decay in the infrastructure that holds it together. Shops have been emptying out of the Village plaza, and each year seems to press a little harder than the previous one.

Bill Yarn, Vice President of the Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA), looks to revitalize the Village, specifically through the creation of a new park at the southeast corner of Morrish and Old Kingston roads

(363 Old Kingston Rd). "The park would be a meeting place or Village Common for the community" Yarn explains, with amenities such as a large gazebo, cement tables and benches. Children would be able to enjoy movie nights with a mobile screen and projector under the gazebo. The park would be situated in the centre of the Village, and as such would include gardens and trees and be close to the shops of Highland Creek.

(Continued on Page 4)

Metrolinx in round 3 with Community Consultations for ELLESMERE ROAD BUS RAPID TRANSIT EXPANSION PROJECT Proposing Extensive Route through our Neighbourhood

**If you or someone you know lives on Ellesmere Rd. or close by Pay Attention: Metrolinx plans include expropriation of properties along Ellesmere and potentially more. (Story on Page 5)

Go To Our Community Website to learn more on BRT Developments - <https://www.myhighlandcreek.org/brt-developments.html>

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HCCA Villager News

Dear Readers,

2020 is coming to an end, and I am sure most of us are eager to bid farewell to what has been a difficult year on numerous fronts. As the word of potential Covid vaccines arrive at our doorstep, we continue to tread with cautious optimism, as these therapies have not been tested over extended time periods and are no invitation to lower our guard.



The pandemic has taken its toll in many ways, most of all for those who have lost loved ones, or live to fight the virus as frontline workers. Among those bearing the brunt of the burden are small businesses, paralyzed amidst rapidly changing guidelines, and most recently shuttered indefinitely. If you would like to support any local businesses, please visit the centrespread for a directory of shops offering take out, curbside pickup and gift certificates.

The Villager will be hibernating for a large part of the winter season, with the next issue arriving come February. Till then, Happy Holidays! May the New Year bring forth a period of renewal and restoration.

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.

Submissions

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

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highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com
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*We accept advertisement in PDF, PNG, GIF, TIF, EPS, JPG formats with around 200 dpi resolution.

*Find advertising rates at:

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 Annoj Thavalingam, Vienna Bombardieri, David Adamson, Elma Todkill, Doug Phillips, students at HC Public School, Debbie Maunder, MP Gary Anadasangaree, MPP Vijay Thanigasalam, Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, TDCSB Trustee Garry Tanuan, and TDSB Trustee Anu Srisikandarajah, Blair Anderson, Brian Blakeley, and Joy Loewen

www.myhighlandcreek.org

Next Issues:	Deadline for Submission:
Winter	January 28th
Spring	March 28th
Summer	May 28th

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 without permission of the HCCA. Copyright © 2020 Highland Creek Community Association. All rights reserved.

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Councillor Jennifer McKelvie
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416-338-3771



HCCA President Report

Looking out the window in my den as I type this report, snow is falling as the squirrels and birds compete for the seed placed on our outside patio. Listening to the news channel, COVID-19 is on the rise at a very high rate. In order to address this, the government has determined that stronger steps are necessary in combating

this pandemic. Consequently and as a result, Toronto has been placed in a lockdown as of Monday, November 23, 2020 which is expected to last for approximately 4 weeks.

This is indeed a challenging time for us, as apparently COVID-19 remains airborne longer and spreads more so during the colder weather. Certainly as our health care professionals have been telling us, it is essential to continue to maintain safe distancing practices, wear face coverings in public, avoid large crowds and regularly wash our hands.

Small businesses within our community will again be impacted, this time to a greater degree. As well, we as residents of Highland Creek and surrounding community areas will also have to make sacrifices and adjust to the situation. As Canadians, we are strong and hardy. We have grit. We are caring. Keep in mind to contact via telephone or Zoom family members, friends or neighbours, and especially a senior or someone who has accessibility difficulties. They will be happy to hear from you. It will be as good for them as it will be for you. This winter and holiday season will be much different than most have experienced, so stay safe, warm, and enjoy. And let us not forget those who may not be as fortunate, to provide whatever assistance you can to them.

HIGHLAND CREEK

Committees made up of HCCA board members have carried on diligently in addressing such matters as proposed construction plans within the Village of Highland Creek, BRT plans along Ellesmere Road from Kingston Road to Military Trail, Planning and Development within Highland Creek, Community School Liaison, Police Liaison, Environmental and Heritage Designation, Membership and Database maintenance, Website maintenance, upkeep of Wesleyan Cemetery, and of course our local newsletter, the Villager. Thanks to all for your ongoing work and dedication. Your contributions just make Highland Creek a much better place to reside. Special thanks to our executive: Vice President Bill Yarn, Secretary David Atlas, Treasurer Elma Todkill along with the Villager Editor Annoj Thavalingam and his team.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – HIGHLAND CREEK BRANCH 258

On November 11, 2020, Remembrance Day services were held outdoors at Branch 258, located at 45 Lawson Road. Safe distancing practices were in place, and although there were fewer in attendance and the service shorter, those present paid their respects to Canadians who paid the Supreme Sacrifice so that we could enjoy the freedoms we have today. We will remember them. Thanks to Branch President Richard Viles and his executive members for organizing and being present at the service along with Legion members, and in particular our Veterans. Thanks to our local elected representatives for being present and laying wreaths: MP Gary Anandasangaree, MPP Vijay Thangasalam and Councillor Jennifer McKelvie. The Legion looks forward to holding services at its new location at 305 Morrish Road next year.

Branch 258, although temporarily closed at present due to the pandemic, continues to look for new members and for existing members to renew their memberships. All Canadian citizens or citizens of an Allied nation over the age of 18 are welcome to join, regardless of whether you have served. You can join or renew your membership by contacting the Membership Chair, June Viles, at (416) 287-1314. The membership fee for 2021 is \$55.00 for the year; a great Christmas gift for a friend or relative, and supporters of the Legion.

