



MISSISSAUGA FOOD BANK HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Bring your friends and family to take a tour and see first-hand how your gifts help our neighbours. RSVP to info@themississaugafoodbank.org or 905-270-5589 Join in the **FOOD & FUNDRAISING DRIVE!**

The goal is to raise 175,000 lbs. of food and \$250,000 by December 31st. With only \$1 The Mississauga Food Bank is able to distribute 3 meals! To volunteer visit www.themississaugafoodbank.org
See Events Dates on back page.



FAMILY FUN SKATE

Kick off the Holiday Season!!

Join our Ward 3 Councillor, **CHRIS FONSECA**, on **Saturday, December 8th, 2pm – 4pm** at the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, Outdoor Rink for a family skate and hot chocolate! *Details on back page.*



Residents Oppose Forest Park Circle Development Proposal

On Wednesday, October 17th, Rockwood residents had their first opportunity to voice their concerns with the Forest Park Circle development proposal to both the Mississauga Planning Department and the developer.

Forest Park Circle has made an application to the City to amend the current zoning of their property, a 9.2 acre parcel located along the west side of Ponytrail Dr., and the south side of Rathburn Rd., right across from the Kingsbury Plaza, to enable them to build 413 additional units at this site.

The meeting was arranged by Councillor Fonseca to bring all the stakeholders together and allow input from the community and

the developer. At the start of the meeting, Councillor Fonseca went on record stating that she was opposed to the development. About 300 Rockwood Residents attended, who were clearly and unanimously opposed to the new development. The developer, or more specifically, the developer's consultants, presented their plan submitted to the City for a proposed new development on the Forest Park lands. The proposed plan would require changes to the Official City Plan to increase the density of the area to allow 1 new 16 floor tower, 3 low rise buildings plus 105 town homes to be built on the property additional to the 2 high rise rental units currently on the site. The new

continued on page 6

LOCAL CONTACTS



RHA Executives

Boris Swedak *Advisor LM*

Simi Kapur *President*

Joe Silva *Vice President*

Val Thomson *Treasurer*

Gord Crymble *Secretary*

Dale Biason *Director*

Leszek Pisarek *Director*

Dave Airey *Director*

Frank Medoro *Director*

Stephen Roscoe *Director LM*

Maria Matvichuk *Director*

LM - (Life Member)

Nicole Danesi -

(Social Media Volunteer)

•

Airport/Noise Complaints

416-247-7682

•

The Rockwood

Homeowners' Association

1734 Chalkdene Grove,

Mississauga ON L4W 2C3

(include phone & email if available)

•

www.rockwoodvillage.ca

Email: rha.executive@gmail.com

•

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For Advertising and Editorial submissions contact:

rha.executive@gmail.com

Production

SIRIUS DESIGN SERVICES

Kathryn Huse

Email: info@smds.ca



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Simi Kapur



Hello Rockwood residents!

As we get ready to brace for cold over the next few months, it's been a treat to see our neighbours getting their homes ready for the holiday season. If you have a chance, take a walk around the neighbourhood and check out the light displays in Rockwood!

The last few months have seen a flurry of input from local neighbours in response to the rezoning application by Forest Park Circle. Ward 3 Councillor, Chris Fonseca, held a community meeting in response to concerns from the Rockwood community. Details are in the cover story of the newsletter. We would also like to thank the PDOC (Ponytrail Development Opposition Committee) for their grassroots movement in getting a petition out to local residents. To date, 660 signatures have been obtained. PDOC may be reached at **stopoz12.009w3@gmail.com**.

RHA has been asked to submit ideas on what we would like to see from the GTAA (Greater Toronto Airports Authority) in terms of Community Outreach. Suggestions made include

tours of the airport and tree planting in our local neighbourhoods.

How about a sports event at Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, sponsored by the GTAA? Please send your input to **rha.executive@gmail.com** and we'll forward it to Councillor Fonseca and the GTAA.

Some of you may have attended the Public Information meetings held by City of Mississauga in regards to Stormwater Financing. This will affect all residents of Mississauga with the implementation of a user fee (Stormwater Rate). See details on facing page.

