

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Rockwood TIMES



SPRING 2024

SAVE THE DATE RRA AM

Annual Meeting
Wednesday JUNE 5/24
at the new Burnhamthorpe
Community Centre
DETAILS INSIDE PG.5

Have a Safe & Happy Easter Weekend



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EASTER MONDAY APRIL 1ST

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Councillor Fonseca with members of Mississauga Animal Services at the Coyote Awareness session

Coyote Awareness MISSISSAUGA

With increased sighting of Coyotes and the approaching mating season, Councillors Fonseca, Damerla and Dasko arranged an information session on February 15th at the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre. Mississauga Animal Services presented information on coyote behaviour, the mating season safety tips and how to report coyote sightings.

To be clear, Coyotes are part of our neighbourhood and the objective is to co-exist with them. They will not be removed unless they are sick or injured (in which case they will be returned when recovered) or they exhibit a real threat of injury to residents (they attack someone). The recommendation to live peacefully together: if you don't bother them,

they will not bother us. In order to achieve this goal, residents should avoid approaching, harassing and otherwise interacting with coyotes such as approaching their dens or pups.

One of the best ways to reduce the coyote population is to remove their source of food. It goes without saying: DO NOT FEED the coyotes or for that matter any other critters such as squirrels or birds. Bird seed and bread crusts attract rats. RW

If you missed the meeting and are interested in learning more about Coyotes, and the advice of Animal Services, you can access the recording of the meeting at this web address: www.mississauga.ca/city-of-mississauga-news/news/coyote-information-session-video-recording-now-available/

What's in a Name? Everyone!

We are happy to announce that we have officially changed our name to the *Rockwood Residents' Association (RRA)*. At our Annual Meeting in May 2023, the membership voted to recognise the inclusive nature of our Association and ensure that our name reflects what our constitution states.

Membership is open to all "Residents" of Rockwood Village over 18 years of age.

While we started the process last May, it was finally approved in February. We want to give a shout out to our V.P. Angela Loconte for hanging tough and breaking through the barriers that seem to be a part government protocol. We also want to thank Nicole Danisi for making the case to ensure all residents feel welcome. Our new general email is info@rockwoodvillage.ca.

Please put this new email on your contact list to ensure you continue to receive our eblasts. Other email accounts and our social media accounts are listed on page 2 of this newsletter. RW

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SPRING 2024



CONTACTS

The Rockwood Residents' Association

Executive Officers

Dale Biason • *President LM*
 Angela Loconte • *Vice President*
 Frank Medoro • *Treasurer LM*

Directors

Iris Schweiger • *Secretary*
 Sumit Kapur • *Miranet Representative*
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 Susan Clunie • *Parks & Rec*
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RRA MAILING ADDRESS

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It takes a Village

While we are often disappointed when our efforts fail in dealing with the city, but this time it was different. By organizing resources and working together, the community worked as a team to bring attention to the fact that a minor variance could have a major impact on our neighbourhood. If you are not on our subscription list, you may not have heard of this tale. For those who know of the story, there is a surprise ending we did not previously share.

In November 2023, we started receiving emails from residents who were concerned that a neighbour had applied for a minor variance that could significantly affect our community. The variance was to change the zoning from single family residence to allow for “transient housing” or a halfway house on Rowntree Court.

The request for this variance did not include any indication of the type of “transitional housing” intended for the property. However, if passed, even for a benign purpose, such as a home for battered women, the reality is that once passed, the property could be used to house rehabilitating drug addicts, parolees (which could include sex offenders and child molesters), and other offenders being released into the community. Many of these halfway homes operate on a for-profit basis.

As this property abuts Sts. Martha and Mary school yard and is within 50 ft. of the walkway that accesses the school, there was a real concern for all children who attend the school or use the access from Rowntree Court. In the interest of protecting our children from potential danger, the RHA supported the residents of Rowntree Court to oppose this variance along with the school board and the parents of children attending the Sts. Martha and Mary school.