CONCLUSION

It has been a trying time for my wife Barbara and I over the last number of weeks dealing with a family medical situation involving our son Shaune. Thanks for your prayers.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Committee Members of the HCCA, I would like to extend to all a safe and joyous Festive Season and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

Thank you all and God bless. David Adamson, President, Highland Creek Community Association

Thank You Volunteers!

**We couldn't do it
without you.**



*Thank you to the volunteers who deliver
The Villager newspapers into the
mailboxes of their neighbours!*

If you want to volunteer to deliver
The Villager News, contact
Blair: longsam1943@sympatico.ca



Happy Holidays to our valued customers and families!

Thank you for your continued support!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!



Bradley's Paint & Decorating Centre
#4-4630 Kingston Rd. at Manse Rd. (NEW LOCATION)
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(Continued from page 1)

Where do you see your Highland Creek Village Common ?

Go online to www.myhighlandcreek.org to complete a very short questionnaire.

This property, currently a vacant parking lot and open terrain, is owned by a developer known as the Awan Group. They have shown interest in swapping this land for the City-owned Morrish parkette, located further south on 28 Morrish Road. The exchange of properties would mean that the Awan Group would take ownership of the Morrish Parkette to build townhomes or a mid-size condo, while the land further north on Old Kingston Road would be transferred to the City for a new park. To facilitate this swap, Bill Yarn and David Adamson of the HCCA have participated in discussions between the City of Toronto and the Awan Group, recently involving the completion of an arborist report. The Awan Group also graciously offered to contribute funds to the construction of the newly proposed park.

These discussions had recently been tabled in light of a counterproposal from Altree Developments, who intend to build twin 8-storey condos at the corner of Military Trail and Kingston Road. As opposed to a new park, Altree proposes to outfit the existing Morrish Parkette with benches, trellises, lighting and a playground. The Morrish parkette would serve as a meeting place and connection to the Village for Altree's future condo tenants. As it is further south from the original proposed site, it is further hemmed in by auto body shops, and may find itself neighbouring another condo on the south side in several years time. Altree's proposal unfortunately overlooks the progress made to date in arranging for a park to be situated in the Village's centre, and spurns the goodwill demonstrated by the Awan Group to help fund a new park.

In short, the City is faced with two proposals to establish a park in the Village. On the one hand, we have Bill Yarn's proposal with the Awan Group to establish a park at 363 Old Kingston Road, an open area surrounded by shops and accessible to the intersection of Morrish and Old Kingston roads. On the other we have a proposal from Altree to enhance the existing Morrish parkette, a slightly larger parcel of land closer to the Village outskirts.

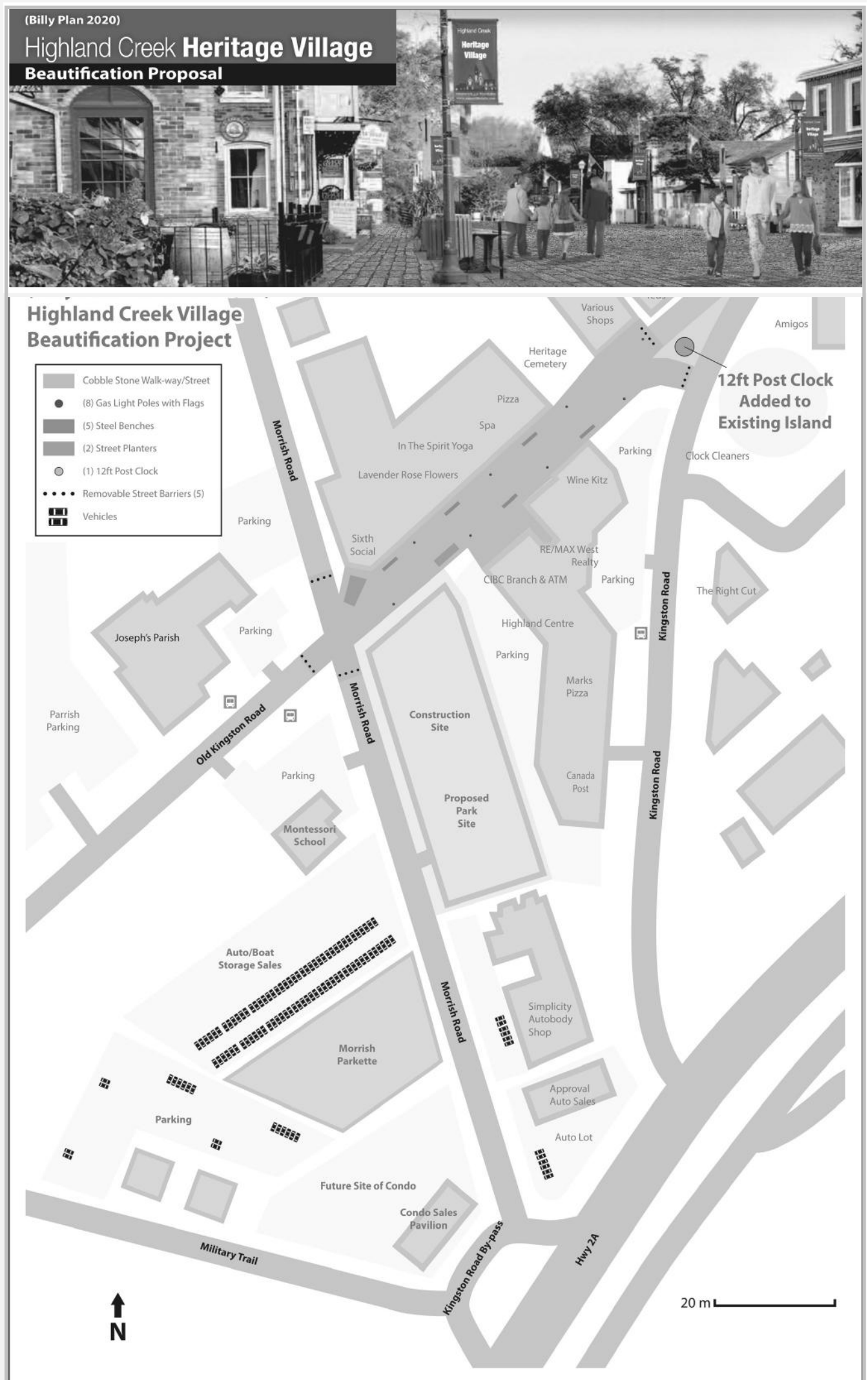
As much as the City and property developers are vested stakeholders in this decision, so are the residents of Highland Creek, who will reap the benefits of a new park for decades to come. For this reason, The Villager has prepared an online questionnaire for your say on where you would like to see a park in the Highland Creek Village.

