

# **RICHMOND HILL LIBERAL**

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### RESIDENTS **SHARE THEIR EXPECTATIONS** FOR NEXT MPPS

SHEILA WANG swang@metroland.com

**KIM ZARZOUR** kzarzour@yrmg.com

As the dust of the provincial election settles, residents in Richmond Hill expressed their expectations for the newly elected MPPs and the issues that matter the most to them.

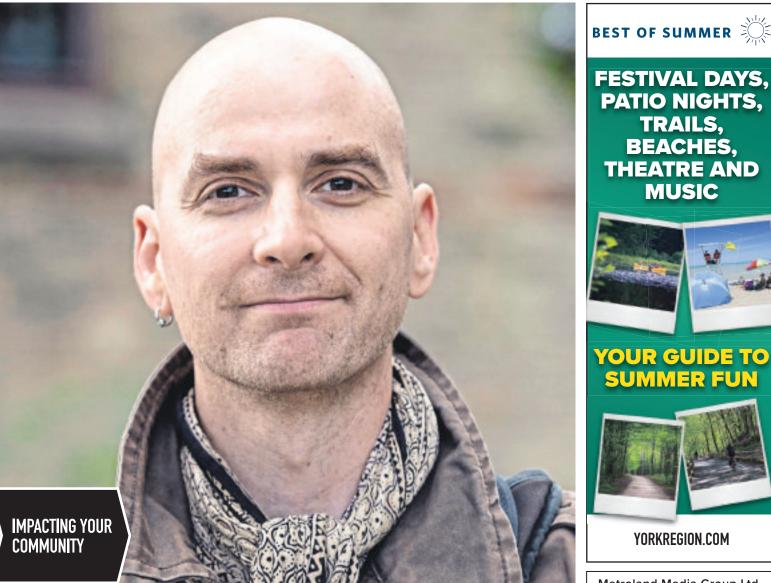
The Liberal asked six residents who live in the Richmond Hill riding and Aurora-Oak Ridges — Richmond Hill riding about what they are hoping for from their next provincial representatives. Here is what they had to say.

Communication is key for Kate Jiang, a local business owner, and for Aizick Grimman, a father who runs his own business.

"I do hope the MPP can communicate with the residents and represent his or her constituency to bring their voices to Queen's Park," said Jiang, who has lived in the Richmond Hill riding for 10 vears.

The Chinese immigrant said

See 'I'D LIKE', page 10



Justin Greaves/Torstar file photo Aizick Grimman, a local business owner and father, hopes the Aurora-Oak Ridges - Richmond Hill MPP will address



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### PROVINCIAL ELECTION DAISY WAI 'GRATEFUL' TO BE **RE-ELECTED IN RICHMOND HILL**

#### SHEILA WANG swang@yrmg.com

Cheers and applause filled Turtle Jack's, a local restaurant in Richmond Hill as Daisy Wai, the Progressive Conservative candidate celebrated her victory in the 2022 provincial election on June 2.

Wai, who was first elected as the MPP in the Richmond Hill riding in 2018, was re-elected around 9:30 p.m. when a majority of polls were counted in the riding.

"I'm grateful and happy. I can see a lot of things that are really good and I want to make sure we can put Ontario back on track," Wai told the Liberal at the victory party surrounded by family, friends and supporters.

"In Richmond Hill riding, I still want to care for the seniors. I was visiting a lot of senior homes and I have also worked with our local organizations caring for the seniors... Seniors in Richmond Hill are growing in leaps and bounds. I want to make sure they enjoy life."

The unofficial results from Elections Ontario showed that Wai took home a total of 15,614 votes -52.56 percent - leading her closest competitor Liberal candidate Roozbeh Farhadi by 6.252 votes.

Farhadi took home a total 9,362 votes, 31.51 per cent while NDP candidate Raymond Bhushan got 2,707 votes, 9.11 per cent.There are a total of 86,011 registered voters in the riding where 34.54 per cent of them turned out to vote in this election.

During the month-long campaign, Wai did not show up to two all-candidates events in the riding, which has prompted questions from the public about her absence. The candi-



Sheila Wang/Metroland

Progressive conservative Daisy Wai celebrates at her victory party after she won the Richmond Hill riding.

date told the Liberal that she's been "campaigning hard."

She said some candidates have chosen to participate in the events and others have chosen to spend their time taking their message directly to voters at the door.

Prior to her taking office in 2018, Wai said she was very active in the local PC riding association. Outside politics, Wai has been running an advertising business for over 25 years.

In 2018, Wai garnered more than 22,000 votes defeating her Liberal component Reza Moridi who represented the riding from 2007 to 2018.

Created in 2003 from parts of Oak Ridges riding, the Richmond Hill riding is bordered by Highway 407 to the south, Highway 404 to the east, Elgin Mills Road, Shirley Drive and Major Mackenzie Road to the north and Bathurst Street to the west.

With a population of 110,177 as of 2016, the Richmond Hill riding has a good mix of ethnic diversity. One third of its population identified themselves as Chinese making it the largest ethnic group in the riding. There were 13,260 residents who identified as Iranian, making up for more than 12 per cent of the population in the riding.

#### PROTECTING HER LITTLE GIRL

Yvonne, a 40-year-old widow, was taken by surprise by her doctor's diagnosis. Her doctor confirmed that she had a terminal illness and that she only had about three to six months to live. She felt that she was too young to die, especially because her only daughter, Emily, was only eight years old.

For five years, Yvonne had lived with her boyfriend, Eugene. They were going to get married someday. Now, Yvonne knew that the wedding day would never come.

She came to speak to me about two weeks after her diagnosis. She was very concerned about Emily and wanted to make her will so that Emily would have the best protection possible.

