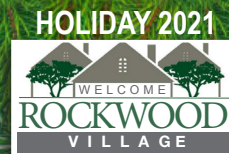


HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION Rockwood TIMES



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Thank You!

WELCOMING 2022 AROUND THE WORLD!



The world is ready to ring in the New Year after almost two years of isolation from friends and family. Here are some of the traditional celebrations that will kick it off!

CANADA

At the stroke of midnight people open bottles of champagne or sparkling wine and drink a toast to the New Year and the health of everyone present.

BRAZIL

Partygoers go to Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro on December 31. They often wear head-to-toe white clothing to symbolize peace and good luck. They send flowers, jewelry and other gifts into the ocean as an offering to Lemanjá, Brazil's goddess of the sea.

PHILIPPINES

The New Year's Eve dinner table is laid out with 12 spherical fruits--one for each month of the year. Round shapes are thought to attract prosperity and abundance because they resemble gold and silver coins.

JAPAN - Eating a bowl of toshikoshi soba (year-crossing noodles) before midnight on Omisoka (New Year's Eve) is the custom. They also slice noodles, and that signifies a fresh start and the cutting away of the bad luck and misfortunes from the previous year.

continued on page 3

IHCN Study Survey on Housing Choices

On November the 4th the Rockwood Community had the opportunity to take part in an online consultation organized by the City of Mississauga regarding increasing housing choices in neighbourhoods.

Attendees from Rockwood and Applewood expressed a diversity of opinions in response to the listening campaign, from questioning the value of such a study to expressing enthusiasm for the options presented.

What is the IHCN Study?

The Increasing Housing Choices in Neighbourhoods (IHCN) Study is Mississauga's initial response to new Provincial mandates that address housing issues. As demographics change, housing is becoming less affordable, and environmental impacts are top of mind, the City is interested in evaluating what housing options can be explored to fit the needs of constituents. The consultations

continued on page 4

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Rockwood needs more Police Visibility

In October, we were contacted by a resident regarding a burglary in her home. She found the police were slow to respond, had sloppy paperwork, and a general lack of diligence.

When the home was broken into, the security company alerted the police; however, it was almost three hours until they responded. The police advised the reason for this delay was that it was not a priority as there was no threat to life. And they knew this how? Does the slow response not also announce to thieves to take their time on future endeavors as the police are not coming anytime soon? We support the position of the homeowners that the police response in a timely manner is critical. While we also realize there are other priorities, we are looking at a midweek, midday occurrence. Surely this is not the busy part of the day for crime.

We wrote to Councillor Fonseca, on behalf of the community, in regard to what we feel to be less than satisfactory police response to a robbery in our neighbourhood. The Councillor responded, "I am personally reaching out to Superintendent Higgs to speak to

him about response times and safety in the neighbourhood."

At this time, the police have provided the residents with paperwork that is riddled with errors and missing information. While there is CCTV footage from neighbours, there is no confirmation that the police have actually viewed it. We have not had any further communication from the Councillor or Superintendent Higgs.

In the words of the homeowners: "All of the above and the initial complaint say one thing: the police are inefficient and sloppy. We pay almost \$8,000 annually in property taxes and a huge chunk goes to the police but here we are, helpless with inefficiency and sloppiness... there must be police visibility or there will be more houses in the area that will be broken into if they know that there will be no police response." RW

The RHA will continue to follow-up on this and others that come to us in terms of safety and police response. We have also reached out to Safe City and Neighbourhood Watch and hope that you will read that article on Page 7. If you have any safety concerns, we urge you to reach out to RHA. safetyandroad@gmail.com.

Letters to the Editor

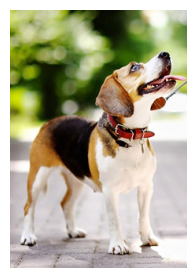
I live near Garnetwood Park.

In the last year, I've noticed more and more people allowing their dogs to go off leash in Garnetwood park. In fact, almost every time I go to the park, I usually see a dog running around off leash.

For instance, in one situation, I saw a dog owner playing fetch with his German shepherd not far from the children's play area. In another instance, there was someone riding a motorized two-wheel scooter and his husky dog was running right behind him (unleashed).