While Councillor Fonseca was required to stay at arm’s length from the committee meeting, she did send a letter, on behalf of the residents to the Committee of Adjustments, and provided some insight on how we should proceed to achieve results: using a City-approved petition and encouraging an email

campaign to the Committee of Adjustments stating the reasons for them to deny the variance. The major reason, other than the logical ones, was that a request to change the zoning was not a “minor” variance. Cathy Corsetti, a resident of Rowntree Court, who was the spokesperson for the residents, spearheaded a petition that collected 650 names and through our email base and the parents of Sts. Martha and Mary School, 130 emails were sent to the COA.

This matter was brought to the Committee of Adjustments on December 14, at which time they were to hear arguments for and against the variance before approving or dismissing the application. All correspondence was put into the record and several community members attended the meeting in person while many others were online, ready to speak for our community.

Without uttering a word, the application for the variance on Rowntree was denied. Long story short, the same agent was requesting a variance on another property for the same purpose and it was denied. Since our issues had already been addressed, the decision was already made. While there did not seem to be anyone questioning the other variance, it would appear that the members of the committee had in fact reviewed our information, and acted on the easier one first. The committee agreed that this was not a minor variance and is a matter for the Planners to consider. The Committee of Adjustments felt, as did we, that the whole transitional housing issue needs to be reviewed. They appeared to agree with the fact that changing the zoning would be perilous.

Hold the high fives, this story is not over. In January, we received notice that the applicant had appealed to the OLT (Ontario Land Tribunal) as is their right. We were assured that all the materials sent to the Committee of Adjustments along with their decision would be forwarded to the OLT at which point they would assess whether or not they would hear the appeal. If the OLT agrees to the appeal, the original participants, at least 20 on the speakers’ list would have their say. The time frame for hearing an appeal would be approximately six months.

During this whole process, something did not feel right. The petitioner was not the

owner of the property, but in fact a tenant. The tenant is also a charity. The name of the owner never appeared on the application; however, it was known that the owner wanted to use this very upscale executive home as an Airbnb, had offered it for sale and finally rented it.

Whether this played any part of the decision or not, the appeal was withdrawn in early February, much to our delight. But the moral of the story is success as the result of team work. Yes, it took a village, our village to make this happen.

The Rockwood Residents' Association is here to help.

We encourage you to join us.RW

*Dale Biason
President, RRA*



Dear Fellow Residents of Rockwood Village,

My front lawn seems to attract dog walkers, one of whom is uncouth and too lazy to walk a few feet to the nearest waste bin. Instead, he/she continues to dispose of their dog's poop on my lawn.



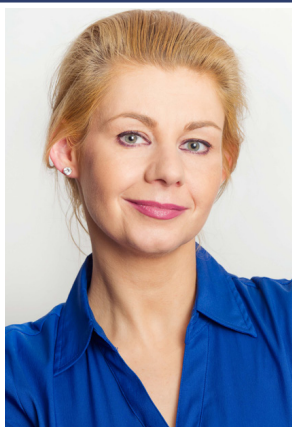
The strange thing is that they actually put the stinking, sticky poop into a plastic bag, and then they leave the bag at the south-east corner of my property for me to pick up and put in the garbage.

Let's all do our part to keep Rockwood clean, please.

Marie

Thank you for your letter, Marie.

It is unfortunate that we still have to remind residents to respect our community and others' properties by not only stopping and scooping but ensuring that the waste is properly disposed of. Speaking of doggie dodo, dog owners can now dispose of this waste in two local locations while playing a part in creating energy. Two containers; one on the Shaver Trail and one near the leash free area at Garnetwood Park, are designed to recycle dog waste into methane gas, a form of energy. We encourage all residents to use these green bins to deposit dog waste and keep it out of the landfill. RW



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Spring into Action: Essential Home Maintenance Tips

As the chill of winter gives way to the warmth of spring, it's the perfect time to breathe new life into your home with a thorough spring maintenance routine. From preparing your outdoor spaces for entertaining to ensuring your home is in top condition for the months ahead, here are some essential tips to help you kickstart the season with confidence.

• Inspect Your Roof and Gutters:

Begin by inspecting your roof for any signs of damage or wear and tear caused by winter weather. Look for loose or missing shingles, damaged flashing, and any areas where water may be pooling. Additionally, clean out your gutters and downspouts to ensure proper drainage and prevent water damage to your home's foundation.



• Check Your Exterior: Take a walk around the exterior of your home to check for any cracks, gaps, or holes in the siding, foundation, or windows. Seal any openings to prevent pests and moisture from entering your home and causing damage.