Please take a minute to fill in the questionnaire and voice your say. Responses will be anonymized, aggregated, and distributed to City planners and Councillor for their considerations. We will ensure that the community also has a voice at the table for Highland Creek's future park. go online to www.myhighlandcreek.org

By Annoj Thavalingam

Editor, *The Villager*

A site plan of how Bill Yarn and the HCCA envision the park and subsequent beautification of the Highland Creek Village



If you did not receive an email from Metrolinx, or a copy of the Scarborough Mirror of Thursday, November 5, 2020, please see details below:

**Important Metrolinx Notice of Public Information
Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Plan
(BRT)**

**Public Information Centre #3
Virtual Event**
Monday, November 16th, 2020
through
Friday, December 18th, 2020
<https://www.metrolinxengage.com/DSBRT>
To request hard copies of the consultation materials,
contact Kristin Demasi Project Manger,

decades to grow and mature, will be cut down, and possibly any other trees that stand in their way. Trees help combat pollution and we need them.

Metrolinx’ plans will turn Ellesmere into a ‘toxic tunnel’ from the pollution caused by the diesel buses. But this airborne pollution will travel to other parts of our community. Per the Auditor General, ‘traffic-related air pollution has been linked to numerous diseases, including asthma, heart disease, stroke, respiratory symptoms, decreased lung function and lung cancer. Air pollution can also contaminate soil and water resources, harm plants and animals’.

Durham Regional Transit has recently introduced double-swing type diesel-powered Pulse buses on Ellesmere. A bus has a life of 15 to 18 years. The question is therefore - how will this BRT project comply with the Prime Minister’s recently signed Paris Agreement to reduce Canada’s carbon footprint?

Highland Creek was established in 1800, and we are a residential and heritage community. People move here for the village atmosphere, to be able to take long walks, get to know neighbours, and not be overlooked by apartment buildings.

Metrolinx plan to destroy our community. They will use our own taxpayers’ money to do this – we will never recover! How can they justify this destruction, and for such a short distance, now stopping just beyond Conlins Road. We are the only residential part of the plan – everywhere else is commercial, such as Newmarket, which took 7 years to build. They mention Ottawa and London, but

again these are also commercial routes. If these plans are implemented, every Highland Creek resident will be affected. There will be no left-hand turns out of one’s driveway on Ellesmere, and also side streets onto Ellesmere, reduction of Ellesmere’s current lanes by a considerable amount, high curbs for the Pulse buses, cycle lanes, and sidewalks each side of Ellesmere. Plus, turn lanes, which they say are ‘not lanes’, plus boarding platforms. Where will the extra land for all this expansion come from? High curbs could be very hazardous to ambulances and fire engines when they attend emergencies.

We have a beautiful, village-like community. We urge you to study the proposed plans, and voice your comments and concerns to your Elected Officials:

Vijay Thanigasalam MPP
Tel: 416-283-8448
Vijay.thanigasalamco@pc.ola.org

Jennifer McKelvie Councillor
Tel: 416-338-3771
councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca.

Gary Anandasangaree, MP
Tel: 416-283-1414
gary.anand@parl.gc.ca

by Douglas Phillips
DSBRT Committee Member HCCA
Send me your comments, highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com

For More ARTICLES ON BRT
<https://www.myhighlandcreek.org/brt-developments.html>

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New Home Developments in Highland Creek Planning Report

by Blair Anderson, HCCA



HIGHLAND CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Elle Development By Centreville Homes

At 4027 Ellesmere Road and the continuation of Hearth Place.

This development is presently under construction, building:

--3 homes on Ellesmere Road, each 3500 sq.ft. with 5 bedrooms and valued in the 1.7 million dollar range.

--8 homes on the extension of Hearth Place, ranging from 1900 to 3400 sq.ft. with 3 to 4 bedrooms and starting at 1 million dollars

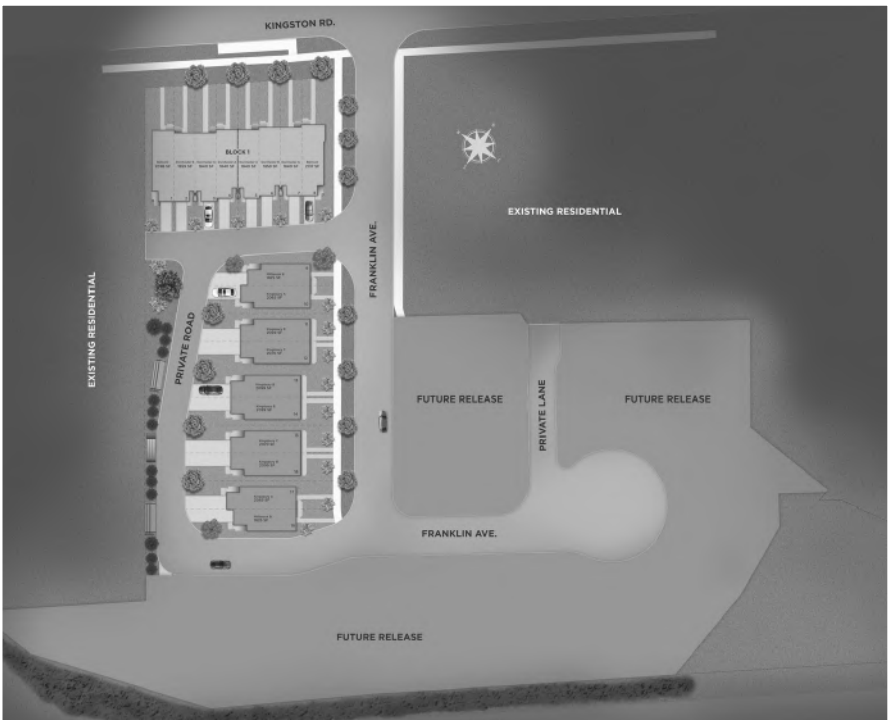
Hearth Place is accessed through Kingston Road, east of Meadowvale Road. In the near future this development may be extended from Hearth Place westward.