An important first step in making her will was for me to ask Yvonne about a guardian for little Emily. I carefully asked her, "Whom do you want to name in your will as Emily's guardian? As you know, this is who you would select to raise Emily after you're gone." She began to sob and said, "Two months ago, we were celebrating Emily's eighth birthday party. I could never have imagined that something like this would happen to me." She said that she had trouble thinking this through because it all happened so fast. She was very uncertain about whether she should name her sister or her mother. Her sister was very close to her, but had three of her own children, and Yvonne was worried that the added weight of another child might burden her sister financially. As well, Yvonne was worried about whether Emily would get enough attention from her sister. On the other hand, Yvonne's mother was seventy years old, and while she was capable and loving, Yvonne was worried about how long her mother would be up to taking care of a young girl like Emily.



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Yvonne asked me to draft the will leaving the name of the guardian blank, and said she would call me during the week to let me know who she would name. She called three times, naming her sister the first time, then changing it to her mother, then back to her sister, and that is how the draft of the will ended up, in preparation for her appointment the following week.

I will never forget that appointment. Yvonne came to the office with her boyfriend Eugene and her daughter Emily. Yvonne introduced me to both of them. Emily was carrying magic markers and a paint-by-numbers book. Eugene was sombre, respectful, and very quiet. He sat with Emily in the waiting room while Yvonne came into the boardroom with me so that she could review the will before she signed it.

As she sat at the boardroom table, she began to cry. "Who would know the special stories Emily loves? They are the ones we made up together. Who would know the special way I brush her hair, or the games we play after supper?" She went on and then, sobbing, said she couldn't name her sister as guardian. No way. Emily would not get enough attention. Yvonne was now out of breath, and crying so much that she needed more tissue.

As I went out to get a box of tissue for her, I could still hear her crying. So could Emily and Eugene. Emily looked up from her paint-by-numbers book, and asked Eugene, "What's wrong with Mommy?" Eugene patted her hand and told her he would straighten everything out. He walked into the boardroom with me, and Yvonne hugged him and cried, "I don't know what to do! I don't know what to do!" Suddenly Yvonne became a little girl and just looked at Eugene. I had to explain to Eugene what Yvonne's dilemma was. I don't think the words were out of my mouth for twenty seconds, when Eugene said, "Yvone, name me. Emily is part of my love for you. I will never let you down, and as long as I live, I will never let her down."

Through her tears, Yvonne told Eugene that she had never wanted to chain him to anything after she was gone. That is why she didn't initially name him as guardian. But Eugene repeated that Emily had been an important part of his own life. He looked upon her as his own daughter, and that the life he wanted was a life that included Emily. Yvonne then cried uncontrollably. Through her tears, she said, "I love you Gene and I always will. I promise that I will watch over the two of you forever."

It took a few minutes for Yvonne to regain her composure, and I was trying to keep mine. Yvonne nodded to me to finalize the will, naming Eugene as Emily's guardian.

Eugene left the boardroom when the final version of the will was brought in for signing. When Yvonne signed it in front of the witness and me, her only words were, "Now, I can pass away in peace, knowing that my daughter is in loving hands."

She then asked me to sit with her for a few minutes, while she wiped the tears from her eyes and her face. She held a small mirror, and her hand shook a bit as she did her best to apply some makeup. She did not want Emily to see that she had still been crying.

As I walked her out to the waiting room, Emily reached for her mother's hand, and that is how mother and daughter walked out the front door. Eugene walked behind them. That was the last time I ever saw them. Although many years have passed since then, every time I see a mother and a young daughter walking hand-in-hand, I think of Yvonne, and the love she left for Emily.

Les offers a FREE will review if you have a will and are not sure if is up to date. He also offers a FREE will consultation if you <u>do not</u> have a will and you are not sure where to start.

Les is a wills and estates lawyer with the law firm of Fish & Associates, 7951 Yonge St. in Thornhill (Yonge St. north of Steeles Ave. and South of Highway 7). He has been preparing wills and powers of attorney since 1989.

He has co-authored 4 books on wills, including The Family Fight: Planning to Avoid it. He and his books have been featured in The National Post, The Globe and Mail, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. He has appeared on Breakfast Television, The Marilyn Denis show, CNN and Fox. You can watch his TV appearances on **leskotzer.com** and YouTube. Les is also a professional songwriter. His song '*The Beauty in a Rose*' has played on radio across Canada. You can watch the song music video near the bottom of the homepage on **leskotzer.com**.

#### TO MAKE A WILL APPOINTMENT WITH LES

To contact **Les Kotzer** for a free will review, a free will consultation or to make a will and powers of attorney please call (905) 881-1500 ext. 19 or contact him through his online *make a will appointment form* on his website homepage **leskotzer.com.** You can also email him at **les@leskotzer.com.** On Les' website you can also watch Les' free will planning and powers of attorney seminar. Les was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal in 2013.

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PROVINCIAL ELECTION

# MICHAEL PARSA KEEPS AURORA-OAK RIDGES-RICHMOND HILL FOR PCS

# VOTERS EXPRESS DISMAY AT LOW VOTER TURNOUT

Less than an hour after polling stations closed June 2, PC candidate Michael Parsa had been declared winner in the riding of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill.

Locally, the Liberals inched a little forward compared to the last vote in 2018 while NDP's share plummeted in comparison, but overall, voter turnout was the big loss here and across the province. Parsa earned 53 per cent of the votes (compared to 58 per cent in 2018), the Liberals' Marjan Kasirlou got 30 per cent (compared to 21.6 per cent), NDP's Reza Pourzad got 7.7 per cent (18 per cent in 2018) and Green's Kevin Zheng got 3.9 per cent (2.6 in 2018). It's the second victory for Parsa, first elected to represent this growing, multicultural community in 2018, and he was quick to express his gratitude. "I really do want to thank the people of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill from the bottom of my heart for this opportunity. It's a great honor," he said.