There is a leash free zone in Garnetwood Park but people seem to be treating the entire park as a leash free zone. I was accosted by a medium sized dog while walking down the Etobicoke Creek Trail not long ago. I wasn't bitten but the dog was aggressive and the owner clearly had no control over the animal.

I don't have anything against dogs and, most of the time, these dogs are not a threat. However, people shouldn't be allowing their dogs to run



unleashed in a public area.

I just wanted to bring this issue to someone's attention.

Would it be possible to include a reminder about the municipal bylaws in the next newsletter just to remind people? RW

Thank you,
Will

Allowing your dog to run leash-free when there is a leash free area in the same park is disrespectful of others using the park. It is also illegal. We will press this issue with the park patrol and do our best to see that offenders of both the leash by-laws and the waste by-laws are enforced and appropriate penalties are imposed. May we suggest that a picture could be a valuable tool to intimidate offenders. Feel free to send those pictures to us and we will send them to the authorities. RHA.parkscommittee@gmail.com

continued from cover page 1



FRANCE - French people kiss under the mistletoe at the stroke of midnight, believed to bring good luck and ward off bad spirits.

SCOTLAND - To ensure good fortune for the upcoming year, the first person or first foot to enter someone's home after midnight on December 31 must arrive bringing a symbolic gift of shortbread, salt, coal or whisky.

SWITZERLAND - In households across Switzerland, the Swiss drop ice cream on the floor, and this symbolizes overflowing abundance and wealth in the new year.

SPAIN - Spaniards eat 12 grapes at the stroke of midnight to ensure good luck for the 12 months ahead.

Angela Laconte,
RHA



MISSISSAUGA lights up with a brand new Festival of Lights in Celebration Square! For multiple date schedule visit

mississauga.ca/arts-and-culture/events/light-up-the-square

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Berlinerkränzer "Butter Knot Cookies"



Did you know?

In Germany the word "kranz" means "wreath" or "garland". In Denmark, these "Norwegian" "butter knot" cookies are called vanillekranser. In any tongue, they are delicious.

- In a large mixing bowl, beat 1 cup softened butter with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds.
- Add ½ cup sifted powdered sugar. Beat until combined, scraping sides of bowl occasionally.
- Press 1 hard-cooked egg yolk through a sieve into the mixture.
- Combine 1 Beaten raw egg yolk and 1 tsp vanilla then beat in as much of the 2 ¼ cups of all-purpose flour as you can with the mixer.
- Using a wooden spoon, stir in any remaining flour.
- Cover and chill about 1 hour or until dough is firm enough to handle. On a lightly floured surface, using about 1 tbsp dough for each cookie, roll dough into 6-inch-long ropes.
- On an ungreased cookie sheet shape each rope into a ring, crossing it over itself about 1 inch from the ends. Brush with 1 slightly beaten egg white and sprinkle with pearl or coarse sugar 2-3 tbsp • Temperature: 325F
- Time: 18-20 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool on cookie sheet for 1 minute.
- Transfer cookies to a wire rack; cool. Enjoy!

On behalf of the
PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Happy Holidays!
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IHCN Study Survey on Housing Choices

continued from page 1

held in communities all over Mississauga aim to first listen and understand what neighbourhoods are thinking in order to best implement solutions within them. The IHCN Study will then be used to meet Ontario's mandate and develop policies that expand housing options appropriate for Mississauga's context.

Draft planning policies and implementation measures from the Increasing Housing Choices in Neighbourhoods Study are anticipated to be presented to Council for approval in Summer 2022.

Expanded Housing Options

There is a growing need for diverse types of low-rise housing in Mississauga for families, workforce, older adults, and newcomers. Therefore, one of the avenues for increasing housing choices is to retrofit existing residential policies in neighbourhood areas so that more and different types of low-rise housing can be built.

