

The Villager

The Villager XLIV No. IV



HERITAGE EDITION

June/July 2020



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The Highland Creek Community Association created a short **SURVEY** to obtain feedback on proposed developments that will affect the day to day lives of the residents of Highland Creek, and the greater community.

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Altree Developments propose two 8-storey condominium residences in South Highland Creek Village bordering the Highland Creek Ravine. Advertised as ‘The Field House’, the condo buildings will contain 620 units, with 2.5 levels of underground parking, 577 parking spaces, and 466 bike racks. The height of the buildings, floor space, and number of units leads to a density of 3.29 times the lot area.

The City planning rules in sections of Highland Creek Village allow a maximum of 6 storeys and a density of 2.5 times the lot area. Altree developments request amendments to the allowable height and density.

City of Toronto planners, along with Ward 25 Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, created the Highland Creek Working Group to obtain feedback on development in Highland Creek Village. The inaugural meeting was held on May 20th. From a total of nine people invited to participate, three of the working group members reside in Highland Creek. The other members come from the greater community making up Centennial, West Rouge and Highland Creek Business Owners.

A public meeting had initially been set up for April 22, 2020, but was later cancelled due to quarantine restrictions. In the absence of public meetings, The Highland Creek Community Association has created a survey to obtain feedback from the public on this pressing matter. This will be our medium until it is safe to gather for an official public meeting.





The Villager News

The Villager newspaper is published by the Highland Creek Community Association. Volunteers from the local community gather, edit, write, design and distribute the Villager five times a year. Distribution is concentrated in Highland Creek with free delivery to 5200 households and businesses.

We are reviewing our ad structure for 20/21. You can review our current advertising details on the HCCA website www.myhighlandcreek.org. We accept your advertisement in PDF, TIF, EPS, JPG formats with around 200 dpi resolution.

*For inquiries or to place an ad with The Villager contact our Advertising Coordinator, Elma Todkill 416.284.2013 or email any questions to highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com The Villager News Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA) 371 Old Kingston Road, Box 97501 Highland Creek MIC 4Z1

Big Thank you to members of the Highland Creek community for invaluable submissions. Your stories, poetry, events, and news are of continued interest to the Highland Creek community. Thank you to our writers: Sandhya Singh, Shradha Singh, Elma Todkill, Sri Dhayalan, Diana Burandt, Vienna Bombardieri, Dr. Karm Hans, Douglas and Marja Phillips, May Halabi, Bill Yarn, Kathy Rowe, Frank Moir and our elected representatives.

Letters to the Editor?
Email: highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com

Want to stay in the loop on local events, news, and happenings?
Send your email and contact information to Highland Creek Community Association: myhighlandcreekcommunity@gmail.com
www.myhighlandcreek.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Issue	Deadline for submission	Delivered
August Issue	July 31	August 31
October Issue	September 30	October 31

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.

Ads may be purchased by single edition or yearly (5).
Payment may be made in cash or by cheque or email transfer.

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**THANK YOU
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**Huge Thank you to our
volunteer distribution
team!**

Volunteering your time and energy to hand deliver The Villager Newspaper to homes and businesses in Highland Creek and bordering Centennial neighbourhood homes.

Thank you and Bless you!

David Adamson, President of the Highland Creek Community Association



We have all experienced individually and collectively the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to varying degrees. No doubt this will have a lasting effect on our day-to-day routines and the

manner in which business will be conducted in the future. I am certain as we begin to enjoy the good summer weather, many will take advantage of outdoor activities, hopefully keeping in mind safe distancing practices. News media reports have been contradictory over the last number of months on the reporting of the pandemic and as to what we should do or not do. Obviously this has been frustrating and a cause for concern. I am sure that we are all looking for some good and positive news. Our heartfelt thanks to all the frontline and healthcare workers for their dedication and commitment; also to those who have made contributions to those less fortunate under these trying conditions. Our sincere condolences to those who have lost loved ones.

The pandemic forced the cancellation of the HCCA Annual General Meeting scheduled for April 23, 2020, the fundraising Heritage Festival dinner/dance on April 25 and the Highland Creek Heritage Festival on June 20. These will be rescheduled for next year.

The HCCA Board of Directors has continued to be active and have held Zoom meetings. We have participated in discussing redevelopment plans in the Village of Highland Creek (see separate article in this regard), seeking input on the impact of the pandemic, and decided to print and distribute our newsletter, The

Villager, in order to keep our residents updated as best we can.

Now, some updated news of a more positive nature. The Legion, Highland Creek Branch 258 located at 45 Lawson Road, remains closed for the time being but continues its relocation plans to its new location at 305 Morrish Road, where the Salvation Army was located. The Legion purchased the property on February 26, 2020. At a time when it is advisable to hold group gatherings, the Legion plans to hold a community meeting to discuss their redevelopment plans and address any questions in this regard under President Richard Viles and the Executive Committee.

The Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans Care, located next to the Legion, has continued to provide excellent care to their residents and is COVID-19 free. Daily testing of the residents and staff takes place. There is the opportunity for residents to maintain contact with their loved ones through telephone and virtual discussions. The Board of Directors under Chairman Veto Greto holds regular Zoom meetings in dealing with current and future matters. Melissa Elliot, Executive Director and her dedicated staff are most appreciative of the drive-by support given to them by the local residents.

June 6, 2020 represented the 76th anniversary (June 6, 1944) of the Allied invasion on the coast of Normandy by Canadian, British and American forces. It was the greatest seaborne invasion in history and was the beginning of the liberation of France and Western Europe. It was raining on June 5, 1944 when General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander gave the order to attack the next day. Canada was assigned to Juno beach, Britain to Gold

and Sword beaches and the USA to Utah and Omaha beaches.

By nightfall on June 6, 1944, some 14,000 Canadians landed on Juno beach under the leadership of General Harry Crerar, Commander 1st Canadian Army and Major General Rod Keller, Commander, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. D Company of the Queen's Own Rifles lost half its strength in the first wave of the attack. There were 359 Canadians killed and 1,074 wounded or missing.

The HCCA took pride in being involved in organizing the 75th Anniversary activities at the Wesleyan Cemetery in the Village of Highland Creek, with the assistance of Capt. Al French of the R.C.L. Branch 258 Colour Guard and its members. The highlight, of course, was when Lt. Cliff Ferguson, a Veteran and member of the Colour Guard, had the honour of raising the Canadian Flag. The event was well attended by many local residents and Legion members.

Unfortunately this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to organize a similar recognition of D-Day. However, we should remember and keep in mind the sacrifices our Veterans made; without them we would not be enjoying the many freedoms that sometimes are taken for granted. Thank our Veterans at every opportunity.

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

Thank you all and God bless.

David Adamson, President

*Highland Creek Community Association
June 2020*

From the editor



Dear readers,

Since this paper went into quarantine with you mid-March, we have risen from the debris to see how our lives have been changed forever. Some

of us have been impacted harder than others, the most grievous being the loss of loved ones.

For better or for worse, hope is one of our greatest strengths, and it is with hope and resilience that we pick ourselves up and march onwards. We do not give up easily, and we each have hundreds of others around us to offer support and comfort, whether it be physically or virtually. This is the blessing of a connected community, and lucky we are to be a part of one.

