



MARCH BREAK IDEAS

What to do with the kids this March Break? There is a full slate of programs at the **Burnhamthorpe Library**.

Most of the activities are free but as space is limited, registration is suggested.

SCHEDULE ON
EVENTS PAGE



SAVE THE DATE RHA AGM WEDNESDAY MAY 17th 7:00PM

The Rockwood Homeowners' Association (RHA) will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus' JFK Council Hall (beside the entrance to Sts. Martha and Mary Church) 1870 Burnhamthorpe Road East. Further information on topics and speakers will be provided in our next newsletter.



Rockwood Homeowners'
Association



Twitter @rockwood_rha

Be Prepared

Coyotes Trolling Rockwood

During the last week of January, Mississauga Animal Services conducted a door-to-door canvas of streets in our neighborhood. Those who answered the door were informed that there had been two recent incidents, in broad daylight, of coyotes breaching fences and attacking small pets. In one such incident the residents were present and witnessed the attack. Those who were not home received a package containing brochures that included two pieces of material specific to coyotes.

As coyote sightings are most prevalent at dusk, sightings during the day are a cause for concern. Rockwood is an area with close proximity to a large population of coyotes that live in the ravine. For many years, they have regularly been spotted in the fields north of Audubon. Also, the hydro lines create a natural pathway for coyotes to gain access to a broader feeding area. Residents who live south of Audubon or in areas adjacent to the ravine, and the hydro fields, are all too aware that coyotes often wander on their streets or properties, but generally at night.

Since there is no plan to control the coyote population, you need to be aware of the danger of leaving small pets and children unattended when they are outdoors. You should also ensure that



your pets are properly vaccinated and always check your yard before letting your pet outside at night. While walking your dog, keep it on a short leash.

Most important in keeping coyotes away from residential areas is to make sure that they are not able to find food. Do not leave food for pets outside, do clean up bird feeder grains that fall on the ground and store all garbage and compost in containers.

The City recommends a solid 6' fence with mesh underground to prevent burrowing, and light sensors and sprinkler systems to keep coyotes out of your property.

Coyotes will avoid scary situations. For personal safety when walking, particularly at night, bring a flashlight or an umbrella. If you see a coyote, wave your arms, flash the umbrella, and shout to startle and scare it away.

If you see unusual coyote activity, call Animal Services at 905-896-5858. If in immediate danger, call 911. For additional information visit: mypeetmississauga.ca



LOCAL CONTACTS

RHA Executives

Boris Swedak • *Advisor LM*

Joe Silva • *President*

Lisa Portolese • *Vice President*

Val Thomson • *Treasurer*

Nicole Danesi • *Secretary*

Dale Biason • *Director*

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The Rockwood

Homeowners' Association

1734 Chalkdene Grove,

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www.rockwoodvillage.ca

Email: rha.executive@gmail.com

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Good Driving Habits May Reduce Congestion on Roads

Leszek Pisarek

Too often, we waste precious time and are delayed in reaching our destination because of the congestion on our roads. We tend to blame it on an insufficient road network, too many cars being driven, or inadequate public transit.

In actuality, the existing network of GTA roads does not need major expansion to reduce the congestion. One of the major reasons for gridlock is that drivers do not use the existing roads efficiently either because of selfishness, or their lack of knowledge.

The prime example is cruising, blocking the left (passing) lane. Many drivers believe that the rule of “keeping right except to pass” applies only to intercity highways and not city roads. Others think that driving above the posted speed limits or intending to make a left turn a few kilometers down the road gives them the right to occupy the passing lane. Driving in such a manner negatively affects traffic flow, safety of all road users (forces drivers to switch lanes), reduces fuel efficiency, and creates more air pollution.

Driving under the normal speed limit in the centre or left lane when the right lane is available is a violation of law.

The Highway Traffic Act (H.T.A.) regulation 147(1) states: “Any vehicle travelling upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at that time



and place shall, where practicable, be driven in the right-hand lane when available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway “.

