

## HAVE YOUR SAY

With City Council meeting in January 17-19 to finalize the 2012 City Budget, we want to know **what services are most important to you?**

### ONLINE

Visit us at

[www.johnfilion.ca](http://www.johnfilion.ca) to participate in our current online poll and share your views on the city budget proposal.

### TELEFORUM

On **Thursday, January 12**, at 7:00 PM, Councillor Filion will be hosting a free TeleForum to get feedback and input regarding the 2012 City Budget.

If you are interested in participating in this TeleTown Hall, be by your phone on January 12, just answer the call and stay on the line. To make sure you are on the Ward 23 Call List, or would like further information, please contact **416-395-6411**.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY NIGHT

Join John Filion and the new Superintendent for 32 Division, Sam Fernandez, for a special forum on community safety.

**Thursday, January 26, 2012**  
**7:00 PM**

**Edithvale Community Centre**  
**141 Finch Avenue West**

Following a general discussion, separate sessions will take place to address home invasions, increasing safety in condominiums and street-proofing tips.

For more information contact our office at **416-395-6411**.

## NEWS FROM CITY HALL:

### Fiscal Responsibility Yes, Drastic Service Cuts No

This year, the City's budget process has drawn more attention than ever before. Just over a year ago, Mayor Rob Ford was elected on a platform of reducing city spending— without any significant cuts to services. In recent months, however, the list of proposals has included library closures and/or major reductions in library hours, reductions in the number of police officers, elimination of windrow snow clearing, closing Gibson House and other museums, selling off Cummer Lodge, Carefree Lodge and other Homes for the Aged, selling the Toronto Zoo, privatizing community centres, eliminating Environment Days, cutting buses on Finch Ave., eliminating Wheeltrans for dialysis patients, reducing funding for North York Seniors Centre and other similar centres, cutting funding for breakfast programs in 58 schools, closing swimming pools, charging parents more for child care in schools, selling or closing city theatres such as the Toronto Centre for the Arts, cutting grants to the Toronto Symphony, Toronto Film Festival and other arts organizations and artists. . . and the list goes on.

At every opportunity, I speak with groups of residents about the city's budget and, although individual opinions are often polarized, the "average" opinion seems to be this: the city needs to reduce spending and be more efficient with our tax dollars; we are not confident that you are spending the money you have well, and that's why we're reluctant to give you more of it; the structural deficit needs to be dealt with so that we don't hear about a budget crisis every year; BUT we do not support the types of budget cuts listed above.

I am working with other councillors to arrive at a budget which respects this point of view: budget cuts and efficiencies to reduce spending— yes— but done carefully and responsibly so that there is minimal impact on the services and programs we value and expect the city to provide with our tax dollars.

### New Child Care Centres in Our Community

Our community is experiencing an increasing need for high-quality child care. Waiting lists for infants have grown as long as three years. I am pleased to have been able to initiate the use of Section 37 funds (money provided to the city by developers) to start building several new non-profit centres in Ward 23. New locations will include an expanded child care centre at Churchill Public School, a child care centre to form part of the community space in a rebuilt Lansing United Church, and a proposed new centre as part of the proposed Sorbara condominium project on Yonge Street (where McDonald's used to be). I am also hoping to include a child care centre in Avondale Public School when it is rebuilt.

### North Yonge Secondary Studies and Other Planning Studies

The coming year will see the completion of several major Planning studies in the area. Consultations are currently taking place on the following areas: proposed policies for new development on Yonge St. between Drewry and Steeles Ave.; a review of the City's Official Plan; and a look at updating the Sheppard Ave. Plan from Beecroft westward to the edge of the valley.

For more information or to get involved, please contact [councillor\\_filion@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_filion@toronto.ca).

# John Filion

## Community News

Toronto City Councillor

Ward 23

Willowdale

## CONTACT US

### North York Civic Centre

5100 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M2N 5V7  
416-395-6411

### Toronto City Hall

100 Queen Street West, B-36  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
416-392-0210

### Email

[councillor\\_filion@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_filion@toronto.ca)

### Website

[www.johnfilion.ca](http://www.johnfilion.ca)

### City Services

Dial 3-1-1



[facebook.com/johnmfilion](https://facebook.com/johnmfilion)



Dear Residents,

My favourite part of winter in Willowdale is our outdoor hockey and skating rinks. The most popular of these is the rink at **Mel Lastman Square**. But some of the best warm (or cold) fuzzy moments of winter take place at the natural ice rinks maintained by volunteers (with boards and hoses from the city). Congratulations to the communities around Cameron Pub-

lic School, St. Edward Catholic School, Glendora Park, Ancona Park and Parkview for keeping alive this great tradition.