# NEW PATIENTS WELCOME!



Runner-up Kasirlou, a rookie candidate for the Liberals, was disappointed, but philosophical. "This is democracy. The decision was made by the people. We just need to work harder in coming years to accomplish what we need to." With seven names on the ballot, including some lesser-known parties such as the Ontario Party, Ontario Moderate Party and New Blue, voters had plenty to choose from — and yet many who cast their ballots said polling stations seemed empty. Richmond Hill resident



Twitter/@MichaelParsa

Michael Parsa and his wife, Valerie leave a polling station June 2 after voting.

Kathryn Howell reported that at 4:30 p.m. on voting day, she was the only voter at the polling station at Corpus Christi school.

Oak Ridges resident Sherry Caldwell said her polling station was not busy, either.

"I'm worried that not enough people are engaged," she said. "We need real leadership... a new government that will ensure people with disabilities can live with dignity. The disability community has been forgotten and are in crisis."

Katie Karanicolopoulos, of Oak Ridges, was one of more than one million

leagues and "the people left behind" by the Ford government.

"At the end of the day, I'm really grateful for the experience I gained and the people I came to know."

Like the rest of Ontario, most voters in this riding were focused on three key issues: affordability, health care and development.

Cost of living and gas prices were a common concern Parsa heard on the campaign trail.

He viewed his victory and his party's - as a clear message that Ontario has resounding support for the PCs and the direction the

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# people who opted to vote in advanced polls in Ontario.

"I voted because it's a democratic process, a privilege," she said. "This election was more about what I don't want to see, than promises that wowed me.
I'm worried that we'll go back to what we were fighting for and against in 2019 and that nothing was

learned since then."

Kasirlou, a registered nurse who made her first run for office in the Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill riding, said she won't give up fighting for her colprovince is heading.

"After two years of pandemic, we need to make sure that we get our economy going again," he said.

"We need to continue investing in our health care. We need hospitals. We need schools built. We need roads and bridges and highways. We need to continue to provide support for business. We need goodpaying jobs created here in this riding, all across the province, and we're going to work hard to make sure that we get those good-paying jobs for the people."







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# • DPINION AN IMMIGRANT'S PERSPECTIVE ON CANADIAN CULTURE

NEWCOMERS PRESERVING THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE IS ESSENTIAL TO CANADIAN GROWTH, WRITES BRIAN SANKARSINGH



part of Canadian identity. These are noble ideals to live up to. As an immigrant to Canada in the mid '80s, I did not have the data above, but I did not need data to inform me about Canadian friendliness and hospitality.

In most circumstances, it had a profound effect on my efforts to integrate into Canadian culture. Granted, I also experienced some discrimination and racism, but these incidents did not alter my appreciation of the affability of the majority of Canadians I met. Most newcomers to Canada want to fit in, but they also have a need to hold on to their own cultural heritage. This is not a dichotomy. Preserving one's cultural heritage while also adopting the best parts of Canadian culture is absolutely possible. It is essential to the continued growth and evolution of Canadian culture. This means all Canadians are going to have to start thinking about what this means to them. This magnificent tapestry must continue to evolve and develop to encompass all Canadians for our country to continue to prosper and grow. Each new thread woven brings new colour, depth, and significance to what it means to be truly Canadian. Brian Sankarsingh is a Trinidadian-born Canadian immigrant with a passion for advocacy and a penchant for poetry. Arriving in Canada in the 1980s, he worked tirelessly to forge a life and career for himself. A published author and poet, Sankarsingh is unafraid to express his opinion on controversial topics, such as racism, systemic racism and other issues faced by marginalized communities.

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# **MAZIE'S DAISIES (OR DANDELIONS)**



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BRIAN SANKARSINGH Column

Chances are, if you were born in Canada, you don't spend your time thinking about how to become part of the beautiful tapestry of Canadian culture. You are already a part and contribute greatly to its existing vibrancy.

No matter where you live in this beautiful country, it is your birthright to be able to contribute to this collective cultural pattern-. Canadians are known for their friendliness.

On the world stage, Canada has a stellar reputation for impartiality and objectivity. In a 2015 international survey, the Reputation Institute reported Canada had the best reputation out of the 55 countries in the world with the highest domestic product gross (GDP). After analyzing data from more than 11 million Twitter accounts over a period of five years, Klear, a social analytics company, ranked Canadians as the most open and engaging with other nations in their communications. Canada was thus named the friendliest nation. The penchant for saying "I'm sorry," in every situation has long been recognized as a fundamental

Linda Pearson photo

Linda Pearson sent us this photo of Mazie. She said Mazie is enjoying the flowers in the park. Do you have a photo for Make Us Smile? Email your jpeg to newsroom@yrmg.com. Don't forget to let us know which community you live in.

## SAYING IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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Parents need to understand how HPV vaccines can protect their daughters from cervical cancers.

In countries with that vaccine has been given broadly, the rate of cervical cancers has dropped to almost zero. keeping before she finds it unsalvageable.

SHAWNA NICOLE

I am sure the culprits will be traced if more neighbours and businesses can provide video footage.

LISA AITCH

YOU READ: GEORGINA ISLAND FIRST NATION PROPOSING BRIDGE OVER LAKE SIMCOE TO photos.

## PATRICK WOOD

Wonderful news! I hope it is expedited and

fast tracked into fruition, it will greatly improve the safety and quality of life for the Island residents and it is about time their needs were met.

### **GAY WRIGHT**

I like this idea. Essential service should be available to all. Groceries and access to medical supplies shouldn't be based on a schedule of a ferry. If the ferry breaks down it halts everything, slows down traffic and impacts everyone requiring this transportation.