Thank you to all our residents and members who have submitted their membership fees. We are truly grateful for your contributions and support. We also welcome your input. Please contact us at rha.executive@gmail.com or through our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Thank you also to our Board of Directors who work hard in attending the multitude of meetings throughout the City and who give their time and energy in maintaining the organization.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Stay in touch...the Rockwood Homeowners' Association

With over 300 tweets, and a combined total of over 100 Facebook 'likes' and Twitter 'followers', the RHA strives to keep Rockwood residents always informed. Launched in May 2012, the RHA Facebook and Twitter pages post information regarding local schools, library, public meeting notices and community centre news and events.

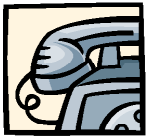
For local news, reminders, and information regarding other events and public meetings held within the City of Mississauga, stay informed and up to date by following us on Twitter @Rockwood_RHA and 'liking' our Facebook page at "Rockwood Homeowners"



Rockwood Homeowners' Association



twitter.com/rockwood_rha



CITY HALL UPDATE

City to Tax Rainwater!

City Council is studying ways to handle costs involved in improving and sustaining stormwater management. The question is not "if" but "how much" property owners will be paying and how the costs will be allocated and collected.

The second public meeting was held on November 20th at which time AECOM, the project management company hired by the City to look into current and future costs to manage stormwater, presented their recommendations prior to a Council decision expected to be decided on December 5th.

AECOM findings indicate that the current stormwater program does not meet the City's needs for capital, operations and maintenance and pipe reinvestment and suggest that an interim service level program be implemented at an annual cost of \$26.6M. They recommend that funding should be from a user pay model based on estimated stormwater runoff. AECOM also recommends that everyone be charged a stormwater rate except those exempted by provincial legislation (i.e. crown lands), and that billing should start in July 2013.

Currently, both Kitchener and Waterloo implemented a storm water rate in 2001, and a number of Ontario municipalities are investigating this as an alternative funding mechanism.

It is estimated that the average cost per household would be approximately \$124.00 and would possibly be added to your water bill. For more information or comment on the proposal before it goes to Council contact: Lincoln.kan@mississauga.ca

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COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT — REVISIONS

The City of Mississauga's new Integrity Commissioner (Robert Swayze) has proposed amendments to the Council Code of Conduct which will be considered by Council at its meeting on December 12, 2012.

PUBLIC INPUT IS BEING SOUGHT. You can comment on the recommendations by providing a written submission to the Office of the City Clerk: city.clerk@mississauga.ca. The public can also comment in person at the December 12, City Hall council meeting at 9:00am.

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The BTR is changing the landscape on Fieldgate. The road is being moved to intersect with Eastgate just south of the current road. Meanwhile, construction of a bridge across Fieldgate has started which will bring the buses over the new and existing road and link to a line which will run along the east side of Eastgate in front of the Rim and TD buildings.



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Property Taxes on the Rise

Dale Biason

The 2013 property assessments have arrived and if you have not been keeping up with the market trends in the area, you may be a little surprised that the value of your home has risen significantly. This assessed value is the trigger for determining your property taxes. Thankfully, as taxes are phased in, your property taxes will be increased every year for the next four years to reach the full value of the assessment. If the Municipal rates were to remain the same you could expect your property taxes to rise by an equal amount to the increase in your assessment, but that would be only wishful thinking. Budget talks are already in process and the mill rate will definitely hike

rates at least another 10% over the next 4 years.

MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corp.) is the Provincial body that determines property values. They do this by gathering sales information in a given local area to determine the value for like and similar homes. In most cases this is really a virtual assessment based on a recent sale(s) of a home(s) similar to yours. Similar refers to square footage, lot size, number of baths and other information gathered by MPAC.

If you just purchased your home, your purchase price will possibly set your property value. If your neighbor sold a home similar to yours this year, your property value could be based on that selling

price. The problem is if the house your assessment was based on was in mint condition and yours is not, your home should not be valued as high as the one that your assessment was based upon.

If you find yourself in the latter category, you can appeal your assessment. First, call one of the local Realtors who advertise in this newsletter who know the local market and can give you an objective value. If they agree that your home is below the assessed value, you should be able to get your assessment reduced.

For information on your property assessment go to www.mpac.ca While on the site, request a pin number and get the full details for your property information.*

If the thought of *moving* is a bit overwhelming, *I can help!*

When the time comes to downsize, sell the family home and find a new residence, it can be an emotionally, overwhelming task.

I will help organize the professional services required to do the job...providing you and your family a stress free transition.



