



E-newsletter 6 September 2020

[www.LPRO.wordpress.com](http://www.LPRO.wordpress.com)

The Lytton Park Residents' Organization (LPRO) is a group of volunteers that works together to make our community stronger. We share information about our community, inform members of issues and highlight events. We continue to meet during these "interesting" COVID 19 times, to better serve the Lytton Park community. Our usual summer hiatus did not occur due to the many initiatives that the LPRO has taken on. **"Together we do make a difference!"** Stay safe.

### **LPRO's E-Newsletter – Sign Up!**

If you don't already receive the LPRO Newsletter and would like to receive it directly, please register your email address at [www.LPRO.wordpress.com/subscribe-to-newsletters](http://www.LPRO.wordpress.com/subscribe-to-newsletters) or send us an email to [LyttonParkResidentsOrg@gmail.com](mailto:LyttonParkResidentsOrg@gmail.com).

## Outdoor Studio Tour - North Toronto Group of Artists



The North Toronto Group of Artists is hosting the 2020 **FINE ARTS OUTDOOR STUDIO TOUR** on Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13, 2020 from 11 am to 5 pm. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> annual studio tour. For more information, visit [NTGA.ca](http://NTGA.ca). The wearing of face masks is recommended.

The North Toronto Group of Artists (NTGA) is a non-profit organization whose goal is to promote local fine artists and culturally enrich our community. Artists range in age from 28 to 88, and all works, from painting to photography, are original. Supporting the local community is a priority for the NTGA. NTGA artists routinely donate works of art to be displayed in local shops and businesses. Artists also make their time available to local groups to give art lectures. The purpose of the NTGA is to provide opportunities for local artists to display and sell their works. The Group is run by volunteers who are also active artist members.

## Neighbourhood Shelters: An Update

### **55 & 65 Broadway Shelters Closing**

The interim housing shelter at 55 and 65 Broadway will be closed by Labour Day weekend. Of the approximately 130 homeless people who were located there at the end of April, 18 were placed in permanent housing and another 25-30 were hoping to be housed by the end of August. The remaining residents are being moved to other shelters. They will not relocate to Roehampton which currently has 140 people occupying 100 of 109 available units. As noted in [our previous e-newsletter](#) the Shelter Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) has signed a 2-year lease for the Roehampton Shelter with an option on an additional year. The annual rent is just over \$2,000,000 according to the lease terms in the [Delegated Approval Form](#). The signed lease does not appear to be available to the public at this time.

### **Community Bulletin #3**

The City of Toronto's third Community Bulletin was issued on August 27, 2020. This series of regular bulletins is intended to share information and updates about the shelters. The current issue includes information on support services, a School Safety Plan, the lack of vetting of residents by SSHA for criminal histories, and the cost of providing housing at Roehampton (\$140/person/night). At capacity, that's approximately \$600,000 per month for rent, food, cleaning, security and staffing. It's not clear whether this also includes third-party services such as addiction and mental health counselling, or the cost of creating outdoor spaces such as the construction of a deck in the pool area and on the rooftop). The latest Bulletin, and the two previous ones, can be found [here](#).

### **Uptown Yonge BIA Hires Private Security**

In response to the sudden increase in break-ins, alleged drug dealing, vandalism and other crimes in the neighbourhood, the Uptown Yonge Business Improvement Area (UYBIA) has retained a private security firm to supplement police patrols and protect local businesses and customers. This step, taken in late July, has resulted in a noticeable decrease in criminal activity. The UYBIA will continue to pay for private security services to work with police at least through the month of September. BIAs are funded through levies on commercial property owners which are usually passed down to commercial tenants.

### **City Hosts a Virtual Community Engagement Session re: Roehampton Shelter**

Over 1,100 people took part in this 2-hour virtual meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup> consisting of remarks by Mayor Tory, Councilor Matlow, Councillor Robinson (through a representative), and Councillor Colle, followed by a presentation from SSHA President Mary-Anne Bedard. The limited remaining time was for a Q&A. According to SSHA the Q&A participants were chosen randomly and were not pre-screened. Among the questions and concerns raised by participants were: inadequate support services for shelter residents, failure of SSHA to communicate with the community, needles and other drug paraphernalia found in parks and school grounds, the unknown criminal history of some shelter residents, and the possibility of a Safe Injection Site being set up at the Roehampton. For a recording of the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting [click](#). *Councilor Mike Colle's remarks can be heard at 1:00:45. Click to see the [PowerPoint presentation](#).*

Swerhun and SSHA are also preparing a written summary of the Community Engagement Session which is expected to be available shortly. We will post a link to it on the LPRO website.