# WHO WE ARE

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### Letters to the editor

All letters must be fewer than 320 words and include your name and telephone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit, condense or reject letters. Published letters will appear in print and/or online at yorkregion.com

Imagine looking back and regretting not having done that. KEVIN LEWIS

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— MAY 29

Why do people not care ... An act of kindness is hurt by senseless individuals.

### MICHAEL OSHUST

It's a piece of history, she should put it away for safe

ISLAND — MAY 21

Amazing... This is a such a small ask to make a huge improvement on quality of life!

MICHELLE SMITH Michelle Smith I agree, especially that we colonized and profit from their lands.

### **KRYSIA STYRNA**

A bridge wouldn't have been necessary if the government hadn't raised the lake level in the 1800s when the Trent canal was built, there's a reason you can see the bottom in the satellite lowing updates on this and seeing the pros and cons. LISA ERIN SOVIE

I will definitely be fol-



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# PROVINCIAL ELECTION 'I'D LIKE SOMEONE THAT ACTUALLY ANSWERS CALLS': BUSINESS OWNER

#### **Continued from page 1**

she hopes information can be made more accessible for new immigrants who don't speak English well to make sure their input can be heard by the government on important local projects such as transportation and development.

"I'd like a representative that actually answers constituent calls," said Grimman from the Aurora— Oak Ridges — Richmond Hill riding.

"On the big picture, it would be great if any of the parties acknowledged the basic reality that little kids have no vaccine at all to take," he said. "Parents like me who take the threat seriously have no representation . ... I've scaled back my work to 1-2 days a week to keep us afloat while keeping the kids home."

Tyler Barker, an Aurora—Oak Ridges — Richmond Hill riding resident and advocate for disability and accessibility issues, also talked about what he expected in the field of health care.

"I wish whatever government MPP is elected here will improve health care ... I want to see more checks and balances to where the money is going to these for-profit agencies and not just shovelling out money."

Meanwhile, development and environment are top of mind for many residents that the Liberal has spoken to.

The biggest issue for Marj Andre, a well-known community leader who lives in the Richmond Hill riding, is the proposed massive development in the High tech Transit-Oriented Community (TOC) at Yonge Street and Highway 7.

"I hope whoever the next MPP will be will be more attuned to how to build a good community and understand what it really means to build a good community in Richmond Hill," Andre said.

The provincial government issued two minister's zoning orders to fast-track the developments of two TOCs, including the one in Richmond Hill. It will bring 33 towers ranging in height from 40 to 80 storeys to the city, doubling the density and height originally planned for the area.

The High Tech TOC is one of many development projects being planned or constructed across the city that have faced public pushback over concerns about livability.

"I think it (Richmond Hill) was much nicer before than now because of these huge buildings. I know they're for housing, and I'm actually for housing. But somehow, I think they lose the natural things and go to these highrise buildings. And traffic just becomes unbearable," said Nahid Missaghie, an Iranian immigrant who has lived in Richmond Hill for 35 years.

Carol Davidson from Oak Ridges said, "There has been an explosion of development proposals in Richmond Hill over the past four years ... We need leadership that recognizes a healthy economy must include an environmental plan, regardless of party."

Jiang said she expects Richmond Hill to continue to grow as a modern city in the future, noting "not just a place for living and housing but no supporting facilities. Nobody wants that, right?"

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: Reporters Sheila Wang and Kim Zarzour spoke with residents in Richmond Hill about their hopes and expectations for the next MPPs.





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# **Dinner Seminar Invitation**

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# How to decorate with texture and scent

When it comes to home décor, there's one element that many people unknowingly neglect: texture. Adding texture essentially means layering a variety of materials, colours and textiles to create visual interest — and it's key for creating a finished and livedin look.

To help you incorporate texture like a pro, follow these tips from celebrity designer Amanda Aerin.

up to with Febreze Unstopables Touch fabric spray. "It's touch activated so you'll get a burst of fresh scent every time you sit down," explains Aerin.

### Incorporate different textural elements in each room

Textured wallpaper, embossed with any pattern or design, is one of the easiest ways to create a polished room. Texture can also



### **Remember to create ambiance**

"Making beautiful spaces is about more than furniture. For me, it's important to address the feeling a client wants in a space to create a room filled with happiness and relaxation," says Aerin. "Including texture in a space creates a more welcoming feeling."

Choose the mood you want to curate and add items that make you feel that way, whether it's a chunky knit blanket or a macrame pillow.

### Don't be afraid to mix and match materials

Try adding cozy throws, knotted area rugs or woven window coverings for a lavish look. Aerin also suggests adding pieces that are both functional and visually interesting. For example, using a texture like velvet on a chair in your bedroom creates the perfect spot to wind down in the evenings. Keep these materials smelling fresh and ready to cozy

be added to your dining room by using softly upholstered chairs to bring a look of refined opulence to the space. (News Canada)



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Thursday



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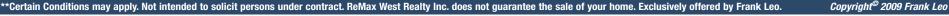




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5 bedroom, 2 bathroom lakefront home, Renovated throughout with addition with valide ceilings. Finished walk-out basement with in-law suite potential. Pool, patio & spacious decks overlooking lake.



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### MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAVID WEST SEEKS RE-ELECTION

#### 'OUR MEETINGS ARE STILL SOMEWHAT UNSETTLED I ACKNOWLEDGE, BUT I THINK THEY'RE BETTER THAN THEY WERE AND I THINK THERE'S MORE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT': MAYOR DAVID WEST

#### SHEILA WANG swang@metrol

swang@metroland.com

Five months into his role as mayor of the City of Richmond Hill, David West has thrown his hat in the ring again in the hopes of staying mayor for another term come the Oct. 24 municipal election.

West officially registered to run as a candidate in Richmond Hill's election on May 27, becoming the first person who has put his name forward for the upcoming mayoral race.