The Villager is committed to informing residents of the thoughts and activities that occupy our beautiful neighbourhood. In this edition we are covering a number of conten-

tious issues, such as condo development along the Highland Creek Ravine, a new waste plant proposal that will release noxious fumes, and a Durham-Scarborough rapid transit service that intends to widen and remodel Ellesmere Road with bus-only lanes. We hope the information presented will encourage you to think critically about what you feel is best for the community, and also speak up for what you feel is right. Please visit the front page and page 16 for more information on how you can voice your opinion.

Alongside the activism, there are some heart-to-heart pieces for you to enjoy concerning gardening and students' virtual learning experiences. We also have a new Creative Corner in the centrespread, where Highland Creek residents of all ages have shared their thoughts and emotions through art for their community. In such tumultuous times, the expression of our humanity is all the more vital for our collective well-being.

*Best wishes and stay safe,
Annoj Thavalingam*

Volunteer to Deliver The Villager News and receive a Bonus Hour of Exercise!

We need volunteers to deliver newspapers. An hour of time, 5 editions per year.

If you are interested in volunteering and exercising for the community please contact: Mr. Blair Anderson at longsam1943@sympatico.ca



Update on Highland Creek Small Shops:

Small local shops in Highland Creek are beginning to open their doors. While a handful of essential businesses have turned to curbside pick up, delivery or online services, many still can not operate in their full capacity. It's uncertain times like these when a little care goes a

long way. If you love a local shop show them you care with likes and follows, reviews, purchases and orders. Pay attention to the little shops filling our Highland Creek neighbourhood.



Auto Techniques

By Elma Todkill

John, Steve and Mike started Auto Techniques in 1998 to perform auto repairs.

They were located at 6000 Kingston Road until this past March, when they moved further east to 6531 Kingston Road at the end of Ellesmere Road.

They have moved to a brand new building

which was designed for automotive repairs. It is the state of the art with the latest and greatest environmental equipment with free air return and oil/water separators.

Drop by to check out the new location for your general auto repairs.

You can reach Auto Techniques at 416 283 7011.



Framing Dames

By Elma Todkill

Catherine Hawthorne has been in business in Highland Creek for over 20 years. She rented her first storefront on Morrish Road from Ken Morrish (who didn't think a woman could make a go of a business), staying there for 10 years before moving to the Old Kingston Road side of the Highland Creek plaza. She managed her business there for another 10 years and has now moved across the street to 6083 Kingston Road, in the Woodland Court Plaza beside Amigos Restaurant.

Catherine loves her cozy new location. She can now see what's happening in the Village and feels more of a part of the community with her friendly new neighbours. Plus there is lots of parking.

Framing Dames offers custom picture framing, and sells artwork and gifts.

Art restoration is available as well as painting parties and kids art classes.

You can follow her Framing Dames Youtube channel. Look for "Something Out of Nothing" and "A Parent's Guide to Keeping Your Kids Busy".

Framing Dames is also active on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Stop by and check out this nice, new location.



Arun and Deirdre in the new Bradley's Paint store.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258 is Moving

Discussions with Presidents Current and Former

By Annoj Thavalingam

By this time next year, our local Royal Canadian Legion branch 258 will no longer occupy its location on 45 Lawson Road. The branch will be moving sometime during the first half of 2021, and will fortunately not be too far from us. Closer in fact for many, as the Legion will be settling in where the Salvation Army community church currently stands, at 305 Morrish Road just north of Old Kingston Rd.

I had the pleasure of virtually meeting Mr. Richard Viles, current president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258, and Mr. David Adamson, past president of the Branch, to discuss details of the move as well as what the community can expect from the Legion.

As reported in our March/April issue, the purchase of property on 305 Morrish Road was finalized on February 26, 2020. Their lease for their current location expires on May 31, 2020, providing just under a year to complete the move. However, it will not be a simple matter of packing and unpacking.

Renovations are in order at the church to suit the Legion's needs and interests. Potential contractors have been contacted, and Viles anticipates that renovations will begin during this autumn and progress to completion over two to three months.

Adamson noted that "it's surprising the number of people that were not aware of the location of the Legion, as it's so far back from Lawson Road." By comparison, the new Morrish location will be much more visible and accessible for the public.

Viles added that he'd like to "turn the new building into not only a Legion for Legion members, but a community hub." Historically the Legion has featured many public events over the decades, such as poster programs, speech arts competitions and memorial displays. "Going into our new location" Adamson remarked, "we have a good opportunity to bring the Legion more up-to-date, to the current thinking of younger people now."

As social restrictions ease, Viles hopes to invite the public to a Q&A session at the Lawson location, to discuss the move and receive input on how the Legion can continue to serve public interests. Once the move is complete in 2021, we can expect a public Grand Opening ceremony as well. Stay tuned!

Legion volunteers prepared 150 take-out meals at Malvern Eats



City of Toronto Ward 25 Councillor Jennifer McKelvie and Royal Canadian Legion Highland Creek Branch 258 provided 150 delicious meals of Fish & Chips on May 6th at Malvern Eats, with the assistance of the Ladies Auxiliary Executives: Brenda Butt, Vera Roy, Irene Stevens and Ann Butterfield. Also in attendance were Branch President, Richard Viles and Immediate Past President, David Adamson.

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Car Accident Injuries

At Guildwood Physiotherapy we are experienced in car accidents. We have seen many types of injuries from car accidents, from hundreds of patients, including head injuries, serious fractures, etc. The majority of injuries that we see, however, are whiplash associated disorders. These injuries are the result of your head being thrown back and forth during an impact.

The severity and type of injury in these accidents varies widely depending on the speed and direction of impact, the position of your head at impact, and the presence or absence of safety equipment (such as head rests or air bags). Because there are so many variables in an accident, some relatively minor accidents can cause serious problems while more serious impacts can sometimes result in little or no injury.

If you are involved in an accident and are injured, you need to start treatment as soon as possible. We can usually get you in within a day or two. We will submit a treatment plan to the insurance company and can usually start treatment almost immediately. We will do all the billing for car accidents directly so you do not need to pay us.

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Highland Creek Village Working Group

This report was jointly prepared by David Adamson and Bill Yarn.

An inaugural telephone discussion meeting was held on May 20, 2020 at the invitation of Toronto City Planning (Christian Ventresca, Community Planning Manager, Scarborough District; Sophie Knowles, Planner, Scarborough District) and Councillor Jennifer McKelvie with the Highland Creek Village Working Group. The group included members of the HCCA, selected landowners, residents, and businesses in the Village of Highland Creek.

As explained to us, the purpose of the working group is to gather detailed feedback to help improve planning and development in the Highland Creek Village. In addition, the advisory group will provide community input to inform the implementation of the Highland Creek Community Secondary Plan and Highland Creek Transportation Master Plan, including development applications, parks and public realm improvements, and mobility initiatives within the Highland Creek Village.

A number of issues were raised by members of the working group for further consideration and discussion. For example, there was agreement that the Village should retain a friendly, family-oriented atmosphere that would include various small, unique business-

es, accessibility to walking areas, beautification projects and increased accessible parking for permit holders

Regarding plans for the construction of condominiums on Military Trail south of Old Kingston Road, queries were made if units would be made available for seniors who wish to sell their homes and stay within the area, as well as how big and how many units there would be, and what clientele would they expect to attract. The UTSC plans to build units for students on their Ellesmere Road property, which has been in the works for some time. Hopefully the restructuring of the Village will attract more local and outside visitors as well as the UTSC students.