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- Senior/Retirement Services
- Antique Appraisers
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City of Mississauga Driveway Windrow Snow Clearing

NOVEMBER 28, 2012 TO MARCH 8, 2013

Participation in this program is available to 300 participants on a first come, first serve basis, with priority given to older adults and residents with disabilities. The cost to participate is either free or \$200, depending on whether the applicant meets financial assistance criteria. Applications will be received at all Community Centres until 9 p.m. on Wednesday December 5, 2012.

On October 10, 2012, Council approved making the Driveway Windrow Pilot Program eligible for all residents provided the available 300 spots are not filled by older adults or residents with disabilities, who will have first priority. Mississauga residents, regardless of age or ability who are willing to pay for the service, are also permitted to submit applications. They will be registered into a program titled, "Driveway Windrow Waitlist". The applicant pays the \$200, thereby leaving a \$200 credit on their account. On Thursday, December 6, 2012, after the deadline for first priority resident applications has expired, those on the Driveway Windrow Waitlist will be moved to the Windrow Program in order of application date. *

The windrow snow clearing will be approximately 3 m (10 ft) wide to allow one car to pass. It may take up to 36 hours after the end of a snow storm before windrows are cleared. Clearing to bare pavement cannot be guaranteed.

Visit the city's site for complete the information package and actual application form. mississauga.ca/portal/residents/drivewaywindrowpilotprogram



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continued from page 1

units are all planned to be condominiums.

Many of the comments opposing the plan spoke to the substandard condition of the existing Forest Park units and the availability of parking for visitors which is currently metered. Plans to expand have created fears in the community that more units would increase crime,

decrease green space, and create undue stress on an already fragile infrastructure. Residents also brought forward comments that the builder's plan would result in the destruction of many mature trees which would increase noise from the airport and add to pollution.

The plans for the units were not seen as an enhancement to the ambiance of the community and were dubbed "concrete jungles" by some residents.

Others expressed concern that the development could put current property values for the community at risk, particularly in the absence of any input from the builder as to the pricing of the proposed units.

The Board of Directors for the Rockwood Homeowners' Association met on October 18th and unanimously voted to oppose the plan to develop the lands on Ponytrail. A position statement will be developed to present to the City as a community response to the proposed plan.

For more information visit www.rockwoodvillage.ca

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*Wishing you and your family
Happy Holidays and a prosperous 2013!*

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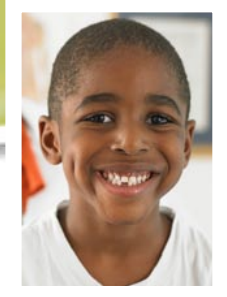
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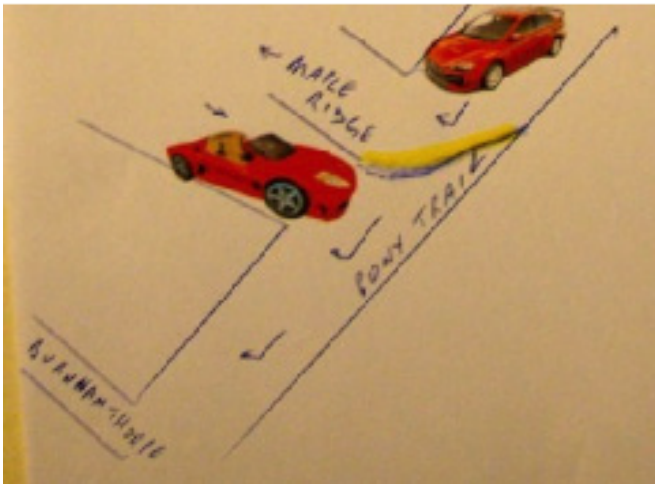
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An Accident in the Making !

Frank Medoro

If a driver coming south wants to make a right turn onto Burnhamthorpe Road from Ponytrail, there is a right-turn lane marked with an arrow. However, before that right-turn lane, there is another right-turn lane that leads onto Maple Ridge Road.

If a driver intends to bypass Maple Ridge and make the right onto Burnhamthorpe Road, he must be careful not to enter the right-turn lane specified for Maple Ridge.

Many times, I've been waiting to turn right onto Ponytrail from Maple Ridge and I see a car approaching with its right signal going. By rights, that car should be turning onto Maple Ridge, allowing me to proceed onto Ponytrail. But, no, it sails on by Maple Ridge and turns right at Burnhamthorpe.

What an awful accident it would be if a driver assumed the oncoming car was turning at Maple Ridge and pulled out!