• Service Your HVAC System: Schedule a professional HVAC inspection and service to ensure your heating and cooling system is running efficiently. Replace air filters, clean air vents and ducts, and test your thermostat to ensure it's functioning properly.

• Refresh Your Landscaping: Spring is the perfect time to refresh your landscaping and enhance your home's curb appeal. Prune overgrown shrubs and trees, plant colorful flowers, and mulch flower beds to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

• Clean and Inspect Outdoor Furniture:

If you've stored your outdoor furniture over the winter, now is the time to bring it out, clean it thoroughly, and inspect it for any signs of damage. Repair or replace any damaged pieces to ensure your outdoor spaces are ready for relaxation and entertaining.



• Test Your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Spring is a great time to test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they're in working order. Replace batteries as needed and install new detectors if yours are outdated or not functioning properly.

• Schedule a Plumbing Check-Up: Prevent costly water damage by scheduling a plumbing check-up to inspect for leaks, drips, and other issues. Check your water heater for signs of corrosion or leaks and flush it to remove sediment buildup.

• Prepare Your Deck or Patio: Give your deck or patio a thorough cleaning and inspect it for any signs of damage, such as loose boards or railings. Seal or stain the wood to protect it from the elements to ensure it's ready for outdoor gatherings.

From safeguarding against the elements to enhancing your outdoor spaces, a little maintenance now can go a long way toward preserving the beauty and functionality of your home. RW

Happy Spring Cleaning!

Desiree King

Furnace need replacing? Here is something to consider...

You can cut heating-related climate pollution by swapping out a gas-fired furnace for an efficient, all-electric heat pump. Heat pumps are a more environmentally friendly heating. Current thinking is that switching to a renewable, low carbon air source heat pump is one of the biggest single actions one can take towards climate change. Did you know that heat pumps can reduce a home's carbon footprint by up to 65% compared with heating your home with a gas boiler?

In addition, a heat pump system is three times more efficient than a gas boiler and also helps cut down on fossil fuel emissions, since heat pumps rely on electricity instead of burning fuels like propane and natural gas. The average life expectancy for heat pumps is normally 15 years. Heat pumps need twice annually tune ups (spring and fall) to maintain proper performance and energy efficiency. While these are great reasons to consider heat pumps, the reality is that heat pumps are powered by electricity which is more expensive and less plentiful.

Angela Loconte, Vice President, RRA

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VOLUNTEERS!

That's us - the members of the Board of Directors of Rockwood Residents' Association are all volunteers who have a keen interest in our community, as do you!

We meet monthly to discuss issues in our community, and we are available by email to offer assistance with issues of concern and to provide information that we think will be of interest to you. You'd be surprised how much correspondence we get on a wide range of topics.

We have committees - Parks, Roads and Safety, General Help, Social/Media/Website, Airport, and we have a representative on MIRANET (Mississauga Residents' Association Network). While we have no direct authority to solve problems, we work hard to find out who can help with your issues of concern and assist in many ways to get resolution. We are boosters and supporters of local businesses and do our best to make you aware of them, and hope you support them too. They make it possible to print and deliver this newsletter to your door!

We hold Annual Meetings at which we hope to see many residents. We invite representatives from the City, all levels of government, and from other community organizations, i.e. the GTAA, the TRCA, as determined by your concerns. This year we will be holding our AGM at the new Burnhamthorpe Community Centre. Applewood Hills room, from 7PM - 9PM on June 5th. Please mark your calendars and join us for coffee, cookies, and a chat with your neighbours.

We are grateful to all those community members who have volunteered on this Board in the past and who have helped build a tremendous sense of pride, belonging, and respect in our neighbourhood. We are doing our best to continue this work, but we need help. If you share our sense of community, we urge you to join our Board. Interested? Send us a note at info@rockwoodvillage.ca

Sue Lawton
Director, Roads and Safety

COMMUNITY

ROCKWOOD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING



**Burnhamthorpe Community Centre
Wednesday June 5th
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

This will be our first in person meeting in four years, and all residents are welcome to attend and check out the new Burnhamthorpe Community facility.

We look forward to seeing both new faces and the familiar.