## Community Liaison Committee

SSHA is creating a Community Liaison Committee (CLC), an advisory group to work with City staff operating the shelter, other City staff, and community stakeholders to help ensure successful integration of the shelter into the neighbourhood. The CLC will include representatives from local residents' associations, condo boards, the BIA, police, schools, and other community organizations. LPRO is expecting to participate. The draft Terms of Reference and application form for the CLC will be available at [www.toronto.ca/physicaldistancingshelters](http://www.toronto.ca/physicaldistancingshelters). Individuals from the community are welcome to apply although SSHA does not expect to be able to accommodate all applicants. Meeting summaries will be made publicly available on the SSHA website. The first CLC meeting will take place in mid-September.

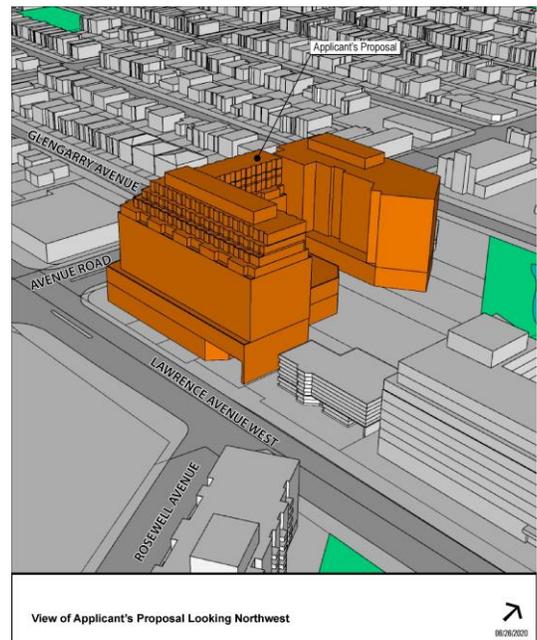
If you have questions, comments and/or concerns about the Roehampton shelter, or to sign up for the Community Bulletins, please do one of the following:

- send an email to: [clc.roehampton.residence@gmail.com](mailto:clc.roehampton.residence@gmail.com);
- leave a voicemail at: 416-479-0243;
- fill out the feedback form on the [project website](#).

## Development Update: Lawrence and Avenue Rd. (NE Corner)

The City has made available a [Preliminary Planning Report](#) which summarizes the development application, relevant policies and a preliminary list of issues. The Report states that an on-site parkland dedication will be required, which the Developer has not included in their proposal. LPRO strongly supports the inclusion of on-site parkland. City Planning is also assessing whether the subject site is appropriate for tall buildings. The Report is on the agenda of the Sept 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of North York Community Council.

The City and Councillor will subsequently set up a Community Consultation Meeting where people can ask questions and provide input. The Developer, Councillor and City will consider this feedback to review, and the developer could potentially revise the submission. The earliest we expect the Community meeting to be held is October. We will share the date and details about the meeting as soon as they are known. See LPRO's August 2<sup>nd</sup> [newsletter](#) for more details.



In addition to the upcoming community consultation, LPRO continues to be in contact with neighbouring residents groups, City Planning, the Councillor's Office, and the Developer as this important planning application progresses.

## Willowdale Councillor John Filion Contracts West Nile Virus

Last week, Toronto Public Health reported the first confirmed case of West Nile virus in Toronto, while in 2019 there were nine laboratory-confirmed human cases and ten positive mosquito tests. To read the Toronto.com August 25<sup>th</sup> article [click here](#).



John Filion, former health board chair, went into hospital Aug. 17 with "very high fever" and recently made his diagnosis public on Twitter and in his e-newsletter. "I woke with an extreme case of double vision, quickly followed by an extremely high temperature and very high blood pressure," he wrote. "This led me to Michael Garron Hospital, where I was admitted and sent for a battery of tests. After more than a week, I got the surprising result: West Nile virus." Filion had high praise for the physicians at Michael Garron, "who were able to make the West Nile diagnosis because they kept testing for everything until they hit on the right one — even though the original symptoms did not entirely match."

"I am now at home dealing with the main remaining one: extreme fatigue," said Filion, who wrote that the rare occurrence of the disease should serve as a reminder, as most people's attention is on preventing the spread of COVID-19. "It is a very random thing that the mosquito found me, but mine is a cautionary tale that you can't be too careful about protecting yourself outdoors," he said.

The disease is usually borne by mosquito bite and has been in Toronto for more than 20 years. Symptoms include rashes, swollen lymph glands, nausea and vomiting, headaches and fever.