This law applies to multilane city roads like Hurontario St., Dixie Rd. Burnhamthorpe Rd., etc.

Possible suggestions to encourage driving in the right lane are:

1. *CITIES should install signs “keep right except to pass” on the roadsides in the GTA, similar to the signs installed on the 400 series highways.*

2. *POLICE should enforce or at least educate drivers on H.T.A. regulation 147(1).*

3. *An education campaign in mass media to all drivers, and especially young drivers at “Driving Schools,” on the importance of driving in the right-hand lane.*

All drivers should remember that, by using the roads properly and exercising good driving habits, the road gridlock can be reduced.**RW**

Our Apologies

This past December, we used a new distributor for our newsletter. Subsequently, it was brought to our attention that, for the first time in the past six years, our newsletter did not reach every household. We pride ourselves in providing Rockwood residents with community news and, thanks to the support of our advertisers, we have ensured that every household receives a copy, free of charge, on a quarterly basis.

If you did not receive your newsletter, we apologize. We are taking steps to ensure that this does not occur in the future. If you are interested in reading the December newsletter, you will find it posted on our website: www.rockwoodvillage.ca

We would be interested in hearing from you if you do not receive your newsletter. Please let us know what street you live on through our email: rha.executive@gmail.com



Phase Two Results Released

The City of Mississauga has released phase two results from the Dundas Connects project, giving residents an idea as to what future the corridor may hold in Mississauga.

Results and feedback specific to the Dixie Road neighbourhood saw Dundas Street as a place for “mid or high-rise, mixed-use that includes restaurants, retailers, nightlife, and entertainment,” while also connected to “a network of pedestrian streets to connect Dundas to the Dixie GO Station,” and featuring “inter-connected streets for cyclists.”

Overall, residents wish to see Dixie Road and Dundas Street East maintain “an urban village feel,” adorned with parks in the neighbourhood to help build a local community feel.

The third and final phase of the Dundas Connects project will feature an Environmental Assessment Study which is expected to be completed by April 2017. The project is focused on creating a lasting vision and plan for the Dundas Street corridor by planning transit, increasing connectivity, and assessing environmental functions among other features for the next 40 years. *To learn more about the project, or to read all of the phase two results, visit www.dundasconnects.ca.* **RW**



Resident gets Action on Pot Ad

We were copied on a letter from a concerned Rockwood resident that was sent to Councillor Fonseca with regard to a billboard advertisement. The billboard, on the east side of Fieldgate just north of Audubon was advertising cannabis. As the resident pointed out to Councillor Fonseca, the advertisement was only a block away from a school. Furthermore, marijuana is not legal. She requested that the Councillor have the City remove the billboard for obvious reasons.

Although, the City has no jurisdiction over this type of signage, the Councillor did advise our resident who to contact. Congratulations! The offensive sign is gone.



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Home Prices Soar *How long will it last?*



The old theory that the spring Real Estate Market is king is now only a myth. With no inventory on the market, the odd home that comes up for sale is being barraged with offers and is selling way over asking price. While not too long ago, we agents could give you a good idea of what your house was worth; today we are putting on an opening bid price and letting the buyers bid up the price as high as they will pay.

As of February 15, there are no homes for sale in our neighbourhood. Lack of inventory is driving the price of homes beyond the imaginable. A year ago, I predicted that we were almost a million dollar neighbourhood. Well, we are way beyond that now.

The most recent sales of very well presented homes between 2500 and 3000 sq. ft. have now reached \$1.3M to \$1.6M. Townhouses are fetching

well over \$800,000.

Prices rose steadily between August and December 2016. Year on year the average selling price for a house in Rockwood rose 20% to \$960,000 in December. Detached homes were averaging just over \$1M and even smaller homes in poor condition were selling for \$900,000.

