



Report From Your Board Chair

Since our last report, there has been a lot of activity and much news to report. We had our AGM on March 14 and welcomed our new Board. We can celebrate that so many skilled people have stepped up to take leadership positions. Please see the updated list of Board Members and Trustees on the last page of the newsletter.

The Severance Option:

When finalizing the sale of the church to the Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough (BGCES) last July, we added a clause that gave us the option to purchase back the Labyrinth Area (aka the hockey stick) for \$200,000 if we could accomplish all of the necessary approvals from the City and the Municipality within 500 days. This gives us until November 24, 2021. We had some initial input from our realtor, Cory DeVilliers, and Trinity Centres Foundation. Numerous reports, discussions and meetings have taken place since then. For the last several months, we have had advice from the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) in helping us consider the possible options should we choose to purchase the property. To date we have yet to come to a decision. A task force led by Florence Soknacki and including Annie, Scott, Dennis Augustine, Rev. Sarah and Mike examined the issue in greater detail, hosted some group meetings, and involved resources from UPRC (United Property Resource Centre) and EDGE: A Network for Ministry Development, affiliates of the United Church of Canada.

We have had significant input from the spoken word and performing arts communities regarding their views of the possibilities of our working closely with community groups and using our facilities including our allocated time and space in the current building and the possible development on the hockey stick.

Important Dates Regarding the Severance Decision:

Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 7 at 7 PM (Board Members only)

Congregational Discussion: Tuesday, April 13 at 7 PM

Decision Day ~ Congregational Meeting: Sunday, April 18 following Sunday Service

For a more complete report on considerations regarding the severance option, please see the separate article on page 6.

We have several groups that continue to plan and shape our future. Scott Kearns and a small committee are updating our Vision Works document. Jean Skillman and a sub-committee are working on a governance review that will lead to some proposed changes to our West Hill Manual of Policy. Recommendations will likely be made to do an updated strategic plan using an outside facilitator. Another area of activity regards a campaign to update and revise our financial support for members, adherents and friends. Don Francis and a small group are working on this plan.

It has now been over a year since we have not been gathering in person due to the pandemic. Through the use of Zoom technology, we have been able to accomplish much and to meet regularly at our Sunday non-gatherings and our weekly groups, including Tuesday Wellness and Thursday Coffee, plus the Book Study and Board and committee meetings. We continue to carry Greta in our hearts and minds as she continues her medical leave of absence. Accolades to Scott for his leadership and for recruiting excellent presenters as well as frequently presenting his own perspectives. Rev. Sarah did a wonderful job at the Women Rock service and we thank her for continuing on as our Supply Minister.

Travelling our journey together ...
May love abound

Michael Lawrie, Board Chair



IN THE SPIRIT



Yoga Studio & Wine Lounge



REMINDER — YOGA CLASSES (SENIORS DISCOUNT). We still offer special seniors classes (yoga in chairs and for those with mobility issues) Mondays at 10:15-11:15 a.m. and Thursdays 9:00-10:00 a.m. (\$15/class includes tea/coffee & cookies). (Highland Creek Plaza, 376 Old Kingston Road)

We have many more options for all ages. Please check out our website for our class schedule, rates and more information (647-352-4879): www.inthespurityoga.com, email letsconnect@inthespurityoga.com

Outreach News

The Outreach Committee would like to thank all those who supported Second Harvest through our February appeal. Second Harvest is Canada's largest food rescue charity with a dual purpose of environmental protection and hunger relief. Through this fundraiser, \$775 was raised to support food security in our community.

The committee is pleased to welcome the newest Outreach member, Ingrid Shouldice. Others on the committee include Gill Cockwell, June Dixon, Jeanne Hamel, Donna Lockhart and Barb Russell. We welcome new members to join our ranks as we look post-COVID and embrace new opportunities with the Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough.



respectfully submitted by Barb Russell on behalf of the Outreach Committee



May 2nd
Part 2 (2000-2004)

May 23rd
Part 3 (2005-2009)

June 13th
Part 4 (2010-2014)

June 27th
Part 5 (2015-2020 and beyond)

Over the course of May and June, Rick Miller will continue to share his show, BOOM YZ, with the West Hill community during the Zoom Sunday Service in association with Third Space Arts and Kidoons. Each time, he will present and perform a new work-in-progress excerpt of BOOM YZ, the final chapter of his BOOM Trilogy (www.boomshow.ca). This solo theatre production, which premieres in October 2021, examines the last 25 years of history, culture, music and technology through intergenerational storytelling. In February, Rick performed Part 1 of the show (1996-2000) and over the next two months he will move chronologically to the present day and the possible futures that lay before us. Join us as we shine a light on the past with an eye to the future and feet firmly planted in the present. As always, if you have any Millennial or GenZ family members, Rick would love to get their feedback!