## Councillor Colle - Ice Cream Drop-By Event

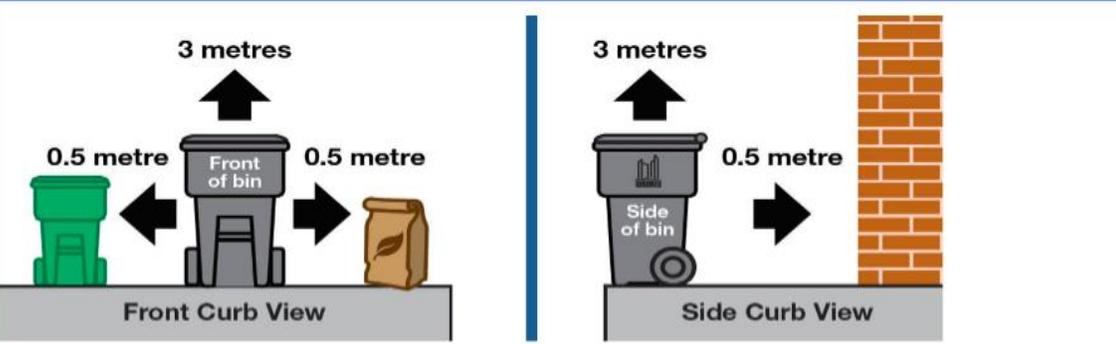
Drop by **Saturday, Sept. 12th from 1:00-3:00PM in front of the St. Clements - Yonge Parkette.**

"With everything going on in our community, what better way to bring some positivity and good spirit back into the hearts of our residents and community members. Please share this [flyer](#) with your contacts and spread the word!"



## Are You Putting Your Garbage Bins Out Correctly?

Information from the City of Toronto states that bins should be placed close to the curb, not on your lawn.



**Set Out Instructions**

- Place bins/items at curbside before 7 a.m.
- Ensure they are as close to the street as possible, clearly visible and accessible
- Ensure 0.5 metre between bins
- Never place items or bins behind or on snow banks
- Ensure bin lids are properly closed to prevent litter from blowing
- Leave space around all bins and items so the trucks' automated arms can grab and lift bins.

To see your garbage collection schedule, visit City of Toronto's website and type in your address:

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/recycling-organics-garbage/houses/collection-schedule>.

## Drop Off Items for Reuse, Recycle, and Safe Disposal at Community Environment Days

Community Environment Days begin September 13th and will operate for seven weekends until November 1. This year, Community Environment Days will be set up as drive-thru events at the City's seven Drop-Off Depots. This is a great opportunity to help reduce the amount of reusable or recyclable waste going to landfill and to safely dispose of household hazardous waste.

At the Drop-Off Depots, you will be able to drive to different stations to drop off clothing, books and unwanted items for donation and to dispose of batteries, old paint and other household hazardous waste. Free bagged compost will be available (limit of two bags per vehicle while supplies last).

A list of event dates and more information is available at [http://www.toronto.ca/environment\\_days](http://www.toronto.ca/environment_days).



# Cycling Myths Debunked

## **#1- If cyclists want bike lanes, they should pay for them!**

Cyclists already pay for them. Anyone who pays rent or property tax in Toronto is paying for municipal roadways. Furthermore, bike lanes are cheap. Portland, Oregon calculated that their entire system of cycling-related infrastructure - around 300 miles of bike lanes - cost approximately \$60 million, the equivalent to the cost of one mile of new freeway.



## **#2- That new bike lane is going to put me out of business!**

Cycling is actually great for business. A recent study by the Center for Active Transportation (TCAT) conducted in The Danforth and Bloor West Village counters the misconception that removing on-street parking is bad for business. The report concludes that:

- Merchants on The Danforth overestimated the proportion of customers that drive. The survey showed that over 80% of people arrive on The Danforth by transit, foot, or bicycle. Local residents tend to visit more often and spend more each month than people who don't live nearby.
- The majority of people surveyed, merchants included (58%), preferred to see street-use reallocated to widened sidewalks or a bike lane, even if on-street parking was reduced by 50%.

## **#3- No one cycles in the winter!**

The Netherlands and Denmark routinely experience very cold winters but good management of conditions, including clearing snow from major cycle routes, ensures that cycling remains practical as a mode of transport for most people. People still walk when it's rainy, or cold, or hot and they still cycle too. In fact, counts taken on the Bloor bike path in the winter months of February and March 2018 and January 2019 reveal that there were 108,313 trips taken by people on bicycles\*.