This is your opportunity to ask questions and get answers to issues that concern our community. We try to ensure that the right resources will be available to speak to your concerns.

You can let us know your concerns: info@rockwoodvillage.ca

Stay tuned for details. All information, including the agenda and guest speakers will be posted, not later than May 31st. on our website at www.rockwoodvillage.ca



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COMMUNITY

Seeking “Little Library” Lovers

Something amazing is popping up in communities around the world, and soon, may be coming to Rockwood Village.



Little libraries are a relatively new trend in the last decade whereby community members build a little outdoor cabinet unit, decorate it, and then add books to it for members of the community to add to or take from — all free of charge. These little libraries are built outside of homes and are cared for by the residents

themselves as a welcoming act bringing members of a community together, while promoting literacy and a love of learning.

Right now, we only know of one little library on Branchwood Park, but it’s time to bring more little libraries to Rockwood Village! The Rockwood Residents Association is seeking volunteers to host little libraries outside of their homes, and potential builders to help construct them. The Rockwood Residents’ Association will pay for the cost to build the library but it must be maintained, and cared for by the residents hosting the library in front of their home. A total of three little libraries will be funded for homeowners, free of charge. This would be a great idea for residents of our many townhouse complexes, should your board approve! *RW*

Nicole Danesi, Community Resident

If you are interested in building or hosting a little library outside of your home, please email us at info@rockwoodvillage.ca

Beating the “Blues”



If the grey days are getting you down, a visit to the **Centennial Park Conservatory** might lift your spirit. It’s right in Rockwood Village’s backyard at

151 Elmcrest Road (Mill Road and Rathburn)

Open 7 days a week.
Plan to visit soon!



APRIL is Daffodil Month

Daffodils mark the return of spring and new life. Show your support for those affected by Cancer by wearing a Daffodil pin or purchasing fresh ones throughout the month of April. Cancer organizations around the world use the daffodil as a symbol of hope for all people affected by cancer.

It was first used in Toronto in the 1950s during volunteer organized coffee mornings to raise money for cancer awareness and research. Guests were given a daffodil as thanks for their support.

The daffodil eventually replaced the sword which had been the Cancer Society emblem since 1929.

Volunteer enthusiasm has always been a key part of Daffodil Days success and we THANK each and everyone one of YOU!

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Making *PROM* Happen

When you start spring cleaning your closets, please keep in mind that those fancy clothes, suits and shoes that your kids have shoved in the back of the closet, or left behind when they moved out, could make a difference for a student in need.

The Peel Fairy Godmothers are asking for donations to assist underprivileged students attend prom/grad this year.

Last year they helped 70 students who otherwise may not have had the means, and this year are hoping to help many more.

Donations Needed!

1) Dresses & ladies' tuxes (really need curvy sizes)

2) Boy's & Men's suits, and accessories (short on boys' suits for grade 8 grad)

3) Accessories, prom jewellery; shoes; purses; shawls etc.

For more information on where to drop off donations and about the Peel Fairy Godmothers; visit makingpromhappen.ca We can make arrangements for pick up if necessary; contact info@rockwoodvillage.ca

MAY is for MEMBERSHIP

ROCKWOOD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

It is almost May, and once again, we will be asking you to support our association by paying your \$10 annual membership fee.

This year, our name change has consequences with both our email address and banking. We are asking you to use our new email for your etransfers: info@rockwood.ca Please include your email or house address.

Cheques or cash will be gratefully accepted at the Annual Meeting, or at 1691 Branchwood Park. We will be sending an eblast in April, if you do not receive it prior to May 1st, please send us an email at:

membership@rockwoodvillage.ca

To join our mailing list, please visit our website:

www.rockwoodvillage.ca/join-us

While every resident is welcome to attend our annual meeting, receive eblasts and get a copy of this newsletter delivered to your door, only members, (those who have paid the membership fee of \$10) may vote or speak at our upcoming June Annual Meeting.

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peace and good health*

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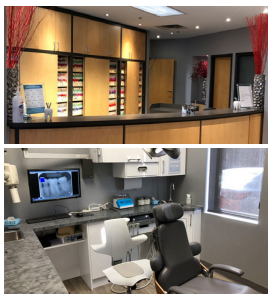
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