Photo: The development site plan and one house design on Ellesmere and one on Hearth.

Source Juvan Manathanas October 27, 2020



The Village At Highland Creek



Located on Franklin Avenue and Kingston Road/. This development is proposed to build 44 homes that includes 16 Townhouses,20 semi detached homes and 8 detached homes. The development is presently in the selling stage of 8 Townhouses on Kingston Road and 10 semi detached homes on the West side of Franklin Avenue.

6480-84 Kingston Road Proposed Development with 12 new residential units

--3 Freehold Townhouses on Kingston Road

--9 Single Detached Homes on a new public street off of Kingston Road.

Photo: The development site plan and the Townhouses on Kingston Road and one semi on Franklin Avenue.

Source Google-The Village At Highland Creek.

OUR CEMETERY

The Christmas lights are on and the planters at the front gate are decorated. We will definitely miss our annual Festival of Lights this year so we will look forward to next year.

We have had a busy time over the summer and the gardens never looked better. We always get a thank you or positive comment as we spend our time weeding.

I would like to thank the volunteers who worked tirelessly to trim, cut back and plant this summer. I have been very fortunate to have the assistance of Marilyn, Susan, Sandi, Lynn and Diane. Thank you so much for your dedication. Also Blair and John were kept very busy with grass cutting and watering the Remax beds.



Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Elma Todkill,
HCCA Treasurer
Cemetery Maintenance



Protect Our Ravines

Conservation Report by Brian Blakeley HCCA



Our neighbourhood has several ravines that are part of the Highland Creek watershed.

The Highland Creek is easy to visit using the pathways from Old Kingston Road.

Walking north on Deep Dene Drive from Kingston Road you can see a small stream just before Acland Crescent. This creek is also visible north of Lawson Road at Meadowvale Road.

Another lost creek runs for a short while down the east side of the Legion property, south of Lawson Road.

A longer creek runs from the 401 east of Scarboro Ave and continues south all the way to just north of the railway bridge over Highland Creek, just north of Lake Ontario.

Creeks are home to wildlife like rabbits, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, foxes, coyotes and deer. You may have seen some or all of these mammals, but there are many others to encounter while walking or biking in our neighbourhood.

Healthy watersheds are needed to sustain the natural environment in Highland Creek. These watersheds are threatened by proposed developments (see other Villager articles) and the HCCA needs your support in working to protect our community for all.



43rd Division Community Police Liaison Report

Theft from and of motor vehicles have increased over the Covid period. It is best to report any break-ins online at <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/core/> or through the non-emergency number 416.808.2222. It

is important to do so as information gathering is vital in piecing trends together. Please don't leave valuables visible and don't let your vehicle idle unattended without using precautions. Keep your key fobs away from the front door area of your home so the signal cannot be detected.

Some good news is that major crime categories are all down pre- and post-Covid.

There has been a lot of communication regarding race and identity based data. For a full report, please see <https://www.torontopolice.on.ca/race-based-data/>. If you have any commentary or ideas, they are looking for community input at inclusiondata@torontopolice.on.ca. The deadline is December 15, 2020 to provide feedback and help inform the strategy.

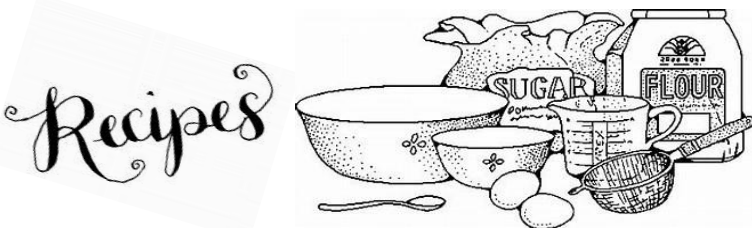
As always, you can reach out to me at joyloewen@cplc@gmail.com with any issues and concerns.

FOOD ACCESS RESOURCES

Food to individuals and families in need is required on an on-going basis.

*East Scarborough Store Front provides a list of East Scarborough Food Access Resources <https://thestorefront.org/covid-19-updates/>

<https://211.ca> connects you to programs and services in your community



CRANBERRY, LEMON & COCONUT SQUARES

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Butter a 9" x 13" baking dish. I use a glass one

BASE

2 cups of flour
1/2 cup of sugar
1/2 tsp. of salt
2/3 cup cold butter cut into cubes
Process the above ingredients in a food processor until crumbly and then pat into the dish.
Bake for 20 minutes.

FILLING

4 eggs
2 cups of sugar
1/2 cup of lemon juice
1/2 cup of flour
1 tsp. of baking powder
2 cups of cranberries (one bag)
2 cups of coconut – shredded and unsweetened
Process the eggs, sugar and lemon juice in the food processor. Add the flour and baking powder which has been mixed together. Process until smooth. Scatter the cranberries and then the coconut over the warm base.
Pour the liquid mixture over the top

Bake for 55 – 60 minutes
Let cool and cut into squares.

Enjoy!