FRAMING DAMES

- . Custom Picture Framing
- . Fine Art Cleaning
- . Shadow Boxes
- . Painting Parties
- . Original Artwork
- . Handmade Gifts
- . In-store Specials



6083 Old Kingston Road, Scarborough,
Ontario, M1C 1E9 416 287 2025

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, LinkedIn

First Nations Study Group

~ The World Is Watching – What Will Canada Do? ~

Bill C-15 ~ Proposed Legislation that will bring Canada's laws in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

exerpted from articles by Jamie Pashagumskum, APTN News, and Julien Gignac, CBC News, Yukon

At a recent parliamentary committee meeting that is studying Bill C-15, Professor Thierry Rodon, a professor of Université Laval, spoke to the committee defending the proposed bill. He called it a tool for settling issues.

Rodon says having a process that is clearer will help improve relations between stakeholders and interveners of projects. He says it could help keep cases out of the courts and would reduce actions such as blockades "...where, say, the RCMP has to intervene and there could be international repercussions, so I think it's a loose-loose situation when this type of thing starts happening." Rodon believes that it would help to reduce the risk to investors by streamlining a process between developers and Indigenous populations.

An open letter by chiefs and Indigenous leaders sent out March 9, 2021 calls the Bill an "historic opportunity to advance reconciliation" and quotes the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, saying "The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the framework for reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of Canadian society."

Abel Bosum is the grand chief of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) in Quebec and was one of the signatories of the letter. "It's time to be fearless and go beyond what we are accustomed to," Bosum told APTN News. **"You know there are other Indigenous people around the world who are watching and hoping, anticipating to see that Canada would set a standard for the world."**

Brenda Gunn, Professor of Law at the University of Manitoba, also addressed the committee and agrees the Federal Government needs to stop dragging its feet in implementing UNDRIP. "Canada was very slow turning its support towards the UN declaration. There's a lot of work to do, we've lost a lot of time, and now is the time for action," Gunn stated.

On introducing the bill on December 3, 2020, Justice Minister David Lametti stated, "The legislation is a significant step forward on the shared path to reconciliation for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples alike." If passed, the bill would require the Federal Government to ensure that the laws of Canada are consistent with the declaration's 46 articles.

The bill also would require the federal government to prepare an action plan within three years of the bill's passage to achieve the declaration's objectives, and to table an annual report detailing the progress made.



Prof. Thierry Rodon

CASE IN POINT:

The Yukon government breached its duty to consult the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun by unilaterally approving a mineral exploration project in the Beaver River watershed, according to a Petition filed to the Yukon Supreme Court on March 15, 2021.

First Nation Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is suing the Yukon Government for signing off on a mineral exploration project in its traditional territory located roughly 100 kilometres north of Mayo. The territorial government had approved the project on February 19, 2021.

Nuri Frame, the lawyer representing Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, stated "We think that consultation utterly failed here," ... "You can't consult if you're unwilling to sit and talk to the rights holder, which is the community, which is the people, which is elders."

Vancouver-based Metallic Minerals Corporation, the company behind the project, has plans to scour part of the region for mostly lead, silver and zinc deposits over a 10-year period. According to the company's proposal, the project comprises 52 claims that amount to roughly 1,087 hectares of land.

Consulting Na-Cho Nyäk Dun citizens would have provided the Yukon government with insight into whether the project should have moved forward, Frame said. **Instead, the territorial government denied "multiple" requests made by Na-Cho Nyäk Dun for direct community consultation.** "We see this as an appalling failure of consultation," ... "You can't have consultation if your mind is made up before having the conversation."

The Petition states in part: Failure to complete a land use plan is an "empty shell of a treaty promise,"

"Absent a fulsome Crown commitment to treaty implementation, First Nations, and all Canadians, risk a return to the grim reality of the colonial past, with the commitments to protecting Indigenous interests, fulfilling treaty promises, and advancing reconciliation as nothing more than empty words."

"This isn't just about one mining project or one watershed," ... "This is about really ensuring that the Crown, Yukon Government, lives up to the terms of the treaty ... Right now, the treaty is on the page, but it feels like business as usual on the land. That needs to come to an end."



The 5,048 square-kilometre Beaver River watershed region in north-central Yukon is home to abundant wildlife (CPAWS Yukon)

Lewis Rifkind, mining analyst with the Yukon Conservation Society, said he's pleased to see Na-Cho Nyäk Dun taking the Yukon government to task in court. "We're still approving resource extraction before the land use plans are finalized," Rifkind said. "It's completely negating any and all environmental considerations."

April 20th has been set for the case management conference. At that time decisions will be made as to how the case will move forward both generally and specifically, says Frame. Na-Cho Nyäk Dun is also asking for an interim injunction against both the Yukon government and MMC. But, in the meantime, the expectation is that since the Yukon Government's decision has been challenged, MMC will not be undertaking any work in the Nation's traditional territory.

