



## **LPRO's 2023 Annual General Meeting**

### **Tuesday, October 17th**

### **7:00 p.m - 8:30 p.m.**

This year's AGM will be held **in person** at Eglinton St. George's United Church, 35 Lytton Blvd at Duplex (fully accessible). **Come out and learn about your Lytton Park Community.** Here are the topics we will cover:

*President's Report and Business Matters*

*Update on Local Developments*

*Review of our Recent Survey*

*2500 Yonge Construction Hub*

*Toronto Police Service Representative*

*Crime in our Neighbourhood*

*Mark Singh, Program Manager, Environment & Climate, City of Toronto*

*TransformTO: Accomplishments and Future Goals*

*Councillor Mike Colle, Ward 8*

*Q & A*

**Everyone is welcome!** However if you wish to vote at our AGM you must be a current member of LPRO. Membership is only \$30/year. To become a Member, go to [Join LPRO](https://www.lyttonparkro.ca/join-volunteer-donate). Not sure you've paid your membership in 2023? Send us an email at [membership.lyttonparkro@gmail.com](mailto:membership.lyttonparkro@gmail.com) and we will let you know!

## Worth Watching



*A number of local Residents' Associations, including LPRO, have come together to bring you a series of short informational pieces designed to summarize activities at City Hall in order to build context, and keep you informed about decisions and conversations that have an impact on our local neighbourhoods.*

*Today's feature is the first of three articles by freelance journalist Maryam Siddiqi. Please note that any views expressed are hers and they do not necessarily reflect the views of LPRO.*

### **Brief Honeymoon or Refocused Council? Time Will Tell**

*by Maryam Siddiqi*

It's been two and a half months since Olivia Chow was sworn in as our new mayor. The news cycle of late has been overwhelmed with headlines coming out of Queen's Park, so you're forgiven if City Hall hasn't been top of mind.

How will Chow's mayoralty be different from John Tory's? These two quotes likely sum it up. Leading up to the election, she was interviewed on CBC Radio and asked how she'd be different as a politician now compared to the last time she was an elected official at City Hall in the 1990s. "I have less patience," she said.

In a Toronto Star story about former Mayor Tory's delayed endorsement of Ana Bailao during the election, a source told the newspaper: "John has always been someone who can't make any decisions, and then he needs to be forced into making any decisions. And then when he finally makes a decision, it's like it's a compromise of compromises where he makes no one happy."

What we've seen over the past few weeks is a lot of decisions being made – many made quickly and without debate.

Some were no-brainers. With a steamy forecast ahead for the start of September, the City announced it was keeping several pools open until much later in the month (typically they shut on Labour Day). That day, Mayor Chow headed to one of those pools and swam with some local kids.

Some were related to safety. Mayor Chow backed a report that proposes using funds earmarked for the now-delayed Eglinton and Finch LRTs to hire almost 200 front-line staff to monitor the TTC for safety. "TTC riders, we want you back. We don't want you to feel anxious," she said at the press conference about the announcement.

And some required her getting a council that is divided on spending priorities to back her plans to get the city back on track – something many City Hall watchers weren't sure was possible. After the first council meeting in September, things seem to be going her way.

Most had to do with figuring out ways for the City to raise money so that it can deliver services to the standards we all expect. Council voted to adopt higher land transfer tax rates for homes over \$3 million; remove the \$5/hour cap on street parking; begin a plan to launch a commercial parking lot levy; and request from the Province that City Hall be able to launch a municipal sales tax (though Premier Doug Ford has said he's not a fan). Council also voted in favour of establishing a plan to build 25,000 rent-controlled homes.

Under the provincial Municipal Act, Toronto has limited options to raise money so these decisions are crucial to a healthy future for the city. So are productive relationships with the provincial and federal government. Mayor Chow had a meeting with Premier Ford and the two said they are working on a new funding model for the city (Premier Ford's plummeting support because of the Greenbelt scandal may work in Toronto's favour as he tries to win fans). And in late September she headed to Ottawa to do the same.

There's plenty to fix in the city. First impressions from Mayor Chow are that she's aware, and she's on it. Time will tell if this is actually the case.

