

## **About “The Village”**

The Village at York University is a residential neighbourhood within the City of Toronto, occupying about 130 acres beyond the south boundary of York University’s property. Residential dwellings in “The Village” are privately owned. While York University consented to the use of its name by the developer of these properties, it has no ownership and no legal jurisdiction within this residential community of privately owned homes. The homeowners in this community are City of Toronto taxpayers. Toronto Police Service has the “serve and protect” responsibility for residents of “The Village”, as it does for all residential communities within the City of Toronto. Likewise, all roadways within “The Village” are City owned and Toronto municipal parking by-laws apply and are enforced by Toronto parking enforcement officers.

Many homes in The Village have been converted into “rooming houses” by property owners, who rent to York University students. Some property owners make rooms in their houses available to anyone, on a short- or long-term basis, whether they are York students or not. According to Toronto Star and other media reports, rooming houses in this neighbourhood may have up to 16 rooming units, including converted spaces in garages. The City of Toronto has not yet established standards for rooming houses in this area and many in the Village do not conform to Provincial building and fire regulations; to the City of Toronto Boarding House by-law (for the former City of Toronto); and to the former City of North York by-law prohibiting rooming houses. Many owners of rooming houses in The Village do not live within the rooming houses that they own and may not be immediately available to tenants when issues arise.

York University participates in a community liaison committee with representatives of the residents of The Village; the York Federation of Students; Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Service and other key municipal agencies; and the local City Councillor. This committee is addressing concerns of ratepayers, students, the City and the University such as community safety and by-law enforcement and compliance.

## **TIPS for York Students Living in The Village or Elsewhere Off-campus**

- Know your rights
- Ensure your living quarters are safe and secure and meet fire standards
- Know your neighbours
- Know your responsibilities (noise, cleanliness, garbage, etc.)
- Attend to your own personal safety, including locking your doors
- Make use of York’s Campus Shuttle (where available) or the TTC
- Program Emergency Services 911 and York Emergency 416.736.5333 on your cell phone
- Read the Good Neighbours Guide for Student Tenants:  
<http://www.yorku.ca/sclld/pdf/GoodNeighbours.pdf>