The people of First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun (Big River People) have lived in our traditional territory of Mayo, Yukon since time began.

To learn more about the Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation go to: <https://www.nndfn.com>.



Lewis Rifkind

submitted by Ruth Gill on behalf of the First Nations Study Group

**LAVENDER
ROSE
FLOWERS INC.**

368 OLD KINGSTON ROAD
SCARBOROUGH
ONTARIO M1C 1B6
SHOP FAX
416-284-1567 416-284-2641
MARY CROSSAN
WWW.LAVENDERROSEFLOWERS.CA



THE AMAZING
TED'S
RESTAURANT

416-282-2204

404 Old Kingston Road
Scarborough, Ontario
M1C 1B6

Some Considerations Regarding the Severance Option

It is not the intent of this article to dive into the details here but to summarize the proceedings up to date.

At the Seller's option, the Buyer agrees to sever and sell the surplus lands as described in Schedule B (the West Driveway and the Labyrinth Area (LA)– also referred to as the "hockey stick"). The Buyer and Seller, at the Seller's sole expense, has 500 days to successfully complete the severance with the relevant municipal and provincial authorities. 10 business days after the successful severance the Seller will pay to the Buyer by certified cheque, bank draft, or bank wire transfer \$200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars) in full without deduction.

This option was included in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale for the property at 62 Orchard Park as the Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough (BGCES) bought the property from West Hill United Church. The sale was officially closed on July 14, 2020. 500 days from that date will be November 26, 2021. Should we decide to proceed with the severance, it would have to be completed by that time.

Lease Agreement - Term and Termination:

Subject to Section 2(b) below, the term of this Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and extend for a period of ten (10) years (the "Term"). The Tenant shall have two (2) options to extend for a further period of ten (10) years for each option.

I thought it was 10 years renewable once; I am unable to find a later version of the Lease Agreement. The above suggests 10 years + 10 and another 10, equalling 30 years.

We have two basic choices ~ to exercise the severance option or to decline it.

Considerations if we proceed with the severance process:

If we exercise the Labyrinth Area (LA) option, we have until November 26 2021 to get the necessary approvals from the City and the Municipality. The approval process will likely take up to 6 months. Part of the approval process depends on our plans for any building and development receiving the necessary approvals. This would include an opportunity for neighbouring property owners to comment and possibly oppose the plans. It appears that a footprint and basic plans for any construction would be part of the severance application.

WHUC concluded long ago that we did not have the capacity or skills to proceed with this option alone and would need professional advice and/or a partner to guide us through these steps.

We had connected with Trinity Centres Foundation through our realtor, Cory DeVilliers, and a proposal was presented to us regarding the severance process. This was a 2-phase plan that first looked at listing the necessary steps and approvals. The quote for this phase was \$10,000. Should we agree to proceed to implement these steps, we could



ROYAL LEPAGE
Group
ADDING REAL VALUE TO *our* NEIGHBOURHOOD

Heather Lemieux
Sales Representative
416.284.4751
HeatherLemieux@RoyalLePage.ca
www.HeatherLemieux.com

PROFESSIONAL, DEDICATED & ENERGETIC

What Makes Us Different...

- Pre Home Inspection or Status Certificate
- Complimentary Staging
- Full Colour Brochure
- Professional Photography
- Interactive 360 Floor Plans
- Address Doman Name
- Plus So Much More!

Thinking of Buying or Selling - Call Us
Helping People Is What We Love To Do!



JOHN'S FLOORING
since 1963

Dave Beaulieu
416-284-0552
Fax: 416-284-4314
dave@johnscarpet.com

4593 Kingston Road
Scarborough, ON M1E 2P3
(1st light east of Morningside Ave.)
johnscarpet.com

Carpet Hardwood Vinyl Laminate Area Rugs

proceed to Phase 2, which would enable us to accomplish the severance at an estimated additional cost of \$17,000. We have not yet made an official decision regarding the severance, so this offer is still potentially on the table.

An important side issue is the opinion of the BGCES. Through their ED, Utcha Sawyers, we were informed that they have plans for this property regarding a social housing development. Utcha has stated several times that it was her understanding that WHUC had limited interest in the property and had only included the option clause to satisfy the request of a third party, The Shining Waters Region of the United Church of Canada. We have stated this was not the case and was never mentioned in our discussions. The WHUC team was of the opinion that the BGCES really had no interest in the labyrinth area and felt that it would provide auxiliary parking for their staff and program participants/clients. So, unfortunately, both parties had incorrect assumptions about the other's intentions.