David's DATE SQUARES

Crumb Layers:

All-Purpose Flour 1¼ cups 300 ml
Rolled Oats 1½ cups 375 ml
Brown Sugar, packed 1 cup 250 ml
Baking Soda 1 tsp 5 ml
Salt ½ tsp 2 ml
Butter or Hard Margarine, softened 1 cup 250 ml

Filling:

Chopped Dates 1½ cups 375 ml
Granulated Sugar ½ cup 125 ml
Water ⅔ cup 150 ml

Crumb Layers:

Measure flour, rolled oats, sugar, baking soda, salt, and butter into a large bowl
Cut in butter until crumbly
Press a generous ½ into a greased 9 x 9-inch (22 x 22 cm) pan

Filling:

In a saucepan, combine dates, sugar, and water. Bring to a boil and allow to simmer until dates are mushy. If mixture becomes too dry before the dates have softened, add more water. If you find you have too much water, continue to simmer until some water has boiled away.

Spread over bottom layer of crumbs.

Sprinkle remaining crumbs over top and press down with your hand

Bake at 350° F (175°C) for 30 minutes until top is a golden brown


Let cool completely

Cut into 36 squares

Yum!



Remembrance Day Royal Canadian Legion Highland Creek Branch



VIJAY THANIGASALAM

MPP, Scarborough-Rouge Park

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

8130 Sheppard Ave. East, Unit 105, Scarborough, Ontario M1B 3W3
(416) 283-8448 vijay.thanigasalamco@pc.ola.org

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
- Education Issues
- Senior Services

Important Numbers:

Enbridge	1-877-362-8000	FRO	416-326-1818
Grants Ontario	416-325-6691	OHIP	416-314-5518
Justice Ontario	1-866-252-0104	Toronto City Services	311
Service Ontario	416-326-1234	Toronto Hydro	416-542-8000
ODSP/Ontario Works	416-397-1000	WSIB	416-344-1000

MPP Scarborough-Rouge Park,
Vijay Thanigasalam

Hello friends and residents of Highland Creek Village,

As we enjoy the last days of fall before the holiday season begins and snow covers the land, I want to take a moment to talk with you about some important issues that our province is facing.

I was honoured to take part in Remembrance Day commemorations held at the Highland Creek Legion Branch 258 and the Toronto Zoo. It gave us an opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices made by our brave men and women in uniform, and all those who have made their final journey home, draped in our maple leaf flag. I was honored to wear a poppy and lay down a wreath.

As we live in the midst of this pandemic and in a time of profound uncertainty, it is important for everyone to know how their government is best helping and supporting them. To demonstrate transparency and commitment to our highest priority, the health and safety of Ontarians, earlier this month we released our budget outlining the framework to protect, support and recover Ontario.

We understand that the second wave is straining the resources of our healthcare network, workers and hospitals. Hence I am incredibly proud to announce that our government is investing an additional \$761 million to build and renovate 74 long-term care homes across Ontario. This investment includes \$25 million for the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care to build a new facility for seniors. Our care of seniors is of paramount importance, and we must always ensure that those who built this province receive the dignity of adequate care that they deserve. To accomplish this, our budget included \$7.5 billion in new funding to our long-term care sector, which will go to ensure that all patients and residents will receive four hours of personal care per day, reaping significant benefits for their health and wellbeing.

We are supporting the most vulnerable because it is the right thing to do. But apart from patients in long term care homes, our government is also making life more affordable for seniors living in their own homes. Our provincial government has introduced a tax credit for seniors, worth 25% of up to \$10 thousand in expenses. The tax credit allows for seniors to renovate their homes to include safety measures that help them live in their homes, such as guard railings and stair lifts.

Furthermore, our government is providing \$176 million in new annual funding on mental health and addiction, as part of our commitment to invest \$3.8 billion over the next 10 years to develop and implement a comprehensive and connected mental health and addictions strategy.

I was proud to partake in the announcement of \$11,835,800 granted to the Scarborough Health Network to build 45 beds: 20 at the Birchmount site and 25 at the Centenary. This funding will also supply 8 new critical care beds at the SHN, helping reduce surgical backlog and increase hospital capacity.

On behalf of my team and my family, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season, and I look forward to connecting with you in the New Year.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 and the supports our government is offering, please visit www.covidsupports.ca/rougepark/ to learn more, or you can always reach my office at 416-283-8448 or by email at vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org.

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November/December 2020



Celebrating Christmas in Highland Creek  
Councillor Jennifer McKelvie,  
Ward 25, Scarborough – Rouge Park



Dear Neighbours,

It's hard to believe December is already here. There's no denying that 2020 has been a difficult year, but we've also seen tremendous goodwill from both residents and businesses in the Highland Creek community. As we look ahead to 2021, I know that whatever challenges we may face, our community is resilient and residents will continue to look out for one another. I wish

you and your family all the best for a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to continuing to work together in the new year.

Light Up the Christmas Spirit in Ward 25!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in our community! Whether you prefer a traditional wreath and subtle lighting, love 10-foot inflatables or take design inspiration from the Griswold Family Christmas, all displays help build the holiday spirit in our neighbourhood!

Thanks to the fantastic feedback on our Halloween home tour and contest, we're doing it all again for Christmas! Celebrate the hard work of your neighbours and nominate homes with fantastic holiday decorations. Please send the address of your favourite Christmas displays to [councillor\\_mckelvie@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca). We will post a list of homes in our e-newsletter and on social media so you can enjoy a neighbourhood tour. Closer to Christmas, we will open up voting so you can select your favourite home.

Ending Illegal Rooming Homes in Scarborough

Illegal rooming houses are a serious concern in Highland Creek. We must create a process to effectively address the serious complaints about safety, property standards and parking.

In November, as a member of the City's Planning and Housing Committee, I moved several motions to improve the City's public engagement process, in an effort to better regulate multi-tenant housing.

I have asked City staff to consult on key matters including parking, safety and the number of units per home. Staff have also been asked to explore whether a landlord security deposit could be mandated and subsequently used towards maintaining property standards, if the landlords refuse to do so.

Staff will report back to City Council next spring. If you are interested in participating in the public consultation process, please contact my office. We will also provide notice of engagement opportunities in our e-newsletter.