\* Source: *Traffic Data Collection & Analysis, Traffic Safety Unit, Transportation Services, City of Toronto.*

## **#4- Cycling causes congestion**

In general, congestion has nothing to do with cycling, but is a direct function of volume of car traffic. Reallocating space on roads for cycling will actually make roads more efficient at moving people. A typical vehicle lane can carry around 2,000 people per hour, but the same space allocated for cycling infrastructure could carry around 10,000 people per hour. Driving is the least efficient method for moving people on city streets.

## **#5- Cyclists should be licensed!**

The City of Toronto has decided four times that licensing cyclists is more of an administrative burden than an effective tool for reducing bicycle infractions, or as a revenue generator. In fact in the few places that have licensed cyclists in the past, such as L.A., the program has been scrapped because of a waste of police resources and an inability to enforce. Cyclists are already subject to the law and can get ticketed like any other vehicle operator. In order to reduce infractions and improve roadways for everyone, we should focus on education and infrastructure.

## **#6- Cycling should require insurance like driving does**

This fallacy suggests some sort of parity between cycling and driving, but the danger posed by driving a motor vehicle is far greater. As a mode of transport, cycling does not present substantial risk to people or property, which is what mandatory insurance is designed to mitigate. This is why driving commonly requires some form of minimum third-party liability insurance - the risk of causing property damage or serious bodily harm to others in the event of a collision is so high.

**#7- I saw a crazy cyclist the other day, who swerved in front of me, talking on a cell phone, and still managed to tell me off. You cyclists are so disrespectful!**

We all have a responsibility to share our roads safely and respectfully. Delinquent cyclists are not representative of the average commuter or recreational cyclist in Toronto. Thousands of people travel by bicycle safely and without incident every day. Bike lanes and public education about road-sharing responsibilities and best practices serve all Torontonians, regardless of travel mode. We are all in this together.

**#8- Toronto isn't Copenhagen or Amsterdam**

The Netherlands and Denmark have a high cycling participation rate. Some claim that this is because they are temperamentally different from us or don't have a strong car culture. Both are untrue. The Dutch and Danes are not different from any other people, and car ownership is high in both countries. Cycling is popular because they live in places where cycling routes are well designed and integrated into the overall transportation system, making it a convenient, safe, and obvious way to get around. Many major cities around the world have already followed their lead, such as Paris, New York and Montreal.

**#9- Why should I ride a bike?**

A bicycle lets you travel where you want to go, when you want to go, and is often quicker than public transit or a car. And it is undoubtedly cheaper: when you own a bicycle your travel costs are hundreds of dollars less than the cost of transit and thousands of dollars less than a car. Exercising regularly on your bike will improve your mental and physical health and has no negative impact on the environment. Cycling also offers an alternative for many TTC riders - especially as we try to maintain social distancing during these difficult times.

**and besides . . . cycling is fun!**

## Ebikes Available!

The bike-share system continues to expand having gained a large, loyal customer base. Its fleet now includes 300 electric-assist bikes, which give riders some extra speed when they pedal. The e-bikes were welcomed by mobility experts, who believe they could make cycling an option for older Torontonians and others with mobility issues. Read the Toronto Star August 19<sup>th</sup> article [here](#).



## Toronto Public Library Update

"Now more Library services are available as part of our Stage 3 reopening. We're excited to be welcoming you back into our branches. Our spaces and services might look a bit different – these changes have been made to keep you and our staff safe. [Library branches that are open](#) have regular operational hours but there is no Sunday Service."

- [Pick up your holds without an appointment](#) and check them out yourself at most branches.
- [Return your library materials](#) at most branch drop boxes
- [Reserve a computer](#) to use at most library branches
- Sign up for a [library card](#)
- Browse and borrow items
- Connect and use Wi-Fi
- Work or study (seating will be limited)
- Print, scan and photocopy

## Requirements to Modify Your Front Yard or Driveway

Planning on doing some driveway/front-yard landscaping work this year?

“Constructing, reconstructing (including repaving), relocating or altering a walkway or driveway requires a street work permit...”. For more information here is the City of Toronto’s [permit policies/procedures for driveways and walkways webpage](#).

## Construction Noise

Many Toronto residents are suffering from excessive construction noise during COVID-19 as the Province overruled the City of Toronto Act for the control of construction noise. The new rules allow any construction site (even single residential) to work Monday to Sunday from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm. Here is an [article from the Toronto Noise Coalition on this issue](#). City Council has submitted a request to the Provincial Government to rescind Limitation 2 of Ontario Regulation 130/20, but the legislature is adjourned until September 14, 2020.