"It wasn't a hard decision," West told the Liberal May 30. "I had already made that commitment when I decided to run in the byelection. It is my commitment to continue doing it."

Having served on council for eight years as Ward 4 councillor, West took office as mayor in a byelection in January following the retirement of former mayor Dave Barrow.

Richmond Hill council had been stranded in frequent council votes split 4-4 as the former mayor went on a medical leave for more than six months and stepped down after returning briefly to council last September.

The eight-member council struggled to conduct regular city businesses amid constant bickering and name-calling for months while the city searched for its next mayor in the middle of the CO-VID-19 pandemic.

West came on top in the mayoral byelection, garnering more than 13,000 votes, defeating fellow councillors Godwin Chan, Carmine Perrelli and Joe DiPaola.

"I think things have improved. Our meetings are still somewhat unsettled I acknowledge, but I think they're better than they were and I think there's more room for improvement," West said.

The mayor said he is confident in continuing to lead the Richmond Hill council to work together better in the future because "we all work for the same people".

Outside the council chambers, the city currently faces many challenges as it always has as a growing community, West said, noting issues about the High Fava Somenila/Matroland

Steve Somerville/Metroland Richmond Hill's incumbent mayor is David West.

Tech transit-oriented community (TOC), population growth as well as the aftermath of the pandemic.

As the city is on track to finalize several policies including the official plan, parks, recreation and cul-

JUNE 9TH FLYER LIS

ture master plan and transportation master plan, West said he's excited to see all these guiding documents coming together and being updated.

"We're starting to see a pent-up demand for so many things that make our community great, including arts and culture. Things like that need to be done. The whole idea of diversity, equity and inclusion and strengthening our ability to live in a really inclusive community, I believe that's incredibly important for Richmond going forward."

While West has made his intentions known, campaign activity will not begin in earnest until after the provincial election June 2, according to a news release from West's campaign manager.

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### 🕿 🔳 WHAT'S ON June 9, 2022 **10 TERRIFIC TRAILS** Fhursday,

#### **ELAINE SMITH**

With the weather warming up, the outdoors Ē beckons. After a long, dreary winter, residents are excited about discarding down jackets and boots and slipping into hoodies and running shoes. It's time to get those feet moving, and, luckily, there's no need to go far.

The GTA has many trails that provide the chance for exercise while enjoying a landscape that belies the urban environment. For an enjoyable local hike, make time to explore what this part of the province has to offer, with trails listed from east to west.

#### ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK

Welcome to Canada's first urban national park. Across from the Toronto

Zoo, Rouge offers visitors 10 hiking trails ranging from 0.5 to 7.6 kilometres. Some are easy, others require moderate skill with elevation gains of 20 metres up to 173 metres. Walk through Carolinian forests, traverse an old logging route, or visit wetlands, meadows and grasslands. It's a nice place to picnic, and you can fish in the Rouge and tributaries if you have a licence. The park boasts more than 1,000 species of plants, 247 bird species, 73 fish species, 44 mammal species, and 27 reptile and amphibian species.

#### **DORIS MCCARTHY TRAIL**

Named for the Toronto artist who lived in the Scarborough Bluffs area, this trail takes walkers and off-road cyclists down a moderately steep hill to the shore of Lake Ontario and meanders along the base of the bluffs. See the sculpture that pays homage to McCarthy, view the cliffs, bird watch and stop for a picnic along the rocks. This out-and-back trail is accessed from Ravine Drive. It is also known as Gates Gully because the Gates Inn and Tavern stood nearby during the Upper Canada Rebellion and served as a rallying spot for the Scarborough Militia that defended Toronto.

#### LESLIE STREET SPIT

East of Cherry Beach on Ashbridge's Bay sits Tommy Thompson Park on the Leslie Street Spit. The spit is a human-created peninsula jutting into the bay, home to a variety of wildlife, including beavers, swans and groundhogs. It is a stopover for migrating birds, making it



popular with birders. These critters share the space with eager walkers, cyclists, runners and rollerbladers. The park's flat. paved, multi-use trail runs most of the length of the spit. There are also designated pedestrian trails and nature trails that bring visitors closer to the park's wildlife. There are also lovely views of the lake.

#### MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY

A cemetery trail may sound macabre, but it is also quiet and beautifully landscaped. The cemetery is not only a burial place, but an arboretum with many old, magnificent trees. It's so popular with locals, cemetery manager the Mount Pleasant Group has created one, three and five-kilometre trails. The grounds are well maintained vear-round and walkers, runners and cyclists can enjoy cherry blossoms in season, as well as blooming magnolias, chestnut trees and other species. For a bit of cemeterv tourism, visitors can seek the graves of musician Glenn Gould, prime ministers William Lyon MacKenzie King and John Turner, and Sir Frederick Banting and Charles Best, discoverers of insulin.

KAY GARDNER BELTLINE TRAIL

This trail is a wonderful option for a drizzly day because it is protected by tree canopy for much of its 4.5 kilometres. The dirt trail follows the rail bed of the old Toronto Belt Line Railway, stretching from Mount Pleasant Road to the Allen Expressway. Very popular with walkers, runners, cyclists and dog walkers and wide enough for physically distanced walks, it passes through Forest Hill and its

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rest stops are named for train stations of old. Iron horses line the bridge overlooking the subway line at Yonge Street, a favourite with children.

#### HUMBER RIVER RECRE **ATIONAL TRAIL, SOUTH**

The contiguous southern portion of this popular trail begins at Etienne Brulé Park near the Old Mill. It wends its way north through green spaces, around Baby Point, through Magwood Park and Lambton Woods and on to Lambton Park, home to the James Gardens. There are parallel routes, a paved multi-use path and a gravel/dirt trail for pedestrians. There are washrooms as well as park benches to sit and enjoy views of the Humber River, formerly a major Indigenous trading route. It is a lovely, albeit popular, urban wilderness, and you'll find birds, animals and wildflowers along its banks.