Province Proceeding with Durham-Scarborough BRT Consultations

The Province is proceeding with the third round of community consultations as part of the Metrolinx Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit project. Consultations are being conducted virtually, where residents can review the proposal, ask questions, and provide feedback. This consultation period is open until December 18 and can be accessed on the Metrolinx Engagement Website at [www.metrolinxengage.com/DSBRT](http://www.metrolinxengage.com/DSBRT).

City of Toronto staff have reviewed the proposal and highlighted concerns along Ellesmere Road, from Kingston Road to Military Trail. City Council will be directing City staff to work with Metrolinx to identify design alternatives that will mitigate impacts to the homes on Ellesmere Road. I will continue to monitor this Provincial project and ensure our community is included in ongoing engagement.

Learn More – 1625 Military Trail and 6000 Kingston Road

The City is currently working on a final report on the development proposal at 1625 Military Trail and 6000 Kingston Road. As part of the City's review, staff will consider feedback from the public. To share your comments, please email City Planner, Sophie Knowles, at [sophie.knowles@toronto.ca](mailto:sophie.knowles@toronto.ca). The final report, including recommendations and proposed community benefits, will be considered by Scarborough Community Council in the new year. We will also provide notice of the completed application and statutory meeting in our e-newsletter.

We're Here to Work for You

If you have local issues you would like addressed, any ideas for how we can build a better City, or just want to chat about the neighborhood, please feel free to contact us at [councillor\\_mckelvie@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca). To stay up to date with local news, please sign up for our e-newsletter at [www.jennifermckelvie.ca](http://www.jennifermckelvie.ca), and follow me on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter via my handle, [@McKelvieWard25](https://www.instagram.com/McKelvieWard25).

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year,  
Jennifer



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The Villager News Team & the Highland Creek Community Association wish you a Merry Christmas. May the New Year bring good news, health and happiness for all.

A Huge Thank You to the businesses that continue to advertise in our community newsletter, enhancing the efforts of our volunteers with your ads and participation in the neighbourhood.

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In Support of Small Business

The list is a compilation of local business whose doors are closed to customers at the time of printing.



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### Light Up The Christmas Spirit in HIGHLAND CREEK!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in our community!  
All displays help build the holiday spirit in our neighbourhood! Celebrate the hard work of your neighbours and nominate homes with fantastic holiday decorations.  
Please send the address of your favourite Christmas displays to [councillor\\_mckelvie@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca). We will post a list of homes in our e-newsletter and on social media so you can enjoy a neighbourhood tour. Closer to Christmas, we will open up voting so you can select your favourite home.

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| APPETIZER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | MAIN                                                                                                                                         | DESSERT                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SWEET POTATO COCONUT SOUP</b><br><i>Our Vegan homemade soup will give you the right amount of heat from our Scotch Bonnet peppers, the sweetness from our sweet potatoes and hearty vegetables, finished off with a touch of coconut</i> | <b>YOUR CHOICE OF:</b><br>SEAFOOD LINGUINI OR<br>EGGPLANT PARMESAN OR<br>PESTO CHICKEN PENNE                                                 | <b>MINI CHEESECAKE</b><br><b>\$30</b><br>PER PERSON              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>YOUR CHOICE OF:</b><br>BUTTER CHICKEN WITH RICE AND NAAN OR<br>SHORT RIBS WITH FRIED RICE OR<br>MAPLE CRUSTED SALMON WITH GRILLED VEGGIES | <b>MINI HOLIDAY DESSERT PLATTER</b><br><b>\$40</b><br>PER PERSON |

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# Why is branding Important today?

By Jey Dharmaraj



In the midst of these trying times, let me attempt to answer a question that is in many business owners’ minds.

Why is branding important to organizations today?


How can they use branding strategies to stand out in the market?

Branding is the identity of a product or service that distinguishes and sets apart one from the other by a unique positioning and proposition. This tells the marketplace who and what the product is, and why the marketplace should offer you money for your product or service. This is vital for the success of the organization, as this goes beyond the factory, manufacturing, people, processes and output. So for example, while the brand is Coke, the promotion, messaging and positioning evoke a certain image of what Coke is and what makes it different from other beverages.

And therefore, it is important to look at marketing holistically to be more effective and provide more value than volume for long term sustainability.


Jey Dharmaraj is an established marketing consultant in West Rouge <https://www.winstrategy.marketing>





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



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## Remembrance Day at Highland Creek Public School

Remembrance Day is a day when we acknowledge the people who fought for our country. People all around the world are asked to wear a poppy every November 11. Why on November 11, you might ask. November 11, 1918 was the day the First World War came to an end. The First World War ended on the eleventh month, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh hour. What a coincidence!

What does Remembrance Day mean to the students of Highland Creek Public School? We must remember the lives of those who were lost during times of war and to honor them because they sacrificed their lives to save our freedom, and help those who needed it most. We honor them by wearing poppies and we also pay our respects to them with a moment of silence. Countless soldiers risked their lives knowing that there was a strong possibility of them not returning to their families and friends.

On November 11, 2020 our school had a virtual assembly. All of the classes and our staff attended. Students shared presentations, quotes, songs, and drama/dance pieces to acknowledge the lives that have been lost. The virtual assembly concluded with a moment of silence in which all classes and staff partook.

We asked the students of Highland Creek Public School about their thoughts on the assembly. One student from the Grade 7/8 class gave their opinion on the format of the assembly: *"I'm glad we took the time to substitute the in real-life assembly with a virtual one. It is important that we were able to acknowledge the people who fought for our land."* Another student from Grade 5 said *"I liked the assembly, especially since it was the first virtual assembly I have ever been to. It was also super fun seeing all the different classes perform."*

In conclusion, Highland Creek Public School did an amazing job acknowledging our Veterans of the past and present. We had a great assembly showcasing various classes' ideas and performances with the kind of positivity we need during such stressful times.

By Students M. I. & J. B.