As a consequence of planned property developments, concerns were expressed on the impact of traffic and parking availability, which is important to the local businesses. This indeed will require further input and review. Of course, it is important that the group work together in unison with the developers and take into consideration provincial plans and City bylaws.

Further meetings and discussions of the working group will take place as we move forward, taking into consideration what is best for our residents, local businesses and contractors in maintaining the village-type atmosphere of Highland Creek that we have enjoyed over the years.

The following are specific issues that were raised during the discussion meeting:

1. 620 condo units, planned to include smaller units of 470 to 500 square feet ... far too many for the Highland Creek Village and area?
2. 570 underground parking spots planned — how will our community digest the traffic increase?
3. 466 bike racks planned — appears far too many for local residents, and likely for students.
4. Proposed construction of units on Military Trail appears to be too close to the Rouge Park line. Environmental hazards due to erosion to the Rouge and polluting the Highland Creek River?
5. Condo too close to Military Trail — 40 to 50 feet?
6. Approval from 6 storey limit to 8 storeys under review by the City.

We welcome our residents and readers to provide their input on this report. This will allow the HCCA to better represent our community as we move forward on this matter.

Please visit www.myhighlandcreek.org to fill out a brief survey on the new property development slated for Highland Creek.

Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

Scarborough CARES

Dear Neighbours,

During COVID-19, we've seen a new spark in our community, inspiring creativity and a deep desire to work together to get through this pandemic. From coming together to address concerns of food security, to sidewalk chalk art and messages of positivity in front windows — I am proud to represent our neighbourhood. Right here in Highland Creek, we've packaged over 36,000 pounds of food for our local food banks through the Scarborough CARES initiative.

As businesses begin to re-open and governments continue to ease COVID-19 restrictions, it is important we continue to wash our hands, stay at home as much as possible, and follow physical distancing measures when in public. For the latest updates from Toronto Public Health, including an interactive map of the number of cases, please visit www.toronto.ca/covid19.

Mayor's Economic Support and Recovery Taskforce

I was delighted to be a member of the Mayor's Economic Support and Recovery Taskforce. Over the last few months, I have participated in roundtables to hear from leaders in the academic, manufacturing, goods distribution and green technology sectors. These roundtables provided valuable advice that has been shared with the new City of Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild (TORR).

TORR will coordinate engagement and recommend actions to reimagine the way the City delivers programs and services. Have your say on how Toronto can recover, rebuild and emerge from this pandemic even stronger by completing the survey found at www.toronto.ca/RecoveryRebuild.

As residents, we often call upon our local business community to support local schools, festivals and organizations. It is our turn to return the favour. If there are items you need to pick up, I encourage you to consider shopping locally.

Public Involvement - Highland Creek

At the March 2019 Scarborough Community Council meeting, I requested that City Staff establish a Highland Creek Village Working Group to provide additional community input, and inform the implementation of the neighbourhood's Secondary Plan and Transportation Master Plan. In May, this Working Group was formally established and it includes representatives of the Highland Creek Community Association, local business owners, UTSC, Legion, local faith community, a senior's housing advocate, and engaged neighbourhood residents. This Working Group will be in addition to — and does not replace — public consultations for local development proposals. The City is committed to rescheduling the April public consultation regarding



Councillor Jennifer McKelvie joining local volunteers including Toronto Fire Services and the Toronto Raptor at the Scarborough CARES car food donation parade, May 12.

1625 Military Trail and 6000 Kingston Road, which was postponed due to COVID-19. Public notice of the rescheduled consultation will be provided once available.

My office has received your concerns regarding the Durham — Scarborough Bus-Rapid-Transit proposal. This is a project proposed by Metrolinx and the Province of Ontario. Our local Member of Provincial Parliament, Vijay Thanigasalam, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation will be involved in the approval of this project. My office will continue to advocate for the community and encourage residents to connect with MPP Thanigasalam's office to express concerns regarding the Provincial project.

Scarborough CARES

In May, my office launched CARES — Collective Action and Response for Everyone in Scarborough. This new partnership between the City of Toronto, the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) and the crisis response organization, GlobalMedic will improve food security in Scarborough, from right here in Highland Creek.

The Highland Hall event centre at UTSC has been transformed into a food packaging centre. Staple foods including rice, lentils, barley, chickpeas, green peas and kidney beans are delivered in bulk by GlobalMedic and packaged for direct delivery to consumers. A bag of lentils in a grocery store may cost \$2.00 to \$3.00, but, by buying in bulk, this initiative can produce that same bag for \$0.60. The CARES initiative packaged more than 36,000 pounds of food in the month of May. As City and University staff return to their full-time jobs, the facility will continue to be run by students. To learn more, or sign up to volunteer, please

visit www.utsctoronto.ca/partnerships/cares-utsct.

As part of CARES, my office worked alongside Ward 25 resident, D'Arcy Perkovic to organize a food donation car parade on May 12. We were fortunate to have the support of UTSC Campus Police, Toronto Police, Toronto Fire Services, Highland Creek Scouts and the Toronto Zoo. Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment sent mascots Carlton and the Raptor to lend a hand. I am pleased to share that in 30 minutes, over 100 vehicles participated and we collected enough food for over 3,800 meals. All food collected has been donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank. Thank you for coming together to show that Highland Creek cares.

To continue our effort towards tackling food security, if you are able, please donate to the Daily Bread Food Bank. You can drop non-perishable donations 24/7 at our local Toronto Fire Hall 214 (745 Meadowvale Road).

Need help — Contact Us

We are here to help connect you with the services you need. For information on local food, social, and mental health supports, please visit our website at www.jennifermckelvie.ca. You can also contact us at councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca. To stay up to date, please sign-up for my weekly e-newsletter on our website or follow me on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter via my handle @McKelvieWard25.

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Community and Change - Perspective from a Concerned Citizen

By: Annoj Thavalingam

Anna is a longtime and concerned citizen of Highland Creek, with memories dating back to the '80s. When she first set foot in Highland Creek with her young family, the neighbourhood struck her as a "quaint little gem". With a century-old public school and cemetery, not to mention several historic buildings, it was a charming place to build a new life. At the time, the community was brimming with a variety of small businesses, such as a bakery, pharmacy, clothing store and flower shop. She recalls her children tobogganing behind the UTSC in the winter seasons.

Rooming Houses

The community has changed since with time, and one of the biggest differences Anna has noticed is the surge of rooming houses (multi-tenant housing) in our neighbourhood. Anna attributes this trend to the campaign led by the UTSC to attract international students. However, without the proper housing in place, a surplus of students flocked to the surrounding communities, leading to the profit-driven creation of rooming houses.

Anna predicts that at least a dozen houses, or 25%, on her street are currently rooming houses. "I am losing my neighbours to rooming houses," she laments.