See A VISIT, page 17



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Teen/Adults (age 14+) 11:10 - 11:55pm

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### WHAT'S ON **A VISIT TO WEBSTER'S FALLS REQUIRES A RESERVATION**

**Continued from page 16** 

#### WATERFRONT TRAIL

If you've been to Harbourfront recently, you'll have noticed well-used walking and cycling lanes along Front Street. They are part of the 3,600-kilometre Great Lakes Waterfront Trail, which has three local sections: Etobicoke, Toronto and Scarborough. Its path is largely along the waterfront from Mimico in the west to Rouge Beach in the east. It wanders through Humber Bay Shores, Sunnyside Park, Queens Quay and Harbourfront, Cherry Beach and the Port Lands. In Etobicoke and Scarborough, sections meander through residential neighbourhoods, but stretches

along the water are the most scenic. **BRUCE TRAIL** 

For an excursion outside the city, enjoy hiking or walking along one of Ontario's most iconic trails. The Bruce Trail stretches 900 kilometres along the Niagara Escarpment from Niagara to Tobermory along with many side paths. It is considered Canada's oldest and longest marked footpath. The section closest to Toronto runs from Milton to Cheltenham, about 50 kilometres. Hikers and walkers will see karst formations common to the escarpment: rock that has been eaten away by acidic water. Enjoy the forests, wetlands and farmlands as you trek along.

NASSAGAWEYA CANYON TRAIL

links two of Halton's conservation areas, Rattlesnake Point and Crawford Lake. If you do the round trip, allow four to five hours. You'll walk along the cliff line and through forests, see 1,000-year-old cedar trees, watch turkey vultures soaring on thermals and have a chance to explore the caves. Once you arrive at Crawford Lake, soak up Indigenous culture at the reconstructed 15th-century Iroquoian village. Excavations here led to the discovery of thousands of artifacts and 11 longhouses, three of which have been reconstructed based on archeological details and house interpretive programs. Note: Halton conservation areas

This 4.6-kilometre hike



From Rouge National Urban Park in the east to the Spencer Gorge Conservation Area in the west, get some exercise and enjoy nature.

charge for entry.

**TEW FALLS AND DUNDAS PEAK** If you like your waterfalls more intimate than Niagara, the Spencer Gorge Conservation Area in Dundas offers a good alternative. At Tew Falls, the wa-

ter from Logan's Creek tumbles 41 metres into the Spencer Gorge. By comparison, Horseshoe Falls is 52 metres high. From the falls, the trail takes you through the forest on to Dundas Peak at the mouth of the

gorge and offers excellent views as far as Hamilton Harbour. It's a loop trail and requires a reservation; if you want to include the wider Webster's Falls, a separate reservation is required.

#### **ONLY HOUSING FOR 2SLGBTQ+ YOUTH SECURED THANKS TO GENEROUS** INVESTMENT TO BLUE DOOR FROM THE NORTHPINE FOUNDATION

Pride Month is a time of remembrance and celebration. We remember and acknowledge Northpine Foundation veremember and acknowledge past and present struggles 2SLGBTQ+ people experience due to discrimination. We celebrate and advocate for diversity, individuality, and equal rights.

This month, Blue Door is celebrating a milestone for their INNclusion program, the only transitional supportive housing for 2SLGBTQ+ youth in York Region. Blue Door is proud to announce a generous investment from The Northpine Foundation for the capital purchase of the INNclusion home. The home supports up to four (4) youth and a peer mentor. Since launching a year ago, INNclusion has supported 2SLGBTQ+ youth with stable transitional housing while fostering an environment of independence and growth.

The need for INNclusion is startling. Driven into homelessness often by identity-based abuse and discrimination, 2SLGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented among youth experiencing homelessness, with approximately 40% of youth identifying as 2SLGBTQ+. Struggling to cope, 1 in 3 youth attempted suicide in the last year.

To help young people on their own unique journey, INNclusion provides an environment where youth are safe and supported on their path of selfdiscovery and self-empowerment while sharing their experiences with peers that have also lived similar journeys. It is a uniquely powerful experience to know that you are not alone and that you have a support system around you to grow.

The investment from The Northpine Foundation will ensure the longterm stability of INNclusion and allow Blue Door to focus on growing and improving support for 2SLGBTQ+ youth. Together, both organizations are making space for 2SLGBTQ+ youth, ensuring their voices are heard and amplified.

Thanks to The Northpine Foundation there will always be a safe door to turn to in York Region.

To learn more about INNclusion or to access support, visit www.BlueDoor.ca





# WALK THIS WAY: HIDDEN HIKING TRAILS IN YORK REGION

HIKING TRAILS IN AURORA, NEWMARKET, GEORGINA, STOUFFVILLE, VAUGHAN, KING TOWNSHIP, RICHMOND HILL AND MARKHAM

#### AMANDA PERSICO apersico@yrmg.com

Get off the beaten path and

discover one of many secluded gems in York Region. There are plenty of hidden

hiking trails offering a great escape and good deal of fresh air. AURORA – DAVID TOMLINSON NA-

TURE RESERVE

**Parking:** at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Centre off Wellington Street and at Johnathan Bales Parkette on Hartwell Way.

Along the new trail system, there are several boardwalks and viewing platforms overlooking the ponds and wetlands. **GEORGINA – SIBBALD POINT Parking:** 26071 Park Rd., Sutton

Sibbald Point is open for day use year-round. The Maidenhair Fern trail is a two-kilometre, selfguided loop taking you through a variety of ecosystems.