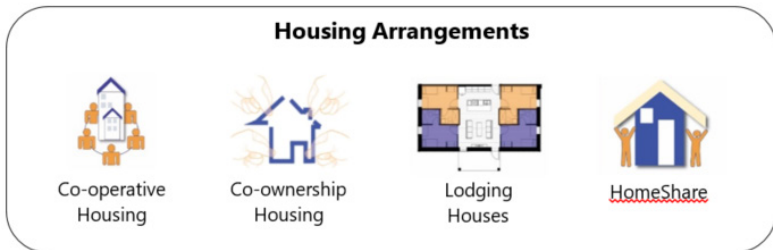
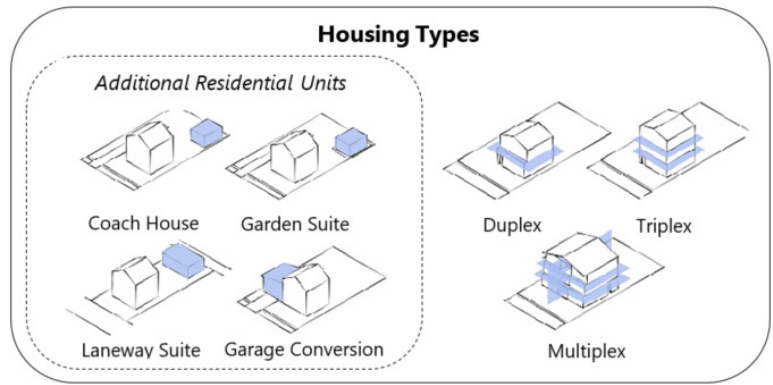
To this end, Ontario is requiring that municipalities develop policies that permit:

- (1) two additional residential units on lots that currently have a single detached, semi-detached, or rowhouse
- (2) a range and mix of housing types such as duplexes and triplexes, and different living arrangements such as co-ownership and home share.

In addition to revisiting the potential of Mississauga's neighbourhoods to help address housing affordability, the City is also planning to develop more high-rise units. These are to be built near public transit in an effort to keep residents connected and reduce dependence on cars.

Lastly, the investigation is also looking into a variety of housing arrangements that may make housing more accessible, such as co-operative housing, co-ownership, lodging houses, and home sharing.

Below is a graphic representation of the different low and high-rise housing types and arrangements that are being explored as part of this study:



Have your say!

The City is encouraging feedback from the community throughout the study on how to balance permitting these different housing options with other considerations such as affordability, privacy, landscaping, infrastructure, and parking.

Currently, there is a survey and photo submission activity (links are below) that residents can complete. Both will be closed on December 31, 2021. [RW](#)

For more information about the study Survey and photo submissions and to subscribe for updates, please visit the project website at: <https://yoursay.mississauga.ca/increasing-housing-choices-in-neighbourhoods-study>

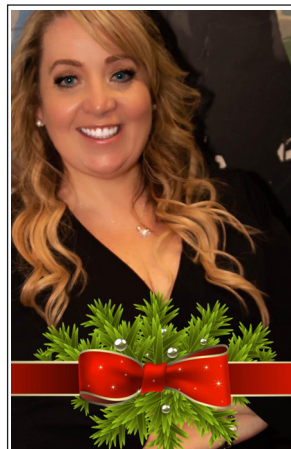
Iris Schweiger, Director
RHA Parks and Rec Committee



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Audubon Benefit to be spent at Bough Beeches Park

The City held a community meeting on Thursday, November 16, to discuss the benefit funds from the Audubon development. The meeting was poorly attended. Even though Councillor Fonseca and the RHA reached out to their data bases, the majority of attendees were city staff.

While most of those invited anticipated that the meeting was to listen to suggestions for the use of available funds, it became apparent that the funds were already earmarked and the purpose was to define the details. The benefit for this project was \$60,000 and a small portion had been allocated in 2014 for Rockwood Village signage. The balance of \$56,000 will be spent on improvements in Bough Beeches Park. This is the park adjacent to Sts. Martha and Mary School that also borders the new Trail 11.

In 2010, Bough Beeches Park was updated to include: additional

playground equipment, new pathways and pathway lighting, a renovated playing field, park benches, tree planting, and new sand. The City is now requesting any ideas residents have for further enhancements. One suggestion was for fitness facilities/stations. Others included more benches, umbrella tables, a sandbox and additional swings and apparatus.

As this is a relatively minor budget for park upgrades, there are no funds for larger expenses such as a soccer field or baseball diamonds. However, it is important to note that there are other budgets and revenue to fund other parks programs. This current expenditure relates only to allocating the Audubon funds.