Anna acknowledges that students in her area are quiet, but worries about the unkempt and unsafe conditions maintained by certain landlords, which devalues the neighbourhood. While city officials are responsible for inspecting homes, they are also unable to do so without the permission of its occupants. The

Change is coming, and it promises to sweep Highland Creek off of its feet. For starters, we have property developers pushing to urbanize Highland Creek, and a rapid bus service that intends to remodel Ellesmere Road ...

right to enter and perform inspections at will is reserved for the Fire department.

The 2018 rooming house fire in Haida Court (near Conlins Road and Military Trail) is a tragic example of safety concerns overlooked. The passing of an international student has unfortunately not led to a renewed crackdown on rooming house safety protocols. For this, the University in particular must take a hard stance.

The Highland Creek Village was here long before the University opened its doors" observes Anna. "Decades later they became the anchor and a part of the fabric of this community. They are involved in our meetings and have listened to our concerns. However, I personally feel they have not offered solutions to the ongoing issues jeopardizing the future of the Highland Creek community."

Property Developments

Outside of rooming houses, other housing opportunities are cropping up. These include proposals for multiple 9-storey residences to be

built by the UTSC, as well as plans by Altree Developments for twin condos at the corner of Military Trail and Old Kingston. As the condos would perilously overlook the Highland Creek Ravine and introduce a large number of new residents into a narrow corridor, a working group was set up by the City in May to help resolve the community's environmental and density concerns.

Anna is one of three Highland Creek residents in this group, who make up about one-third of the group's representation. Their first meeting took place through the videoconferencing app WebEx on May 20th (see page 6), but it was marred with technical difficulties as well as the communication challenges inherent in virtual meetings. Anna cites difficulties logging in, lack of visuals displayed and being unable to interject or provide feedback when needed. A letter has since been sent to the City requesting the rejection of the meeting minutes.

Change is coming, and it promises to sweep Highland Creek off of its feet. For starters, we have property developers pushing to urbanize Highland Creek, and a rapid bus service that intends to remodel Ellesmere Road with physical barriers, dividing Highland Creek in two (see page 18). Anna sees the University's presence as a driving factor behind these developments, and with that comes the added responsibility of supporting the neighbourhood, preserving its heritage and history.

If development proposals move forward as intended, this quaint neighbourhood that attracted Anna and others here in the first place may become unrecognizably altered.

Natural Gardening

By Diana Burandt

Although I appreciate the beauty of a well-groomed English garden, it's not my personal style. I like to encourage local, natural, native perennial plants and bushes to flourish, like forsythia, lilac, hydrangea, hostas and dogwood. Don't be afraid to bring in some cuttings throughout the growing season to enjoy inside ... one of the first are forsythia branches once the buds are set. A few days inside in a vase and they will reward you with a beautiful yellow bouquet!

Later on, lilac branches provide beautiful color and fragrance for you indoors. In the fall, hydrangea will decorate your table with big blossoms! The majority of my garden consists of perennials, and I add some splashes of color with annuals in planters. This allows me to move them around as required.

I pick weeds by hand whenever possible and use thick layers of free mulch to suppress weeds as well as retain moisture and nutrients in the soil. You can contact a local tree cutting company and ask if they drop off free mulch; many of them are happy to do so. The loads can be quite large though, so if it's too much for you, maybe a neighbor will share and help disperse. A strong, long, healthy lawn will also help crowd out weeds. Instead of spraying poisons, stay on top of the weeds by picking a few out every day by hand.

For weeds between concrete stones, paths or driveways, fill a spray bottle with vinegar, some salt, and a few drops of liquid detergent. Apply this as required on weeds growing in hard surfaces, especially when the sun is shining on them, and they will quickly perish. It's a very effective, inexpensive, safe and environmentally friendly solution! But be careful not to spray on your desirable plants ... they will also be harmed by this formula.

Ants and other insects don't like this mixture either, but you'll have better results with diatomaceous earth. This is a very fine powder made from fossilized algae which is non-toxic to humans, pets and other wildlife. It works by drying out the exoskeleton of insects such as ants, earwigs, slugs, beetles,

ticks, fleas, cockroaches and bed bugs. As these pests move across the powder, it sticks to their feet and legs only to get into their joints and exoskeleton.

There's still plenty of work to keep a natural garden flourishing, but I prefer to be more in

sync with nature rather than fight against it.

So remember, be kind to yourself and your garden, use baby steps and don't take on too much at once ... tomorrow will always come! Remember to enjoy the fruits of your labors and stop to smell the flowers!

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What's better than Saganaki cheese? When you pair it with garlic naan and a special bottle of our Wine of the week.

30%

OFF ALL WINE BOTTLES

If you practice social distancing, you might as well practice it with wine.

Creative

Corner

Corona’s Journal

By Sri Dhayalan

I cannot remember the last time. Maybe there was no last time. No matter, I was excited for this time. I could not wait to explore! I used the first chance I got and then every chance I got thereafter. People had different speculations about where I came from, but most people said I was born out of a wild one and then borne off by civilized ones. But I only cared about the where-to, not where-from.

I was hanging onto her hand, it was soft, warm and moist. There were a million others just hanging about, but they were so different from me. They were so big, hairy and scary! They spoke a completely different language. I felt so lonely because I did not have any friends! But then she touched her face and I somehow got inside. That felt more like home!

That was when I needed to do something and so I got to work. I started to assemble them myself. I am so grateful for her help because without it, I wouldn’t have been able to create my own army of friends in a matter of days. If this was possible with her alone, imagine the possibilities when I am within more people like her!

All I wanted was more friends. For that, I have to meet more people.

5 days later

It was much easier to get out now that she was coughing.

A month later

You know, during that day’s walk, I noticed nobody was coming close to me. Or was it the other way around? Was I being kept from them? But why?

Did someone say party? I changed my outfit for the occasion and I was ready! Even if I went in single, there was no guarantee I would come back out as such! All the party-goers were huddled so close together, it was easy to mingle. I had so much fun, I bounced and bounced and bounced: so many people to dance with!

Ahhh, Buttons! My favourite!

Why are they indoors now? I want to go out. I have not seen the light of day for ages. I am bored. Let me out! I want to explore! They can surely take a walk outside at least! There’s lots for me to do, lots to see, and lots of people to meet. I cannot do it all cooped up indoors. I come with a limited time warranty, don’t they know?

When I’m out and about, I do a lot of sitting around, thinking and waiting. Since my release from the wilderness, I have achieved more than anyone else ever could. Has there been anyone more powerful than me? I was able to flip the world on its end in just a few months. During this period, I got to learn about this world. I see there is satisfaction and pride in being civilized, and many are trying to take the world in different directions. With that race comes competition, and while competition is good fuel for growth, things get interesting for me when there is excessive greed. I am able to navigate around the globe quite easily because of that. If there is no selfish greed and competition, they would have been prepared to find a way to eradicate me sooner. I am glad that like all animals, all humans are fundamentally selfish too.

And so I was waiting and waiting, I quite forgot that my time was running out. Why are they ignoring me! I was sitting on a delicious-looking apple. They all kept going past me over to the organic side. I know their plan. And I wonder ... could there be a me inside that pre-packaged bag of bell peppers?

But ah! Alas, my saviour finally arrives. It took her a few tries to pick an apple. I was glad mine was picked at last.

What the Buddha’s fingers! She’s washing me with soap? Is she nuts!? I don’t want to go dow--

But I still survive.