While winter is underway, we're planning for summer events and activities that will also involve the community to make this a stronger, more interesting neighbourhood. The **Cultura** arts festival will be back for its third year at Mel Lastman Square on Friday nights. **Parkview Neighbourhood Garden** will be up and running again by May. A new **Edithvale Park**, complete with bake oven, will be open for next summer. We're planning an **Arts Park** near Doris Avenue and Hillcrest Avenue. And a new **Maplehurst Park** (near Maplehurst and Longmore) will be built this year.

If you want to get more involved in your community, please contact me at [councillor\\_filion@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_filion@toronto.ca).

— Councillor John Filion

## A NEW TEAM TO SERVE YOU

With the retirement of Val DeAcutis, my Executive Assistant and right hand for the past 25 years, I have restructured my office to provide greater community outreach while continuing our focus on solving constituents' problems.

I am pleased to introduce **Markus O'Brien Fehr** as my new Executive Assistant. Markus will be following events at City Hall in addition to working with community leaders and residents on a wide variety of issues.



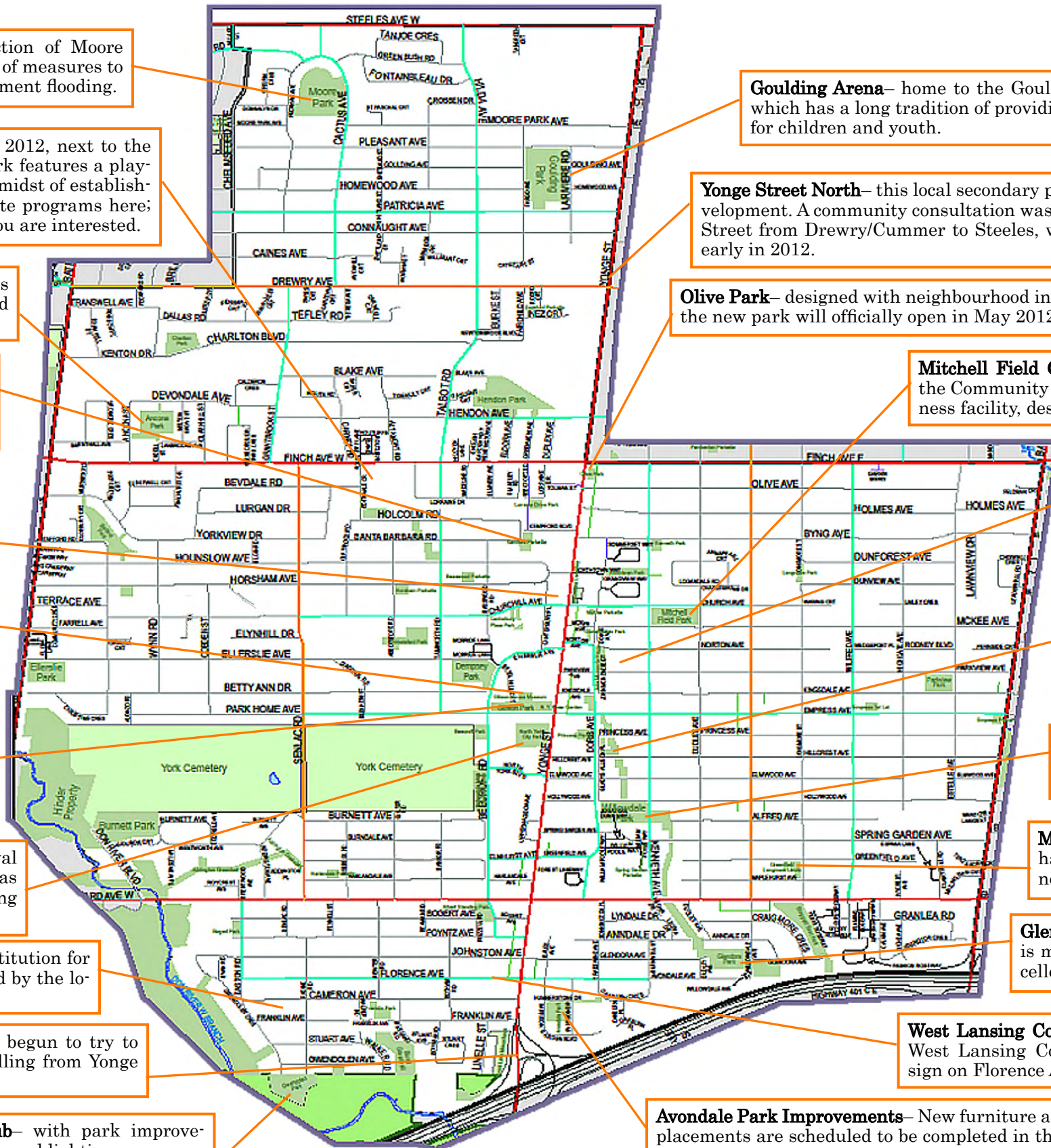
The Ward 23 Team (left to right):  
Catherine LeBlanc-Miller, Callum MacDonald,  
Dawn Cattapan and Markus O'Brien Fehr

**Callum MacDonald's** primary role is to assist constituents in their dealings with the City, Committee of Adjustment issues and the area's single largest problem: Transportation.