Our published Grade 7/8 reporters have done an amazing job in highlighting the essence of Remembrance Day and Highland Creek's participation in honouring our veterans. We are so proud of all our students for adapting so well to the new reality we live in.



This school year brings with it a lot of new experiences and innovative ways of engaging children in learning while keeping our distance and abiding by Covid-19 safety measures. We are so excited to have our students participate in outdoor activities right here in the Highland Creek community. Hillside Outdoor Education Staff have come to our school to support outdoor exploration. Each classroom had an opportunity to participate in outdoor learning. Students collected material during a nature walk to make nature-inspired art, explored biodiversity and natural habitats. Each class has come back excited to share their experience and learning.

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

With winter around the corner and slippery road conditions, we would like to remind drivers to do their part to keep students safe. Always leave space around school buses and avoid blocking school bus loading zones so children can enter and exit safely. Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just during school hours. Always obey the rules of the road (adhering to speed limits) and watch for children, especially in school zones. Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and school crossings. Together we can keep children safe.

Our staff continuously works hard to provide excellence in teaching and learning. Our caretaking staff also ensures our school is a safe and fully functional facility. We look forward to a successful year!

By Mai Halabi, Principal  
Highland Creek Public School



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November/December 2020





**Trustee Anu Sriskandarajah  
Toronto District School Board Updates**

TDSB has launched a new online app to help high school students stay connected and organized.

Phase 1 is designed with secondary students in mind, helping them stay organized with school work, see their daily school calendar and stay in touch with their school community. By logging in with their TDSB school ID, their timetable is automatically populated, allowing them to add notes, goals and details to each course.

Schools can also share announcements, updates, local calendars and more to help students stay connected and informed.

Subsequent phases include features such as the student safety line, notifications and opportunities to share your voice, and also a version for elementary students and families.

The TDSB Connects App supports our commitment to be more digitally-friendly, reduce paper usage and find new and engaging ways to connect with students to support their success.

Download the app now at [the Google Play Store](#) or [the Apple App Store](#).

**Lockdown and Fire Drills**

At the beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for the year ahead by establishing the foundations for a successful year. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is by creating a safe environment. Though no one ever wants to see an emergency arise at a school, it's important for school staff to be equipped to deal with these situations, should they occur.

The TDSB has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans that include steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, how staff will get students away from possible dangers, and how students' families will be contacted.

One aspect of emergency preparedness is the lockdown and fire drill. All schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills and six fire drills each school year. The drills last approximately 5 minutes and ensure plans are effective and can also systematically identify any safety concerns. This year, as all cohorts need to participate, additional drills may be required.

Communication is also critical in any emergency situation. Please ensure the school office has accurate emergency contact information and advise us of any changes during the school year.



**Trustee Gary Tuanan  
Toronto Catholic District School Board**

Dear family and friends,

As we go into the season of Advent, let us focus on the coming of Jesus, through our scripture readings and prayers, to prepare us spiritually for Christmas. May this Advent be a time of spiritual awakening and renewal for all of us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Savior of the World. Advent is not only a time of spiritual preparation but for many of us, it's a time to decorate our homes, spend time with family and friends, exchange gifts and more. However, we must also remember that Christ is the reason for the season, and the season is penitential, a time for solemn reflection and a time to foster a sense of quiet hope, now more than ever during these challenging times.

Remembrance Day: Through an Afrocentric Lens: During the month of November, the TCDSB staff and students explored the historical significance of Black-Canadian soldiers and veterans in shaping our country's history. All staff members were invited to partake in the Remembrance Day celebration virtually.

**The Catholic Register's Christmas drawing contest!** Wanted: Christmas artists! The Catholic Register's popular children's drawing contest is back! The top entry in each of three categories will receive a \$75 Amazon gift certificate, plus a 6-month digital subscription. The winning drawings will appear in The Register's Christmas edition, December 20, 2020, as well as on their [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages. The submission deadline is December 11, 2020.

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**The Villager News is Looking for an Assistant Editor**  
Email: [highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com](mailto:highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com)

Poetry Corner

Tinseled Moments Of Love

Watching the festive tree light up the room I gladden  
like a tiding shifting from the present moment to the past  
Remembering the happy smiles that grew upon our faces  
as the season approached with all its glitter and bustle  
Tinseled moments overlaid as memories turn golden  
by the fitted hugs of mom and dad and all I held so dear  
Skies of reddish hue falling gently on the Christmas tree  
landing on a Child Of Love, nestled softly in a manger  
Breathing in the Hope, we sang with peppermint voices  
carefree as the wind that blew upon our Christmases  
As I recall the Christmastides of old I rejoice in the thought  
that the Christ of yesteryear, still shines in me today.

Written by: Vienna Bombardieri

**\*NEW Toronto Zoo Holiday Drive-Thru**  
*Drive-Thru The Zoo And Visit Santa Claus!*  
*Also Includes A Holiday Food & Toy Drive*

This holiday season, come out to the **Toronto Zoo Holiday Drive-Thru** for a family-friendly and COVID safe experience! See the beauty of winter at The Toronto Zoo as you and your family drive through our special holiday route from the safety and warmth of your own vehicle.



Drive past our 35 Foot tall Toronto Zoo Christmas Tree and our new Holiday Marketplace on your way to see Santa Claus himself! Make sure you bring your letter to Santa for a COVID safe drop off!\*

After a drive by-visit with Santa, you will continue on through the Zoo to see a few special sights: Santa’s cottage where some of his reindeer (caribou) reside and our Enrichment Toy Workshop where you can see some of our Toronto Zoo Elves making toys for our animals.

Along the way, we will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items and toys for families in need. We encourage you to bring items and show the holiday spirit by helping out those in your community! Food donations will be going to Second Harvest and toy donations will be going to the Toronto Firefighters Toy Drive.

Revenue from this experience goes towards the operating costs and care of our animals. The Toronto Zoo is a not-for-profit organization that works towards connecting people, animals and conservation science to fight extinction.