Of concern also, if we exercise the severance option, is whether our continuing relationship with the BGCES would be compromised. There has been a somewhat strong hint that they might be offended by us buying back part of the property, even though they agreed and consented to the insertion of the severance option clause.

We are fast approaching the day when we must decide. As WHUC continues our consideration of buying back the property, we have had some of our proposed joint meetings cancelled or postponed.

It is our intention to strengthen our relationship with the Boys and Girls and to explore programs that we might share or partner with them. Independent of whether we sever or not, it is our firm intention to proceed with our arts outreach programs. These range from spoken word, music, dance and other forms of expression. We have yet to share our vision with the BGCES, but it will be a critical part of our next meeting. We are committed to fostering presentations, discussions and programs around hatred, diversity, Black Lives Matter, BIPOC, and look forward to cooperating with the BGCES in their work. We have strong voices and important community connections through Dennis Augustine, Rick Miller, Dwayne Morgan, Randel Adjei, and Jane and Dan Munro.

We have connected with the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC), which is an independent affiliate of the UCC. This is a resource for churches that are developing their properties and reconfiguring for accommodating community groups or doing a major multi-purpose development. A leadership group has met their representatives on several occasions. On review of our property and the options before us, they have recommended that we exercise the option and develop the property. In our discussions, we have expressed concerns that we really have no funding for property development and that we lack the human resources to proceed with any substantial development. Their response is that they can arrange all the financing and provide the personnel to accomplish their plans. It should be mentioned that they would prefer to do a comprehensive property development on the whole site, not just the labyrinth area. This would necessitate a complex negotiation with the BGCES.

Considerations if we choose to not sever; i.e., leave the ownership of the LA with the BGCES:

We are dedicated to advancing our performing arts and outreach programs. This is independent of any development in the LA. In our Lease Agreement we have a lot of time and space available to us rent free. This includes exclusive use of the entire building every Sunday. We also have access to 10 hours of weekday time and space, 10 hours of weeknight time and space, and 26 Fridays and Saturdays per year. We are excited about this opportunity to engage community members and groups in the building. Another opportunity is to link the individuals and programs in other church properties that are looking for activities and programs for their facilities.

(Continued ...)



T: 416-283-7011 F: 416-283-4457 john@autotechniques.ca
6531 Kingston Road, Scarborough, ON M1C 1L5



MIKE DEGROOT
4 Falaise Road
Scarborough, Ontario
M1E 3B5

TEL: (416) 282-7250
FAX: (416) 282-0068
www.degroots.mechanicnet.com

(Continued from page 7)

To the diligent reader, it is apparent that the BGCES would prefer it if we declined the severance option. This would add value and flexibility to their plans which might include development and/or social housing on the LA. At any rate, this decision might allow us to negotiate for a longer lease arrangement and have a more secure status in shared programs. We hope that our outreach programs and theirs would align and expand and that we might mutually cooperate and develop new opportunities. We are hoping that our values, affiliation with the UCC and growing outreach programs will strengthen our status with the BGCES and elevate our status with them as much more than just a tenant enjoying a rent-free status.

Another relationship that we value and should try to sustain is that with the Shining Waters Region, as our link with the United Church of Canada. It is the goal and mission of the church to have a strong presence in West Hill and Scarborough. The fact that we no longer own the church but hold value in a substantial mortgage and cash flow through a 5-year lease represents our financial assets. We are also working with EDGE: A Network for Ministry Development in the United Church as we work through the decisions around the severance consideration. Carla Leon has represented EDGE and its resources in our deliberations.

The intent of this article is not to argue one view or the other but to examine some of the implications or consequences of the decision to sever or not.

submitted by Mike Lawrie, Board Chair

Zooming with West Hill

Sunday Morning Service/Perspective(s) at 10:30
Log in anytime after 10 for greetings and conversations

Tuesday Afternoon Wellness Gathering from 2 to 3



Thursday Morning Coffee from 10 to 11



West Hill United Board of 2021

Board Chair: Mike Lawrie

Property Chair: Gary Megson

Ministry and Personnel Chair: Anita DesRosiers

Communication and Marketing Chair: Dennis Augustine

Education and Growth: Deb Ellis

Friendship and Hospitality: Barb Russell

Community Care: Babette Oliviera

Celebrating the Spirit: Vacant

Finance Chair & Treasurer: John McKechnie

Members at Large: Emily Trivers, Donna Hall, Peter Thomas, George Oliver, Ellen Dinerman

Jean Skillman: Governance and Strategic Planning

Regional Representatives: Annemarie Leepel and Louise Lawrie

Trustees: Glenn Cockwell, Jim Hyland, Marion Cruikshank, Frank Kilroy, Gretta Vosper

West Hill United

A warm place to find yourself

62 Orchard Park Drive, West Hill, ON M1E 3T7
www.westhill.net 416-282-8566 westhill@westhill.net

©2021