**Catherine LeBlanc-Miller** and **Dawn Cattapan** are my new Special Assistants; they will be working directly to make Willowdale an even better place in which to live. Catherine will focus on planning, and keeping in close contact with homeowners' associations and condo boards. Dawn's responsibilities include working with residents to animate public spaces, with an emphasis on community programming and arts-related events.

Best wishes to Angela Drennan, Angela Werner and Melodie Buhagiar, wonderful staff members who have left the office to pursue other career paths.

# Ward 23 (Willowdale)



**Moore Park Dry Pond**– reconstruction of Moore Park as a dry pond is part of a series of measures to protect the neighbourhood from basement flooding.

**Edithvale Park**– Opening in the summer of 2012, next to the newly completed Community Centre, the park features a playing field, stage and bake oven. We are in the midst of establishing a community organization to help operate programs here; please email [councillor\\_filion@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_filion@toronto.ca) if you are interested.

**Goulding Arena**– home to the Goulding Park Hockey Association, which has a long tradition of providing successful hockey programs for children and youth.

**Yonge Street North**– this local secondary plan focuses on specific areas of high development. A community consultation was held in December for the area of Yonge Street from Drewry/Cummer to Steeles, with further consultations taking place early in 2012.

**Ancona Park Ice Rink**– community volunteers maintain this rink each year so neighbourhood families can enjoy the winter.

**Olive Park**– designed with neighbourhood input, the new park will officially open in May 2012.

**Beecroft Road Extension**– when completed, this road will run from Sheppard to Finch and create new paths through the neighbourhood.

**Mitchell Field Community Centre**– this year, the Community Centre opened a brand new fitness facility, designed to promote wellness.

**St. George Anglican Church**– the new church officially opened on December 3, 2011. Its beautiful design offers space to serve both the parish and the surrounding community.

**Parkview Neighbourhood Garden**– Located at 34 Parkview Avenue (next to the John McKenzie House), this organization has over 100 active volunteers who grow and sell produce at the same location.

**Gibson House**– built in 1851, this Georgian style farmhouse hosts a variety of programs and events. For hours of operations and admission fees, please contact [gibsonhouse@toronto.ca](mailto:gibsonhouse@toronto.ca).

**Arts North York**– this new Arts Service Organization will assist local artists and arts organizations from their centrally located headquarters, scheduled to begin in the summer of 2012. An arts park next door will provide extra space for outdoor activities.

**Rose Garden**– the majority of the original Rose Garden, as well as surrounding green space was given to the city. Two highrise condos are in the process of being built next to the garden.

**North York Tennis Club**– a well-organized local tennis club that encourages newcomers to the sport.

**Cultura**– This Friday night summer festival of food, film, music, performance and art has become a much anticipated event since being launched by Councillor Filion in 2010.

**Maplehurst Park**– community consultations have already begun to design this brand new park, which is slated to be built in 2012.

**Cameron School Ice Rink**– a community institution for 40 years, this ice rink is run and maintained by the local neighbourhood.

**Glendora Park**– in the winter, this skating rink is maintained by local volunteers, and is an excellent place to enjoy neighbourhood hockey.

**Yonge Street Flyover Ramp**– a study has begun to try to solve the bottleneck caused by cars travelling from Yonge Street to Highway 401 East.

**West Lansing Community Signage**– we're working with the West Lansing Community Association to create a welcome sign on Florence Avenue to introduce the neighbourhood.

**Gwendolen Park Tennis Club**– with park improvements ongoing to feature improved lighting, a community group operates the four tennis courts in the park.

**Avondale Park Improvements**– New furniture and tree replacements are scheduled to be completed in this park by Spring 2012.



John speaks at the West Lansing Homeowners Association AGM



Raising the flag at Queen's Park on Korean National Heritage Day



John opens Toronto Public Health's Flu Shot Clinic with a shot of his own



Unveiling a historical plaque at McKee Public School



John helps cut the ribbon to open the new St. George's Anglican Church