Councillor Fonseca advised that funding from a development at Dixie and Burnhamthorpe, and some funds



from her constituency budget, will be used to upgrade Beechwood Park and provide additional seating there and at Garnetwood Park. Additionally, there is a Parks budget for upgrades to area parks *RW*.

If you have a comment or suggestion on the proposed upgrades at Bough Beeches Park, please reach out to us at RHA.parkscommittee@gmail.com. We will also be reaching out to the school for their assistance.

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Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board



*Wishing you and
your family a
Merry
Christmas
and a Happy,
Healthy, Holiday
Season!*

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REAL ESTATE

Maintaining Balance Important to Financial Security

It seems like only a few years ago, I wrote an article predicting Rockwood Village was on the verge of being a million-dollar neighbourhood. That was in 2014.

This year the value of a well-appointed four bedroom detached is hovering just below the two-million mark and a well-appointed townhouse has recently sold for slightly over one million.

This year, we have seen few homes come on the market. This, coupled with extremely low interest rates, has fuelled shockingly high selling prices. Low supply and high demand are the perfect ingredients for upsetting the balance and sending prices into orbit.

With prices rising sharply once again, the provincial government has mandated municipalities to find ways to offer affordable housing opportunities by allowing the potential for up to three units in a single or semi-detached home.

Many homes in Rockwood already have in-law suites and/or second units. The issue is whether or not the second units are legal.

For those who need the additional income to get a foothold or to stay in Rockwood, renting out the basement is a great solution. Today, agents generally use a clause in listing or sales agreements that they and the seller do not warrant that such a unit is legal. Sometimes they use the term in-law suites. There is a big difference. Family can be accommodated without any legal status. But if the unit is being rented out, it needs to meet safety standards. If there is a fire in a second unit that is not legal, the owner will be liable for a healthy law suit. It may also be cause for the insurance to be invalid.

Currently, the City is not able to handle the many by-law infractions with secondary units, and actively opening the doors to more will only create a larger backlog. Second units also involve

parking issues. This is generally the first clue that trips the initial calls to the City to check on the legal status of the units. Unfortunately, the City has been lax in



following up to ensure that the by-laws are enforced.

Yes, affordability is an issue. As a realtor, I expect that anticipated increases to mortgage rates will cool prices, but that

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does not mean that everyone will be able to buy their first home in this neighbourhood. Over the years, like other agents, I have coached my young buyers on building equity to eventually end up in their forever home. This may mean starting with a condo or a townhouse and working up to a semi or detached home. I suspect that this was the path taken by many of our residents who liked the existing neighbourhood and paid the price of admission and now pay the taxes to support their investment. To many, their home is an insurance policy, their nest egg, and a hedge against inflation.

Upsetting the balance, changing the ambiance, increasing density, could reduce the value of their homes and therefore their financial security. RW

Dale Biason, Salesperson,
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Neighbourhood WATCH



Safe City Mississauga is your local crime prevention organization and is looking to start Neighbourhood Watches in the Rockwood Village community.

Neighbourhood Watch is an organized community of neighbours who look out for each other and each other's properties. It is one of Mississauga's most well-known and successful crime prevention programs, provided in partnership with the City of Mississauga and Peel Regional Police.

The program focuses on:

- 1) Reporting crime to Safe City Mississauga, to Peel Regional Police and to neighbours
- 2) Awareness of crime and suspicious activity that may be happening on your street
- 3) Crime prevention through education

By taking part in the Watch, everyone is alert and working together to keep their respective communities safe. Watch members will be given exclusive access to our virtual Crime Prevention Management System and provided free crime prevention education and swag. Signage will also be installed in your community to highlight your community as a Neighbourhood Watch.

Participation is completely FREE! If you are interested in being a Team Lead and starting a Neighbourhood Watch on your street, please reach out to **Gerald Adad (Neighbourhood Services Manager)** at nsm@safecitymississauga.on.ca or contact RHA.safetyandroad@gmail.com



Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas & a Joyous New Year to you & yours!



Thank you
to Ward 3 residents for a
wonderful 2021!
I am looking forward to
working together as a
community in 2022!



Chris Fonseca
Ward 3 Councillor



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