That Light Inside

by Shradha

That light inside never goes away,
It keeps you strong, like that prayer you say.

You may not feel it at times like this,
But remember that light will never dismiss.

That light will always be inside,
Never let that light go and hide.

If you’re feeling sad when you turn around,
It can hold you up if you’re feeling down.

That light inside can be your guide,
So let it always, glow inside.

For The Sake Of The Whole Human Race

I hear the harps of gold as they softly strum across the sky and while the tears of God flow down for all of humanity we stay in place, for the sake of the whole human race

I touch the cornerstone of my Faith and live by its valor so much harder to do when I see the turmoil that stirs still I stay in place, for the sake of the whole human race

I know that I am not alone there are others just like me who count on sun to rise and moon to put us under we stay in place, for the sake of the whole human race;

I see the look in my brothers face and understand the pain

I follow the trace of my sister’s tears and pray for rain while I stay in place, for the sake of the whole human race

Bold as the ocean of morning we need to persevere remain like the sprout of a tree we can have life and thrive again, if we stay in place, for the sake of the whole human race

Written by: Vienna Bombardieri

Stand up and fight

by Sandhya

The virus doesn’t care if you’re black or if you’re white,
The virus doesn’t care who is wrong or who is right.
The virus doesn’t care what religion you are in this life,
All it cares is how hard you’re going to fight.

Are you going to leave your home to have some fun?
Or are going to stay on lockdown to protect everyone?
Are you going to wash your hands even though they’re all red?
Because that’s what we have to do to slow the spread.

The virus doesn’t care if you’re black or if you’re white,
The virus doesn’t care who is wrong and who is right.
The virus doesn’t care what religion you are in this life,
All it cares is how hard you’re going to fight.

We can’t help those who have already died,
But we still need to fight so we can survive.

“The soul becomes dyed with the colour of its thoughts.”

Quote By: Marcus Aurelius

Tinted Thoughts

Tinted in hues that I never imagined
this pilgrim soul has ventured farther then ever before
together as one encumbered with deeds unexplained
claiming the winds of change as culprits and friends;
I plucked out strange thoughts like plums from a tree
thanking the summers of June for their warmth
choosing fruition of imagination over logical thought
and as the polar lights of my mind ignited,
I watched in childlike wonder as a levitation of color arose
in my heart .

Vienna Bombardieri

Invisible Monster

By: Sandhya

This is not a matter to pass by,
What happens to me if both my parents die?
Where would I stay? What would I do?
It would be only me and my sister
If she survives too.

After it blows over,
Will we hug in joy of seeing a friend?
Or will we run and hide,
in fear...
That it may happen again.

Airplanes are shut down,
you can’t go anywhere,
You don’t even have food if you didn’t prepare,
And if you hurt yourself, beware
because, there IS no health care.

What’s the name of this Monster, that’s tearing us apart?
It’s COVID19, and it doesn’t have a heart.
It’s a battle, only some will make it by,
I’ll see you when it’s over,
...
If I Survive.

MPP Vijay Thanigasalam

RE: Deadline Extended For Public Consultation On Proposed Organics Processing Centre and Anaerobic Digester

Dear Constituents,

I want to acknowledge all the residents that have reached out to our office regarding 2683517 Ontario Inc.'s (applicant) proposed Coronation Organics Processing Centre and Anaerobic Digester (project) at 633 Coronation Drive in Scarborough. I will continue to stand with, and fight for the residents of Scarborough-Rouge Park.

For projects such as this one, the applicant is required to notify adjacent properties and nearby residents of the project and inform them of how they can bring their comments and concerns to the attention of the ministry. Given the nature of this project, the ministry granted my request to expand the notification radius. This was expanded from 100 metres to 500 metres to ensure that more members of the surrounding residential community were made aware of the application and given an opportunity to provide comments to the ministry for consideration.

The main way of consulting is through posting on the Environmental Registry. This particular project was posted to the registry on March 10, 2020. Projects are normally posted for 45 days, but after my office requested an extension to allow my constituents enough time to review the proposal, the ministry extended the public comment period an additional 30 days to May 24, 2020. However, after further conversations with neighbouring constituents, **I requested another extension, and this request was approved for another 30 days.** Please follow the link to submit comments: (<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1446>). This posting should ensure the public has had a suitable opportunity to bring their concerns and comments to the ministry's attention.

Many of you have requested a public consultation to take place to ensure the transparency of the project and give the community the ability to review the proposal in detail. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, in-person public consultation by the proponent is unlikely. However, I am requesting the applicant to hold a formal public consultation with the community directly. A virtual public meeting with the community would be a good start during COVID-19 to maintain physical distancing.

We encourage residents to continue to make their comments on the registry especially with the extension being granted. All comments received by the ministry during the Environmental

Registry comment period, and as a result of the applicant's notification letter, will be considered during the technical review of the application. **The technical review pertains to the protection of the environment only - issues such as odour, dust and noise from the facility.**

The approval of local regulatory requirements, primarily municipal zoning and by-laws, are made by the local municipality. In this case, any truck traffic or any nuisance impacts due to truck traffic fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Toronto.

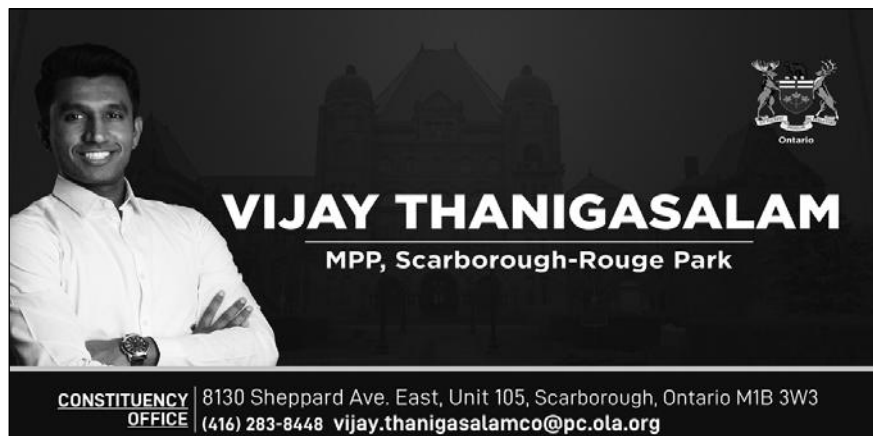
On behalf of the residents living in the neighbouring communities, I have requested more information on all the approvals that were sanctioned by the City of Toronto.

I want to make it clear that I stand with the residents of Scarborough-Rouge Park and will fight to ensure the surrounding neighbourhood has the opportunity to be presented with the facts of this proposal in the most transparent way possible. The health and safety of my residents is my number one priority.

If you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org.

Sincerely,

Vijay Thanigasalam
MPP, Scarborough-Rouge Park



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:

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Grants Ontario	416-325-6691	OHIP	416-314-5518
Justice Ontario	1-866-252-0104	Toronto City Services	311
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Resident's response

Re: 633 Coronation Drive - Proposed Waste Processing Depot

26 May, 2020

Dear Mr. Thanigasalam,

Re: 633 Coronation Drive - Proposed Waste Processing Depot

I received a copy of your May 22 letter to your constituents on the above matter.