For many years, I have advised clients to wait until April, or at least after March Break and/or Easter to list their homes. But not this year. If you can find something else to buy or rent, don't wait for spring--do it now! Inventory has reached all-time lows. In some areas, there is less than a month's supply of listings. That means that if all the houses currently for sale sold in the next 30 days and no other listings came on the market there would be nothing to purchase in 15--30 days. Here is the real issue: you can

sell your property, no problem, regardless of the condition, but there is nothing to buy or rent.

Unless you have an alternate plan, you should stay put. While Real Estate 101 says sell first, in today's market you need to consider protecting yourself from ending up homeless. Furthermore, with prices going up steadily, purchasing first could save you a lot of money in the long run. How long this could last is anybody's guess.

It will have everything to do with inventory and to a lesser extent the mortgage rates. **RW**

Dale Biason
Salesperson, Royal LePage
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Mystery on Hickory Drive Resolved

On June 26th, an explosion rocked Hickory Drive which could be felt in a wide radius, including homes in Rockwood.

The destruction was significant and widespread. Seven months later, many homeowners are still waiting for insurance companies to settle their claims and signs of the damage are still evidenced by barricades surrounding homes in the immediate area.



On December 30th, the Police Department and the Fire Marshall held a press conference to share the outcome of a very long and extensive investigation. It was determined that two natural gas supply lines were intentionally disconnected from the water heater within the residence at 4201 Hickory Drive. It was reported that the smell of natural gas had been noticed by neighbours for over an hour prior to the explosion. The natural gas filled the home and eventually exploded, resulting in the death of both occupants.

The cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma, as a result of a gas explosion. The deaths were both ruled as suicides and not as a murder suicide as previously suspected by many. RW

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Happiness and
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“Ask Joe” Your Neighbourhood Handyman

Hi, Joe,

I have just moved into Rockwood and have a fairly large apple tree in the back yard that looks like it has not been taken care of in a few years. Is there anything I can do to try and salvage this tree and make it produce some apples for my family?

Fred

Hi, Fred,

This question comes at the perfect time as we are approaching the tree-pruning season and, yes, there is something you can do.

First of all you need to get some tools, like a pruning saw, a hand pruner, and perhaps a pruner on a long pole that can be operated from the ground by pulling on its rope.

You will need to follow the three “D’s” concept; this means you first must remove all damaged, dead and diseased branches. Then stand back and decide on the shape you would like to accomplish keeping in mind that the centre of the tree should be fairly open to allow maximum sun into the tree.

In this regard, I normally inspect the tree by going around it with the palm of my hand outstretched with the fingers resembling the tree branches thus showing what I want to accomplish in the pruning process.

Having formed this mental picture you will then look for flowering buds that normally grow on branches that are two or more years old, look furry, and grow at about a 45-degree angle. Keep these by pruning a few inches off their top and cutting off most of those that do not have any buds, as they will not produce fruit.

When cutting branches please remember to always make your cuts at a 45-degree angle, just above a bud. Please use sharp tools to avoid crushing the wood at the cut. This reduces the chance of disease caused by water getting into the “wound” of the branch. Remember also to remove those skinny looking branches that have grown up along the large branches. Remove also all shoots that are growing at the base of the tree and up the trunk, below the tree crown. These are called suckers, and suckers rob nutrients to the tree.

This year, it is OK to remove 15% of the branches on your tree as it probably needs it. Follow up next year with more moderate pruning and you should soon be able to start enjoying some delicious apples.

Joe



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Disconnecting your downspout can help protect your home from flooding during future storms. But why stop there? Discover the magic of landscaping with rainwater using rain barrels, rain chains and irrigation techniques. Pick up useful resources from the Region of Peel and City of Mississauga. *Participants will receive a free copy of the Greening Your Grounds Homeowner's Guide.*

**GARDENING FOR BIRDS,
BUTTERFLIES AND BEYOND**

Thursday, May 4, 7:00 p.m. Burnhamthorpe Library- 3650 Dixie Rd, Mississauga Register online at www.trcastewardshipevents.ca or Call Sabrina at 416-786-5064

Learn how to attract and protect native species, such as Monarch butterflies, nesting songbirds and hummingbirds with beautiful landscape features. You will then get to enjoy their beauty in your own backyard. *Participants will receive a free copy of the Creating Habitat Guide.*

Stay-tuned to Burnhamthorpe SNAP and learn more about this year's programs and events!