## Dust from Residential Construction

A reminder that [City By-law 1088](#) requires that residential construction dust be controlled. This dust is a health hazard. The homeowner/ company must use one or a combination of dust control measures:

- Wetting the construction material
- Using a wet saw
- Using dustless saw technology
- Tarping or otherwise containing the source of dusty
- Installing wind fencing or a fence filer, or
- Using a vacuum attachment when cutting



If dust control measures are not followed, phone 311 or email [311@toronto.ca](mailto:311@toronto.ca) and make a service request asking for City by-law enforcement.

## City Expected to Vote to Review Health Impacts of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

The Infrastructure and Environment Committee will meet September 17, 2020 and Councillor Shelly Carroll is expected to put forward a motion worded as follows: “City Council request the City Manager, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, to report back in the first quarter of 2021 on the environmental and associated health impacts of gasoline-powered two-stroke engine leaf blowers and other similarly operated garden equipment, including the feasibility of a year-round ban or a ban from May to September.”

If it passes, the City Manager and Medical Officer of Health’s Report should be received by Council the first quarter of 2021.

## Historic Anne Johnston Health Center and the Adjacent Fire Hall

8:05



**Mike Colle** is 😞 feeling worried at **Anne Johnson Health Centre.**

13h · Toronto · 🌐

Developers are targeting the Historic Ann Johnson Health Centre and the Fire Station next door at Yonge and Montgomery. With the new Pro Development Provincial Legislation (Bill 108) overriding Historical Designation and return of a Super OMB we are in for a battle.

Contact Linda McCarthy in my office for more details: [linda.mccarthy@toronto.ca](mailto:linda.mccarthy@toronto.ca)



👍👎👏 46

20 Comments 7 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



**Mel Lanie**

Ugh we have so much construction!



**Mike Colle**

**Mel Lanie** not against construction 🏗️ but Against Destruction of our local Historic Buildings.

## Do You Have Suggestions for Using the Trull Property?

As many of you will undoubtedly have noticed, the Trull Funeral home demolition has been completed and the lot is sitting vacant. We have been informed by the developer that the plans for the new development on that site are underway and will likely be filed with the city in the early fall. (We will keep you informed of these plans once this happens.)



Since the process of getting a new development approved by the city will take some time, the developer is asking if there is something useful and practical that our neighbourhood can suggest be done with the property until such time as construction finally begins. We would be glad to receive any suggestions you may have and pass them along - please send them to us at [lyttonparkresidentsorg@gmail.com](mailto:lyttonparkresidentsorg@gmail.com) with the subject line "Trull Property."

The developer is also working hard to keep the vacant lot cleaned up, safe and from becoming an eye-sore, which is much appreciated.

## What Toronto Looked Like in 1920

[Click to see this BlogTO article.](#) Here is a photo of Yonge and Lawrence looking north from October 19, 1922:



Photos like this are a reminder of how young a city Toronto is. Looking up Yonge Street from Lawrence Avenue in 1922.

## Thinking About School...



Source: Toronto Sun



Source: StarTribune.com

**Lytton Park Residents' Organization**  
**Annual Membership \$30.00 per household**  
**Join or Renew For 2020!**

We encourage you to become a member or to renew your membership with Lytton Park Residents' Organization, especially if you care about protecting and advancing the community's interests and fostering a sense of neighbourhood in our area.

LPRO's membership year extends from January to December, so it is time to renew your membership for 2020. Your support helps us vigorously represent our shared neighbourhood interests. Our collective voice has an impressive impact and effectiveness in matters affecting our community. Thank you for your continued membership support. It is pivotal for our representative credibility and funding needs. There are approximately 3,000 households in the Lytton Park area. Thank you in advance for supporting your community.

**Ways to Join or Renew:** **1) MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO** Lytton Park Residents' Organization Inc. and mail it with the completed form below to "Lytton Park Residents' Organization Inc., **NEW MAILING ADDRESS** PO Box 1348, 2708 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M4P 3J4"; **2) or even easier** - donate via **Credit Card/PayPal**: visit [www.LPRO.wordpress.com](http://www.LPRO.wordpress.com) & select "MEMBERSHIP"; or **3) Cheques** with this form can also be dropped off at **235 Glenview Avenue**.

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**2020 Membership Form - Membership Type: New / Renewal**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like more information about the LPRO: Yes/No**

**I am available as a community volunteer: Yes/No**

**I would like to help in the following areas:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Email us at [LyttonParkResidentsOrg@gmail.com](mailto:LyttonParkResidentsOrg@gmail.com)

Together, we **DO** make a difference!