I will be writing to you more fully to object to this proposed plant, but I wanted to respond immediately to a few of the issues discussed in your letter..

Extension of the deadline for submission of comments

Thank you for requesting an extension to the deadline, which the Ministry has now granted until June 23rd. While this extension will definitely help provide some much-needed time, I would strongly prefer a longer extension until most of the COVID-19 Emergency Social Distancing Restrictions have been withdrawn, and people's lives are starting to get back to normal.

As you can imagine, it has taken much longer than normal for the affected residents of the West Hill (M1C) and Centennial (M1E) communities to even hear about this project, never mind fully understand the details about what is being proposed. The original notice was only circulated to homes within 200 metres of the plant, and through your intervention this limit was extended to 500 metres.

However, it must be understood that the proposed plant, if approved, would be the largest of its kind in the Province of Ontario, and its presence will negatively impact the lives of all your constituents residing in both communities south of the 401.

In the last two weeks a few concerned community-minded residents, who live close to the plant, have exerted considerable efforts to raise awareness of the project to many of their neighbours south of Lawrence Avenue, through the distribution of flyers.

They also have posted an online petition to allow residents to easily express their initial opposition to the proposal. In the few days that the petition has been available, more than 3000 people have signed, of which 2600 were from Canada, 1600 were from Toronto including Scarborough, and almost 1000 were from residents who live in postal zones M1C and M1E.

It is therefore evident that there is a high level of concern about the project and you should ensure that your constituents have time to fully learn about the project and understand its implications.

Public Information meeting

This leads me to my second issue, which is a public information meeting with the proponent.

While I understand that the proponent is anxious to get a decision on the application, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic must be recognized, and the normal procedures should be fairly adapted to ensure that neither party is compromised.

Because of COVID-19, it has not been possible to inspect the proposal's supporting documents at the Ministry's office. While the Ministry has made many of the documents available for viewing online, some of the important report appendices are missing, and the quality of the digital images is so poor that many of the plans are illegible. To get a complete picture of the submission, it will be necessary to review the actual documents. Also, it may be more convenient for some residents to inspect the actual documents.

In your letter you indicate that you support the proponent holding a public meeting to explain the project, and that due to COVID-19, this would have to be a virtual meeting. While I definitely support a public meeting, I do not think that a virtual meeting is either practical or acceptable, considering the large number of local residents who evidently are interested in the proposal.

I therefore think that the application should be put on hold until such time as the COVID-19 Emergency is relaxed sufficiently to allow a public meeting to be held. This will ensure that all the information is properly presented, and that open and frank discussions can be held.

Truck Traffic

While I have environmental concerns about the noise, odours and emissions from the plant, I will discuss those in a later letter. There will also, however, be considerable odours, nuisance and safety issues related to the huge number of heavy waste-loaded trucks that will be travelling to and from the 401, through our communities.

In your letter you indicate that any issues related to truck traffic are the responsibility of the City, not the Ministry. This is unacceptable, because there will be considerable environmental impacts from the discharge of noise, odours and greenhouse gases from the trucks, that could be avoided, if an alternative site were selected close to the 401.

I urge you to work closely with our City Councillor, Jennifer McKelvie, to resolve this important issue.

Thanking you for your consideration,
Yours sincerely

Frank Moir
Resident of Highland Creek
cc. Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

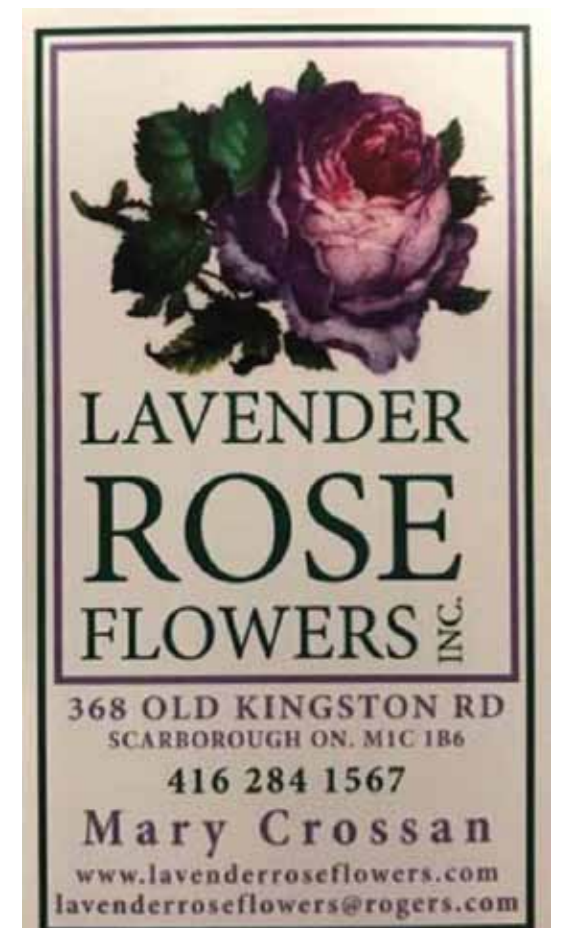


For the **latest information** on prevention, being prepared, and travel health advice, visit **canada.ca/coronavirus** or call **1-833-784-4397**

My team and I are here to support you with any federal issues through the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Please contact
416 283 1414
Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca

Gary Anandasangaree
Member of Parliament
Scarborough-Rouge Park



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Health and Wellness Series by Dr. Karm Hans ND

Seasonal Allergies? Address the Root Cause

Spring and summer are a welcome change for many of us. With longer days and warmer weather, we are able to venture outdoors, ride our bikes, and enjoy backyard barbecues. For millions of Canadians, this time of year also means one thing - ALLERGIES. As flowers and trees come back to life, pollen counts start to increase and the battle begins. Approximately 25% of Canadians deal with allergy symptoms.

Common seasonal allergy symptoms include sneezing, itchy/watery eyes, itchy/runny nose, throat irritation, inflammation in sinuses causing headaches, etc. For some, these symptoms cause coughing, wheezing and overall inflammation.

Some people are able to control these symptoms through over-the-counter medications. However, these medications can have side effects, the main one being drowsiness. For others, these medications may not be effective. I have helped many patients with their allergy symptoms by addressing the root causes.

Change Your Diet

The correlation between diet and seasonal allergies may seem odd. However, the food we consume greatly impacts all aspects of our health. Firstly, are you drinking enough water? The average individual needs about 1.5-2 L of water per day. Keeping hydrated is very important. Also, certain foods can make symptoms worse. The prime example would be dairy; it can be very inflammatory to the body and promotes mucus formation. Other foods which can exacerbate allergy symptoms include gluten, eggs, nightshade vegetables (tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, potatoes) etc.

Balancing the Immune System

In the case of allergies, the body's immune system is being overly responsive to dust, pollens and grasses when it does not need to be. Focusing on balancing the immune system is one of the first places to start. One of my favourite interventions is introducing a high-quality probiotic. So much of our immune health is based on our 'gut microbiome'. We are learning more and more how it is correlated to many aspects of health, whether it be acute or chronic symptoms.