The Traffic Department at Mississauga City Hall should look at this dangerous corner and devise a way to mark the first right-hand into Maple Ridge with a solid yellow line, as shown below. The same issue can be seen on Dixie Road just north of Burnhamthorpe where one left-turn lane goes into a church and the subsequent one enters into a shopping plaza. These two turns are clearly marked, with the first one being closed off by a solid yellow line. The same marking should be made at the Ponytrail/Maple Ridge right turn as shown in the diagram above. *



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COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

SUNDAY, DEC. 9 - 12 NOON - 4 P.M.

Festive activities at the Museums of Mississauga: Bradley Museum, 1620 Orr Road, Benares Historic House, 1507 Clarkson Road North, and Leslie Log House, 4415 Mississauga Road
FREE ADMISSION. Donations for the Food Bank will be collected.

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/discover/museumsofmississauga>

MISSISSAUGA FOOD BANK

FOOD FOR THOUGHT HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

DEC. 5, FROM 6 - 7 PM

HOLIDAY FOOD & FUNDRAISING DRIVE!

NOV. 15 - DEC. 31,

2550 Goldenridge Road, Unit 36

Come see first-hand how your gifts are used to provide wholesome food to hungry families, seniors and neighbours in our community. RSVP to

info@themississaugafoodbank.org

or 905-270-5589 or visit

www.themississaugafoodbank.org

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RECREATIONAL GYMNASTICS

OPEN HOUSE

HERSHEY SPORTS ZONE

DEC. 11, - 5PM - 7PM - FREE - AGES 3-16

Come and tryout the equipment for free!
(905) 270-6161

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR THE SALVATION ARMY MISSISSAUGA TEMPLE

SATURDAY, DEC 15, 10AM-2PM

Cawthra/Bloor, 3173 Cawthra Rd.
(905) 896 4154. Please bring a non-perishable food item for those in need.

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CAROLING IN THE PARK

MONDAY, DEC. 17 - 7:30 - 8:30 PM

FREE ADMISSION

behind the Port Credit Library in PORT CREDIT MEMORIAL PARK
Join residents of Port Credit for this 38th Annual tradition! FREE warm cranberry punch and shortbread served around the bonfire starting @ 7:00 p.m. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight and a mug.

Donations to the Food Bank welcome (collected by Rotary).

Contacts: Janis Alton (905) 274-6191; John Cassan (905) 278-3540

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CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS NATURAL HERITAGE & URBAN FOREST STRATEGY - OPEN HOUSE

DEC. 6, 2-4 PM AND 6:30-8:30 PM

LIVING ARTS CENTRE, Bank of Montreal Room (2nd floor), 4141 Living Arts Drive

Held to identify opportunities for building on existing initiatives for protecting, enhancing, restoring and expanding the City's Natural Areas System (NAS) and Urban Forest; and

to provide the City guidance and tools to pursue recommended opportunities.

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STORMWATER FINANCING STUDY

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5 - 9:00 AM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL.

Civic Centre - Council Chamber

300 City Centre Drive **PROPOSED USER FEE** - Article on on page 3

Contact : Lincoln Kan, Manager, Environmental Services, 905-615-3200 Ext. 4086, lincoln.kan@mississauga.ca

Visit: www.mississauga.ca/stormwaterstudy

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SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

• GLENHAVEN SENIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

JAN. 28, 2013 - 6:30PM

DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD

• ST. SOFIA DEC. 17, 7PM

• STS. MARTHA AND MARY SCHOOL

DEC. 11, 7PM - FAMILY ADVENT MASS

• PHILIP POCOCK

SECONDARY SCHOOL JAN. 25, 7PM

Happy Holidays

The RHA Board of Directors and advertisers would like to wish you and your family a safe and very happy holiday season!!



Ward 3 Councillor
Chris Fonseca

Family Fun Skate

Kick off the Holiday Season!! Join me on **Saturday, December 8th, 2pm - 4pm** Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, Outdoor Rink for a skate and hot chocolate! (No skates? Don't worry, a variety of skates will be available.)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and joyous Holiday season!!

Contact Chris at 905-896-5300

chris.fonseca@mississauga.ca

Please bring a non-perishable food donation for The Mississauga Food Bank and your extra skates for the **Got Skates? Program**

Come and meet the **Steelheads Mascot** and an opportunity to win box seats to an upcoming game.