Join us this holiday season to experience the beauty of the Zoo in winter and celebrate in a safe and fun way!

Details here! <https://www.torontozoo.com/holiday>

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Christmas

Word Search

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Sudoku

The classic Sudoku game involves a grid of 81 squares. The grid is divided into nine blocks, each containing nine squares.

The rules of the game are simple: each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9 within its squares. Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

Each puzzle has only one correct solution.  
Good luck!

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6 |   | 1 | 9 |   |   |   | 4 |   |
|   |   |   | 7 | 5 |   | 1 |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |
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## MPP Scarborough-Park Gary Anandasangaree



*"The passing of Bill C-9, is an important step to supporting businesses"*

Earlier this month, we received some sobering details regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. New projections released by the Public Health Agency of Canada show us that strong actions are needed now to curb the spread of the second wave.

As new restrictions are placed on the City of Toronto, we are reminded that while there may be vaccines on the horizon, we need to ensure that we take steps now to slow the spread of COVID-19.

What we do today determines our future tomorrow. Wearing a mask, washing our hands frequently, minimizing our circle of contacts, and downloading the COVID Alert App will make a difference, and limit the heavy burden that our frontline heroes continue to shoulder.

### Protecting our Environment

Our government is committed to ensuring Canada reaches our goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. This November, we introduced legislation which will set rolling five-year emissions targets, establish a Net-Zero Advisory Body to provide independent advice, require the government to publish an annual report, and enshrine greater accountability and transparency into Canada's plan to ensure we meet these targets.

### Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

The passing of Bill C-9, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy) is an important step to supporting businesses through the second wave of the pandemic. The new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS), new Lock-down Support top-up subsidies, and an extension to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) will ensure that businesses, nonprofits and charities get through this crisis, stay solvent, and keep workers on the payroll. For more information on these new programs, I encourage you to contact my office, or visit [Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus).

### Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives (CSMARI) Program

A call for proposals is now open for the Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives (CSMARI) Program. This program builds on Canada's strength as a diverse and inclusive society and provides funding for projects that:

- support communities in confronting racism and discrimination, promoting intercultural and interfaith understanding, and fostering equitable opportunities to participate fully in Canadian society;
- promote and engage in discussions on multiculturalism, diversity, racism, and religious discrimination at the domestic and international levels; and
- strengthen research and evidence to build understanding of the disparities and challenges faced by racialized and religious minority communities, and Indigenous Peoples.

For more information on CSMARI, and to find out how you can get involved in the national effort to strengthen diversity and eliminate racism, please do not hesitate to contact my office using the information below.

### Looking Ahead to 2021

As always, my team will continue to be here to support the residents of Scarborough – Rouge Park. If we can be of any assistance to you, or your family, I encourage you to reach out to us via email at [Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca) or by telephone at: 416-283-1414.

Please accept my warmest wishes for a safe, happy and healthy holiday season. No matter how difficult things may seem, we can and will get through this together.

Yours very truly,

Gary Anandasangaree

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



*My office is here to help you navigate the services offered  
by the Federal government.*



- Immigration
- Citizenship
- Passport Canada
- Revenue Canada
- Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security
- Canada Child Benefit
- Employment Insurance
- Veterans Affairs and more....

### Constituency Office

**3- 3600 Ellesmere Road  
Scarborough  
ON M1C 4Y8**

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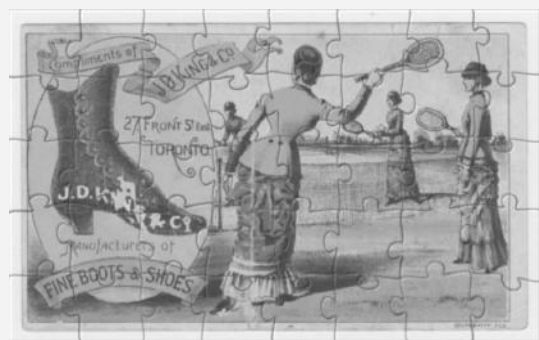
### Toronto Public Library

#### WHAT’S NEW?

The library has been open for three months and many new features have been added to explore and use. Did you know you can download colouring pages of historic pictures of Canada? Or put together a digital puzzle of signs and pictures from our past? Both of these features are available in the Digital Archive Ontario section of TPL’s web site TPL.ca. There are also photographs, maps and articles about the history of our country. If you have some free time, check out these links to the following found in the DAO Blogs:

#### Pieces of History: 70 Digital Puzzles of Items in the Special Collections

<https://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/local-history-genealogy/2020/05/pieces-of-history-35-digital-puzzles-of-items-in-our-special-collections.html>



#### Ontario History: 40 Colouring Pages from Items in the Special Collections

<https://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/local-history-genealogy/2020/10/ontario-history-40-colouring-pages-from-our-special-collections.html>



If you have been missing the ability to see live theatre, the library has Broadway, Shakespearean, and National Theatre plays that you can stream and enjoy. The selection is found in the Digital Video and Music section of the eBooks and Online Content on the TPL homepage.

<https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/books-video-music/downloads-ebooks/digital-video-music.jsp>



National Theatre’s production of Small Island

Now there are more ways to use your library card! Visit the TPL.ca website soonand discover the many ways your library card can help you explore new things. Don’t forget to visit our local Highland Creek Library branch as well!

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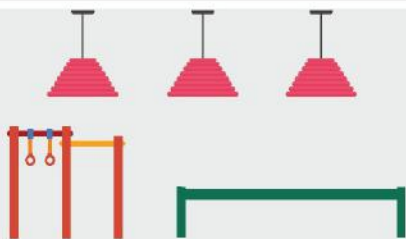
## ● Ample Storage Space

Declutter closets to make them appear roomier.



## ● Staging

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## ● Proper Pricing

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## ● Move- In Ready

Homes sell quicker and at a higher value when they are ready for a new owner to move in right away. From Replacing leaky faucets and chipped paint to major eye sores, consider making necessary repairs before listing.



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