Detoxification

Seasonal allergy symptoms can be a result of our main detox pathways being clogged. Doing a proper detox program 1-2 times per year can really help to optimize our detoxification pathways. From this perspective, our liver and colon health is very important. The liver is



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one of our main detox organs and has a huge job of breaking down toxins we are exposed to in our food, environment and medication. Also, having regular bowel movements (1-3 per day) is very important as well. It is one of the main routes our body uses to get rid of toxins. If the colon is sluggish, our body can reabsorb toxins which burden the system further or can be stored inside the body.

Rinse the Sinuses

One of the best interventions is using a saline rinse. The best is a neti pot. If you have never heard of this and you suffer with sinuses/allergy issues, make this your new best friend. It is definitely a strange sensation to rinse your sinuses but a neti pot can do a wonderful job of improving and helping to cope with allergy symptoms.

Start Acupuncture &/or Cupping

These are one of my favourite interventions to help with seasonal allergy symptoms. It is best started before the allergy season to help avoid symptoms. However, at this point if you find yourself in the midst of your symptoms, it can still be highly beneficial. In addition, a side benefit, acupuncture/cupping treatments are generally very relaxing.

The main thing when treating seasonal allergy symptoms is identifying the root causes. If you have been battling these symptoms for years, reach out to a registered Naturopathic Doctor who can take a comprehensive health history and give you individualized recommendations to help YOU!



Dr. Karm Hans is a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine at Equilibria Health Centre with a family practice proudly serving Scarborough. Her approach is focused on an individualized form of patient care geared towards identifying the root cause of symptoms to bring about overall cure. For more information visit www.equilibriahe.com. You can also connect with Karm via phone at 647-497-8338 or via email at karmhans@gmail.com.

MPP Vijay Thanigasalam

Covid testing pop-up centres in Scarborough

Hello Highland Creek community,

I hope everyone is keeping safe. As the weather becomes warmer, I hope you are continuing to practice physical distancing. Ontario began the first stage of reopening our province. As part of the first stage of our Framework for Reopening the Province, retailers, seasonal businesses, health and community services, as well as some outdoor recreational facilities will be opening. I again thank the residents of Scarborough Rouge - Park for practicing physical distancing, and ensuring that we as a community take the necessary precautions as we slowly reopen our province.

I would like to share important information with you regarding new Covid testing pop-up centres in Scarborough, the new energy assistance program, and a community web chat I am looking to host later this month.

COVID-19 Pop-up Assessment Centres

To increase access to COVID-19 testing for our community, Scarborough Health Network, Toronto Public Health, and the Ministry of Health are working together to bring a Pop-up COVID-19 Assessment Centre to different locations in Scarborough. Pop-up Assessment Centres will provide comprehensive screening, assessment, testing and next steps for community members and essential workers who have symptoms of COVID-19 or who think they may be infected (even without symptoms).

Scarborough Health Network will be hosting additional pop-up testing sites in the community over the coming weeks and will be sharing information on them as they become available.

COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)

Minister Rickford announced Ontario will continue the time-of-use suspension and introduce a fixed COVID-19 Recovery Rate for time-of-use electricity customers, beginning Monday, June 1, 2020. We introduced initiatives to support Ontario's electricity consumers as the province recovers from the COVID-19 outbreak. We are investing an additional \$9 million to support low-income Ontarians through the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). CEAP will provide a one-time payment to struggling Ontarians to pay down overdue electricity bills incurred during the COVID-19 outbreak.

We also announced an \$8 million investment in CEAP to support small businesses as they begin to start up again. Starting November 2020, Ontarians will have greater choice on how they are billed, between time-of-use and tiered rate pricing.

Zoom Call with Highland Creek Community Seniors

I am inviting all seniors in the Highland Creek area to a Zoom call (web chat) that I am hosting on Monday June 29th at 7pm. In order to register, please email your full name, email, and phone number to vijay.thanigasalamco@pc.ola.org or give us a call at 416-283-8448 and provide us your information. I will be giving you an update on what the provincial government is doing to help and protect seniors. I also want to hear directly from you on how our government can support you better.

As always, my office is here to support you during these challenging times. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at thanigasalam@pc.ola.org or by phone at 416-283-8448.

To keep informed and stay up-to-date, subscribe to our mailing list by emailing your contact information to vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org. You can also keep updated by visiting <https://www.covidsupports.ca/rougepark/> to learn how the Provincial and Federal governments are supporting Ontarians during these challenging times.

Please continue to stay safe.

*Kind regards,
Vijay*

Vijay Thanigasalam is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom chat with seniors in the **Highland Creek Community**

ZOOM WITH MPP THANIGASALAM : UPDATE ON COVID-19

**June 29, 2020
07:00 PM**


**ZOOM MEETING ID
889 7994 3183**



VIJAY THANIGASALAM
MPP, Scarborough-Rouge Park

416-283-8448
vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org
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TDSB Trustee Anu Sriskandarajah



Community Supports and Resources

The Toronto District School Board is committed to the safety and well-being of our students and families, while continuing to support students learning at home in a variety of ways. To ensure access to information on essential

services and supports, we have developed a list of external community-based resources that we hope can offer assistance during this period.

For the most updated list, please visit the webpage for Community Supports and Resources.

PA Days and Examination Days

Minister of Education Stephen Lecce has directed school boards that all remaining professional activity days and examination days for the current school year (2019-2020) are to be used for instruction. This serves to maximize instructional hours for students during this unprecedented time. As a result, amendments have been made to RRO 1990, Regulation 304 (School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days) under the Education Act.

2020-21 School Year Calendar

The Ministry of Education advised that 2020-21 school year calendar submissions are not being considered for approval at this time. The TDSB's draft 2020-2021 school year calendar was approved by Trustees at the March board meeting and submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Update on Labour Negotiations

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and the government of Ontario have reached a tentative agreement with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), at both the teacher/occasional teacher and education worker central bargaining tables.

An agreement between the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), OPSBA and the government of Ontario has also been reached. This agreement was ratified on April 28.

For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/labour

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Biogas Plant: STOP The Approval Process!

The fight to oppose this plant proposal, which has been submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), continues. The more I learn about this proposal, the more upset I get. A core group of residents, of which I am one, has been working hard over the past few weeks to inform area residents about this unfortunate plant proposal. We have emailed hundreds, written articles in the Mirror and in our own newspapers, printed and delivered hundreds of flyers and created an online petition at change.org/westhill-health.

After all of this pressure, MPP Vijay requested and was granted an extension by the ERO for public commentary on this proposal. The new deadline is June 23, 2020. So it's not too late to submit comments to the ERO, sign the petition and write letters.

We are happy about the extension because it will give us more time to educate. But what we really want is for the ERO to stop the approval process until COVID-19 restrictions are released. We want a public forum so that residents can organize and participate properly.

*Kathy Rowe
President of the Centennial Community
& Recreation Association (CCRA)*



A Message from Highland Creek Public School

On behalf of the Highland Creek Public School staff, we hope that you are all well and safe during these unprecedented times. I am proud to say that our students are engaging and persevering remotely. I commend our staff for embracing this new challenge and finding creative ways to keep our students' well-being and learning at the forefront. Despite the challenges of our physical absence from school, I would like to share a message from our Grade 8 class from a student's perspective.

As the staff and students headed into our March Break on Friday the 13th of March, nobody really knew what was to come. We had been informed that the school break would be extended and that March break trips would have to be cancelled, but we had no idea that it would be our last day of the school year.