#### MARKHAM - ROUGE NATIONAL UR-BAN PARK

**Parking:** 7277 14th Ave., Markham

This junction provides access to the 7.6 km Monarch trail, 3.3 km Reesor Way/Tanglewood trail and the 3.2 km Tallgrass Trek, each with its own nature escapes from the rare cedar savannah to meadows and wetlands.

NEWMARKET, EAST GWILLIMBURY --DAVE KERWIN TRAIL, PEGGY'S WOOD TRAIL

**Parking:** off Gilpin Drive north of Bonshaw Avenue and at Environmental Park off Woodspring Avenue.

This 3.7 km trail stretches from Davis Drive and zigzags through the forest connecting



Discover one of many hidden hiking trails in York Region, offering a great escape and plenty of fresh air.

with Peggy's Wood Trail off Green Lane.

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE – VAN-Dorf Park trail

**Parking:** off Woodbine Avenue north of Vandorf Sideroad.

The 2 km trail, situated at the top of the Oak Ridges Moraine, loops around the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Community Centre grounds and winds past many creeks and streams of the East Holland River.

#### CENTENNIAL PARK TRAIL – KING Township

Parking: Centennial Park, 14855 Jane St., King City

This 5 km natural trail has three trail loops for beginners, intermediate and advanced hikers. Many trees and shrubs have been planted to create an arboretum and wildlife habitat.

MAPLE NATURE RESERVE TRAILS -VAUGHAN

**Parking:** Maple Nature Reserve, 10401 Dufferin St.

This 3 km trail offers various loops and natural paths along the Don River watershed and features a mature forest, meadow area and a number of ponds and wetlands.

#### PHYLLIS RAWLINSON PARK TRAILS -RICHMOND HILL

Parking: 11715 Leslie St., Richmond Hill

The 3.5 km loop trail system is dotted with heritage buildings and is home to Celebration Forest, a woodlot area where tribute and memory trees are planted.

Yórk Region

### 2022 WATER AND WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND COMMENT PERIOD

The Regional Municipality of York's Water and Wastewater Master Plan update identifies strategies and supporting infrastructure needed to provide clean, safe and reliable water and wastewater services to our growing communities to 2051.

#### Review the Master Plan update at york.ca/waterplan

# PROVIDE COMMENTS BY JULY 3, 2022

#### Submit comments to:

Laura Alpi, Project Liaison The Regional Municipality of York 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket P: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73029 F: 905-830-6927 water@york.ca

York Region completed updating its Water and Wastewater Master Plan through the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment master planning process. An accessible version of materials and printed copies are available upon request.

Personal information submitted (e.g., name, address and phone number) is collected, maintained and disclosed under the authority of the *Environmental* Assessment Act and the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purpose of creating a public record and for consultation purposes. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public, unless you request that your personal information remain confidential.



#### THINGS TO DO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARKHAM, RICHMOND HILL, STOUFFVILLE AND SURROUNDING AREA

DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MU-**SICAL** Jr. Youth theatre is alive and well in Markham! After 2 tough years, our ARTSies Inc. theatre kids take the stage in celebration with this super fun musical loaded with showstopping numbers! (Presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International) Location and Venue: 22 Esna Park Dr., Markham (Markham People's Community Church) Event date and time: Thursday, June 16, 2022 6:45PM - 8:30PM Audience: All Ages Price: Tickets are \$15.00

**29TH ANNUAL LEMONVILLE GROUP OF ARTISTS SHOW AND** SALE Our annual Lemonville Group of Artist Show and Sale requires advance planning. Unfortunately we are unable to have an in-person show again this year, but we are pleased to offer a virtual exhibition of our work. Please visit our website. Location and Ven-

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Canada's ultimate career fair and speakers' series for skilled immigrants, newcomers, temporary workers,

ue: Online Event date and time: Ongoing Audience: All Ages Price: Free

SANGEET KI SHAAM - BOLLY-WOOD MUSIC Family and friends are invited virtuallv to joinBollywood Music -Sangeet Ki Shaam. To join please click Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/  $i/2\overline{2}31494414$  Location and Venue: Online Event date and time: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 8:00PM - 9:15PM Audience: All Ages Price: Free

THE FINER SENSES - A VIRTU-AL TOUR AND WINE TASTING EX-**PERIENCE** Join us for our third annual virtual event experience The Finer Senses, Tour and Tasting. Journey with us to discover the sights and sounds of three wine producing countries - Portugal, Spain and Italy. Tickets at deafblindontario.com. Location and Venue: Online Event date and time: Friday, June 10, 2022 7:30PM -9:00PM Audience: Adults



#### **Price: \$115**

HATHA YOGA TOGETHER Hatha Yoga involves breath, body, and mind. Free virtual classes are usually 90 minutes of breathing, yoga poses & meditation via Zoom. Evervone is welcome to join Zoom: https:// via us02web.zoom.us/

j/2231494414. Location and Venue: Online Event date and time: Monday, June 13, 2022 6:00PM - 8:00PM Audience: All Ages Price: Free

**BLOOD DONATION EVENT** You could help a child being treated for cancer, a father about to have heart surgery or a mother who has just given birth. Donate Blood Today at our Hillcrest Mall donor centre located at the back of the mall near Entrance 5 - External Access Only Location and Venue: 9350 Yonge St., Richmond Hill (Canadian Blood Services - Hillcrest Mall) Event date and time: Friday, June 10, 2022 9:00AM - 1:00PM Audience: Adults Price: Free

**BLOOD DONATION EVENT** You could help a child being treated for cancer. a father about to have heart surgery or a mother who has just given birth. Donate Blood Today at our Hillcrest Mall donor centre located at the back of the mall near Entrance 5 - External Access Only Location and Venue: 9350 Yonge St., Richmond Hill (Canadian Blood Services — Hillcrest Mall) Event date and time: Saturday, June 11, 2022 8:00AM - 2:00PM Audience: Adults Price: Free