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March Break

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mississaugakids.com

MARCH BREAK FUN
BURNHAMTHORPE LIBRARY

1620 Orr Road (905) 270-558

MONDAY, MARCH 13TH,
 Maker Mississauga: Sew a BacSac
 2-4 p.m. Ages: 11-16
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TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH,
 Maker Mississauga: Build and Bond with Duplo 10-11 a.m. Ages: 18M-3Y
 Register Maker Mississauga: LEGO™ Club
 2-3 p.m. Ages: 5Y+
FREE. Space is limited.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15TH
 Special Program: Loop Bracelets
 10-11 am. Ages: 8Y+ Cost \$2
 Hula Hoop Tricks with Scarlet Black
 2-3 p.m. Ages: 5Y+ Cost \$3

THURSDAY, MARCH 16
 Family Storytime
 10-10:30 am - All ages - **FREE**
 Hands-On Exotics-Live Animal Show
 2-3 pm Ages: 5Y+ Cost \$3

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
FREE Family Movie - 2 pm All ages

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SAT. MARCH 4TH, 1:00 – 2:30 P.M.
 Mississauga Central Library,
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FREE Registration is required. This
 program is presented in partnership
 with CPA : Chartered Professional
 Accountants Canada. Contact: Keith
 McVean Phone: 905-615-3589
 Email: sciencesbusiness.library@
 mississauga.ca

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MON. MARCH 6TH, 7:00 – 8:15
 Mississauga Central Library, Green Space
 West, 2FL. Staff will highlight some key
 Library resources to use for the job hunt and
 for company research. **FREE** Registration
 is required. For information, call Sciences
 & Business Department 905-615-3500 ext.
 3589. Contact Keith McVean Phone: 905-
 615-3500 ext. 3589 NO COST

TAKE IT TO THE STREETS: SEEING
GRAFFITI SPATIALLY
TUE. MARCH 7TH, 6:30 - 8:30
 Mississauga Central Library, Noel Ryan
 Auditorium. As part of the Lecture Me!
 series: Prof. Tracey Bowen explores graffiti
 as spatializing practice and performance.
FREE - Registration is required.
 Presented in partnership with University
 of Toronto Mississauga. Contact: Keith
 McVean Phone: 905-615-3500 ext. 3589.



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MAPLE MAGIC 2017
MARCH 11TH - 19TH, 12 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
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TREEHOUSE SPLASH N BOOTS
WED. MARCH 15TH, 1:00 P.M.
 Living Arts Centre - Hamerson Hall
 Tickets \$15-\$30 livingarts@hamersonhall

NICKELODEON'S BUBBLE GUPPIES
LIVE! READY TO ROCK
THURS. MAR.16TH, 3:30 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.
 Living Arts Centre -Hamerson Hall
 Tickets \$26-\$36 livingarts@hamersonhall

GARDENING TIPS
THURS. APRIL 6TH, 7:00 – 8:00
 Mississauga Central Library, Noel Ryan
 Auditorium - Dr. Dawn Bazely (York
 U.) will provide botanical tips to make
 your garden grow. Admission is free.
 Registration is not required.- Contact:Keith
 McVean Phone: 905-615-3500 ext. 3589
 Email:sciencesbusiness.library@
 mississauga.ca Cost: Free

EARTH DAY FILMS
SAT. APRIL 22ND, 11:00 AM - 4:00 P.M.
 Mississauga Central Library, Noel Ryan
 Auditorium - Celebrate Earth Day with
 environment-themed films. Admission is
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 presenters
- **THURSDAYS - APRIL 6 TO MAY 25** -
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 filling up fast!

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