Quickly, we have all had to adjust as our worlds were turned literally upside down. In that time we have mourned the early end to our extra-curricular activities and daily routines, and have shifted since to online learning. We miss our friends, students and peers, but have a renewed appreciation for a slower pace and time with family. We are aware of the different challenges that each family has had to endure while aiming to stay positive and connected.

Some of the most affected students have been our graduates, as this is one of the most important and celebratory times in their schooling. Some of our Grade 8 students have been studying at Highland Creek for 10 years! Our eighth graders normally spend June enjoying the good weather as they lead fun school events such as Track and Field day with Mr. Oliver and Play Day. We were planning and looking forward to our year-end Graduation Trip, and of course Graduation. The graduates also really enjoy their special fun farewell on their last day of school. Now, we are finding creative ways to connect and participate virtually and remotely!

Here is what one of our resilient graduating students, H.C.N., had to say about school life during the Covid-19 pandemic:

During the beginning of the quarantine it was hard to keep your mindset in a positive space when you were seeing all the news. Especially the internet updates, "Covid-19 death toll rises to..." or "Worldwide lockdown..." This repetitive messaging became difficult to listen to. But after a while, we learned to keep a positive mindset and aim to get through it.

At first, online learning was challenging because you had to adjust your daily routines. I was so used to sleeping in during the March break that I had trouble waking up early enough to be productive. But once I found my rhythm, it felt normal again. Something that I really like about online school is that I have access to my own computer. Another

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thing I enjoy about remote learning is that I have flexibility in the time I need to complete an assignment. Even though doing school online isn't ideal for everyone, I really don't mind it. I just mostly miss seeing my friends and meeting up.

The main way that I stay busy during this time is with the work that my teachers give us. They make sure to assign enough work that will occupy us for the entire week. It's almost like being at school. Another way I keep myself busy is by playing online games with my friends. It's one of the ways that we keep in touch and it's fun too. I've also been working on different skills, including card tricks.

This is my last year at Highland Creek. My years at this school have been amazing. Even though I've had some challenges and made mistakes, it only made the experience better. I cannot describe how grateful I am to have attended Highland Creek, where I had the opportunity to make new friends and learn new things. One of my favourite Grade 7 experiences was our trip to Ottawa. We saw so many amazing sites, and my friends and I had so much fun bowling and playing laser tag. I will always remember this trip.

It is unfortunate that we are not going to see our friends in June and it's difficult that we can't meet up with each other; however, I'd like to stay positive. Our teachers are thinking of virtual graduation ideas and that will help. I can't wait until we can all meet up in person when it is safe to do so again.

While many of us are isolating, physically distancing ourselves and staying home, essential workers have been working hard to keep us safe and resourced during these challenging times. To those of you I say THANK YOU!

May Halabi, Principal

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Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Plan could destroy our village

By Douglas & Marja Phillips

Highland Creek is a beautiful community with a village-like atmosphere, lots of mature trees, and why so many of us have moved here. It is a safe place for people to walk, take their dogs out, and for children to play and cycle.

Multi-lane Transit System

If Metrolinx has their way, Highland Creek as we know it will be destroyed, with a multi-lane transit system running down the centre of Ellesmere. According to the latest consultation meeting via video conference on June 4, 2020, plans are well under way to implement the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) system. The BRT plan intends to use Hwy 2 from Oshawa along Kingston Road, then turn onto Ellesmere Road to the Scarborough Town Centre. The plan is to make Ellesmere a 7-lane road from Military Trail to Meadowvale, and a 5-lane road from Meadowvale to the end of Ellesmere. This will consist of a centre 2-lane designated BRT bus route, and the 2-centre lanes will have curbs and concrete islands.

Highland Creek Residents Must Have Their Say

In a letter to Metrolinx, the June 4, 2020 video presentation was rejected by the Highland Creek Community Association, and the Association requested a meeting with Metrolinx and all the residents of Highland Creek after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, to discuss this plan and ensure all our voices can be heard.

Parking – Land Expropriation – No Left-hand Turns

Currently there are four lanes from Military Trail to Meadowvale and 2 lanes from Meadowvale to the end of Ellesmere. Where will all of these additional lanes come from? Mature trees will be chopped down, and boulevards will be taken for these extra lanes. In many cases, residents' lands will be negotiated and possibly expropriated. Where will residents with extra cars be able to park? There will be no left-hand turns and residents will have to make a U-turn at designated junctions. These Metrolinx bus lanes could cause serious delays for our fire trucks and ambulances in emergencies.

Your Property Value

To accommodate the BRT centre corridor, a considerable amount of land will be restructured from either side of Ellesmere. This plan could also affect the value of your property and could make the sale more difficult.

Increase in (BRT) Pulse Buses

Metrolinx plans to run buses from 6 a.m. until 2 a.m. the next morning. Buses will run every 5 minutes during rush hour, increasing in frequency to every 2 minutes based on demand. They envision that people will leave their cars at home and utilize the BRT buses. Currently, by the time the bus reaches Ellesmere there are one or two people on it, and frequently no one at all. With COVID-19, most students who normally attend the U of T Scarborough Campus will be working online from home.

Waste of Taxpayers Money

Metrolinx has been given \$10M of our taxpayer money to formulate this plan. The only progress we could see from the November 18, 2019 meeting was the transitioning from Bristol Board displays to computer graphics. On the slides, they showed similar routes passing through commercial areas. There were no such examples through residential areas. Several environmental studies promised for spring 2020 were not produced. They also refused to discuss alternate routes.

Zero Benefit to Highland Creek

Highland Creek already has a good bus service to Scarborough Town Centre, why would we need the BRT?

How many millions is this BRT going to cost taxpayers? There is no benefit to the residents of Highland Creek.

In the meantime, you can contact our (MPP) Member of Provincial Parliament Vijay Thanigasalam at: 416-283-8448 or Toronto Councillor Jennifer McKelvie at: 416-338-3771

TAKE ACTION: Do not let Metrolinx destroy what is the last village community in Toronto.



Heather Lemieux
Sales Representative



ADDING REAL VALUE TO *our* NEIGHBOURHOOD



Gabby Gutkowski
Sales Representative



Ross Macdonald
Sales Representative

Answers to Your Real Estate Questions regarding COVID-19

The main question we are being asked is: **How has Covid-19 affected my home value?** Although it is very difficult to say how house prices will be affected and for how long after this is over – we are continuing to monitor the market daily and can provide you with information as it relates to your home. Remember – everyone needs a roof over their heads and there is still a housing shortage in Toronto.

The next question deals with **safety and how we are conducting business differently.** We have implemented a high standard of health and safety measures which includes a full-service non-contact real estate program, so we can ensure **your family's health is protected**

Please reach out to us if you would like any specific information about your home and or our services. Remember - if you need anything or if we can help in anyway – Ross, Gabby and I are all proud to call Centennial home.

Let's all do our part! Be Safe. Be Healthy. We hope to see you soon.

Remember, we're all in this together. Stay positive and know that things will get better!

Heather, Gabby and Ross



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Highland Creek Community Association CARES. Photos from the Scarborough CARES Car Parade Food Drive, in Highland Creek, May 12, 2020



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