**BLOOD DONATION EVENT** To ensure we can continue to meet the needs of patients in Canada, we need everyone who is healthy to book and keep their blood donation appointment for the weeks and months ahead-.Confirm your eligibility before booking your next appointment. Location and Venue: 9350 Yonge St., Richmond Hill (Canadian Blood Services — Hillcrest Mall) Event date and time: Monday, June 13, 2022 1:00PM - 7:00PM Audience: Adults Price: Free

**AURORA PERFORMING ARTS** FESTIVAL Do you enjoy performing? Aurora Performing Arts Festival, presented by Marquee Theatrical Productions in partnership with the Town of Aurora is the competition for you! For more information visit www.aurora.ca/artsfestival. Location and Venue: 49 Wells St., Aurora (Aurora Town Park) Event date and time: Saturday, June 11, 2022 10:00AM -1:00PM Audience: All Ages Price: Free

WOODBRIDGE VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET OPENING DAY The Woodbridge Village Farmers Market is a nonprofit, volunteer run market. Locally grown and harvested in season conventional and organic vegetables and fruit, cheese, honey, micro greens, yum- 👳 my breads and baked N goods dips and jams are available. Location and Venue: 5020 Hwy. 7, Vaughan (Woodbridge Memorial Arena) Event date and time: Saturday, June 11, 2022 9:00AM - 1:00PM Audience: All Ages Price: Free \*\*\*

Although we endeavour to provide the most accurate description of events listing and venues, we are not responsible or liable for errors and omissions in the event description. location or intended audience. If necessary, please contact the event organizer for additional information.



SETTLEMENT

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www.canadianimmigrant.ca/careerfair For exhibiting and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Ricky Bajaj at: rbajaj@metroland.com







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# THIS IS PART OF THE SOLUTION'

CITY COUNCIL DECIDED TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM GRANT THRESHOLD FOR THE BUILDING RENOVATIONS GRANT FROM \$50,000 TO \$100,000

#### SHEILA WANG swang@metroland.com

As local businesses are navigating the post-pandemic economy, the City of Richmond Hill is offering another round of financial incentives to help existing businesses recover and attract new opportunities.

The city has renewed a grant program created in

2018 to encourage new office development and incentivize facade improvements in designated areas across the city, including the downtown core and older business parks.

City council adopted a proposal to renew the Office Development and Village Local Centre Revitalization Community Improvement Plan (CIP) program for another five years at the April 27 meeting.

"This is a program that I'm really pleased to see starting to get traction," Mayor David West said on council. "This is part of the solution to making sure we're doing all of the things we need to do to promote office space, to promote revitalization."

From 2018 to 2021, the city received 26 applications, including seven completed projects funded by



Sheila Wang/Metroland

Local businesses in Richmond Hill's downtown core have had a facelift after receiving a grant from the City of Richmond Hill through its community improvement program (CIP).

the city's grant program as well as the Ontario Main Street Revitalization Initiative grant program, according the city's policy planning manager Sybelle von Kursell.

The city and the prov-

ince invested about \$500,000 in these projects for signage, facade improvements and building renovations, in addition to about \$1 million private investment.

There are three grant

types in the CIP program tax increment equivalent grant for new offices, building renovation grant and facade improvement, landscape and signage grant, von Kursell said at her presentation to council.

At the meeting, city council decided to increase the maximum grant threshold for the building renovations grant from \$50,000 to \$100,000 to more reasonably represent the cost of such projects.

"The tax (increment equivalent grant) program is not quite popular right now. I think there's potential there. I look forward to building on the momentum for the rest of the program," West said.

The city has yet to receive any application for the tax increment equivalent grant for new offices, which is designed to support the development/intensification of the office and reduce the costs of the development.

It provides a grant equivalent to the municipal portion of the property tax for a new office development and limits the total impact of increased assessment and property taxes as a result of the development by phasing the increases in over a maximum period of 10 years or equivalent to the maximum cost of rehabilitation, renovation and/ or (re)development.

The changes to the CIP program will be undertaken through the formal CIP update process in accordance with the Planning Act, while budget approvals will occur through the city's normal operating budget process.

The city has begun accepting grant applications for 2022.

For more information about the program and how to apply, visit RichmondHill.ca/CIPGrants.

## **Customer Service Training**

### Interested in Working in Customer Service?

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**NOTICE BOARD** 

#### LEGAL NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF THE Thursday, **BANKRUPTCY OF**

Richmond Hill Liberal

Reza Hassanzadeh Tabrizi (AKA Reza Hassim Zadeh Tabrizi) of the City of **Richmond Hill**, in the Province of Ontario. **NOTICE OF FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS** 

Notice is hereby given that Reza Hassanzadeh Tabrizi (AKA Reza Hassim Zadeh Tabrizi) filed an Assignment on the 31st day of May, 2022, and that the First Meeting of Creditors will be held on the 17th day of June, 2022, at 11:00 o'clock in the morning. at the Offices of Taylor Leibow Inc., 3410 South Service Road, Suite 103, Burlington, Ontario and via Conference Call. Please contact our office for more information if you are a creditor. Dated at Hamilton, this 1st day

of June, 2022. TAYLOR LEIBOW INC. Trustee in Bankruptcv 800 - 105 Main Street East Hamilton, Ontario L8N 1G6 (905) 523-0003

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS **AND OTHERS**

All claims against the Estate of Carolyn Diane Flanagan, late of 1000 Elgin Mills Road East, Richmond Hill, Ontario, must be filed with the undersigned personal representatives on or before the 11th day of July, 2022, thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

DATED this 2nd day of June, 2022.

Larry & Mary Blundon c/o Counter & Mitchell **Barristers & Solicitors** P.O. Box 2939 **Richmond Hill, Ontario** L4E 1A8



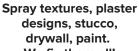
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