*We'd like to hear what you think of this article and the rest of our newsletter, and what you'd like to see in future newsletters. Send us your thoughts. Our email address is: [lyttonparkresidentsorg@gmail.com](mailto:lyttonparkresidentsorg@gmail.com)*



## My Community Watch App

**My Community Watch** is a free crime notification service, using verified public police data to notify you by email of all reported crimes in your area. You have the flexibility to choose the type of crimes you wish to be notified about, the proximity to your home and how often you wish to be alerted. It's a free service created by volunteers who were concerned with crime in their Etobicoke neighbourhood. They have now expanded the program city-wide and to other Canadian and US cities. Below is an example from a few days in June.

For more information and to sign-up click on this link: <https://mycommunitywatch.org/>

Here are the latest incidents discovered within 5 km of Toronto, ON M4R XXX, Canada:

Distance	Category	Nearby Intersection	Premise Type	Date	Event ID
0.2 km	Auto Theft	<a href="#">Avenue Road &amp; Cortleigh Boulevard</a>	House	Jun-16 00:00	GO-202313781 43
0.4 km	Auto Theft	<a href="#">Glengrove Avenue West &amp; Coldstream Avenue</a>	House	Jun-14 21:00	GO-202313735 28
0.4 km	Auto Theft	<a href="#">Glengrove Avenue West &amp; Coldstream Avenue</a>	House	Jun-14 21:00	GO-202313689 77
0.5 km	Auto Theft	<a href="#">Glencairn Avenue &amp; Mona Drive</a>	House	Jun-15 03:00	GO-202313696 21
0.9 km	Assault	<a href="#">Saint Clements Avenue &amp; Yonge Street</a>	Outside	Jun-15 10:00	GO-202313699 39
1.0 km	Assault	<a href="#">Roselawn Avenue &amp; Yonge Street</a>	Apartment	Jun-19 01:00	GO-202314041 37



## EglintonTOday

If you've travelled on Eglinton between Avenue Road and Duplex Avenue lately you will have noticed that the Complete Street is now open! This stretch of the street features enhanced pedestrian walkways and safer street crossings, a protected cycling lane, planters, trees, and 24/7 parking.



The next phase for 2024 will include 8 km from Keele to Mt Pleasant and ultimately the entire 19 km length from Mt Dennis to Kennedy will be completed. A further 9.2 km from Mt Dennis to Renforth will be part of the Eglinton West Crosstown Extension. LPRO is represented at City workshop meetings that focus on areas of Eglinton that are within our proximity.

## **Uptown Yonge Business Improvement Area Annual Halloween Haunt Up**

Fun for the whole family, this is your chance to spook it up just before Halloween! Join the party on St. Clements by the Parkette with trick or treats all along Yonge Street!



## Save The Ontario Science Centre

Residents' associations have been asked to introduce [Save Ontario's Science Centre](#), a grassroots group dedicated to keeping the Science Centre open in Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park, to their residents.



**The Ontario Science Centre (OCS) has been underfunded by the government for years. And now its very existence is under threat.**



*Ontario Science Centre architect Raymond Moriyama, left and then CEO Maurice Bitan outside the Ontario Science Centre on August 28, 2019. Andrew Lahodynskyj*

The Government of Ontario plans to downsize the OSC, move it to downtown Toronto at Ontario Place, and destroy the iconic award-winning OSC building.

This plan is not only unnecessary, it's expensive too.

At least \$650 million of our tax dollars will be used to build a smaller OSC at Ontario Place, as well as the new concert venue, beaches and a large parking garage that will primarily benefit a private foreign-owned corporation.

Ontario should be proud to have a major cultural institution as the heart of a growing, youthful, and diverse community. The OSC's connection to the Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park neighbourhoods is strong and benefits so many.

The Ford government plans to close the OSC in 2025, and to re-open it three years later. With such a delay in reopening, there is widespread concern that the real plan is to shutter the Ontario Science Centre forever. After the Greenbelt fiasco, we all wonder what a promise from the provincial government is worth.

If you wish to support the movement to keep the building in place for all Ontarians to enjoy, check out our website [Save Ontario's Science Centre](#) and [Sign the Petition Now!](#)











