

CONNECTIONS



The End of Summer

As summer break winds down, our thoughts turn towards planning for autumn. Back to school is on a lot of our minds, some people are excited, some are not. Many of our neighbours are worried about providing the basic necessities for their children, and North York Harvest is working to support the community.



Staff and volunteers celebrating with the commemorative sign.

Bathurst-Finch Relaunch

Our Bathurst-Finch Food Space has finally moved indoors! You can find us at the Herbert H. Carnegie Centennial Centre.

A community event was held on July 25 to honour this occasion with members from all over the community taking part. We'd like to thank everyone who came out and celebrated with us and everyone who helped us achieve this.

The new indoor location for the Bathurst-Finch Community Food Space allows both operational efficiency and preserve dignity for community members who rely on the program for emergency food support.

With the rising cost of living and the lack of commitment in driving long-term solutions, more community members are experiencing food insecurity. North York Harvest saw the highest June number of visits in the network's history, serving close to 25,000.



Bernice Carnegie, joined by family members, spoke at the event.



Kids played games and took home prizes.



From the left, Kateryna, a Bathurst-Finch client; James Pasternak, Councillor, Toronto York Centre; Ya'ara Saks, MP, York Centre; Bernice Carnegie, Co-founder, The Carnegie Initiative; Ryan Noble, Executive Director, North York Harvest Food Bank; and Habon Ali, Chair, North York Harvest Food Bank cutting the ribbon for the relaunch.



Barbeque tent in action.



Visitors lining up for the Pop-Up Food Market provided by FoodReach



Tours were held for people interested in seeing the new space.



Community gathered to celebrate the relaunch.



Guests writing a message on our commemorative sign.

The Links Between Us

A profile of a community member

Sharmini Fernando, a Board Director, is one of the people dedicated to the growth of North York Harvest and an important member of the community. Sharmini has dedicated her career to non-profit work and is currently the Executive Director of Syme Woolner Community and Family Centre. “I think a lot of it has to do with a desire to be a part of positive change, social justice, and, it’s very selfish, working for my own life.” Sharmini sees her work as a way to create a better, more equitable world for everyone, including herself. From the age of seven, Sharmini was already committed to making positive change in the community. This commitment has given her a rewarding career in the non-profit sector, working with and for organizations big and small.

“I wanted to spend my time creating solutions for people as opposed to creating barriers so to speak.” As the Executive Director, Sharmini feels that, the size of Syme Woolner, creates the possibility of an intimacy with the community and space for building trust and mutuality. Syme Woolner and other smaller NGOs have become a part of the community fabric. This includes her thoughts on the direction of North York Harvest. Sharmini felt that the role North York Harvest played

during the pandemic was integral for the survival for many in our community, leading her to accept a position on the Board of Directors.

The changes North York Harvest is engaged in will link the food justice agenda to the social justice agenda.

“The change needs to come from within.” Sharmini’s words can open the door of possibility. Her vision for North York Harvest includes bringing more attention to the link between food security and material poverty while emphasizing the importance for an organization to change the way they look at everything. North York Harvest’s Agency Council has taken a step towards creating a more effective and efficient way to provide appropriate products and services to each agency’s unique community, a move towards a more interconnected society.

Sharmini is concerned by the number of people using food banks –it’s exponential growth. She sees North York Harvest moving towards a robust social justice agenda, and her thoughts are centered around how to amplify this. In parting, Sharmini had this to say, “you know, the flashlight has been shone on a pathway... and people can make the choice to take it.”



Back to School

Students around the community have mixed feelings when it comes to going back to school. Some are not ready to let go of their summer freedom, some are excited to see their friends again. Undoubtedly none of them remember the assignments and learning

that come with school. However, parents are stressed about how to keep their kids' lunch bags filled.

North York Harvest has seen first hand the challenges our community faces. Inflation has raised the cost of food, creating difficulties for more families. In the

last year, we saw 3,500 new families visiting our food spaces and 1/3 of the people visiting our food banks are children.

Help us support community members, maybe even your neighbour. Learn how by visiting www.northyorkharvest.com/school



Did you know

NYH has an Agency Empowerment Fund. The money goes to our member agencies so that they can make the best decision on what their community needs, whether that's to do with the services they provide or the products available.

Tickets can still be purchased for our 50/50 Raffle Grand Prize Draw until August 25 at 11:59 P.M. Visit [50/50 Raffle Draw](http://www.northyorkharvest.com/50/50) today!



50/50 Raffle



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