

HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION Rockwood TIMES



SPRING 2023

SAVE THE DATE
RHA AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Details Inside

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GOOD FRIDAY April 7
EASTER SUNDAY April 9
EASTER MONDAY April 10



Delta coming to Rockwood Mall

On Wednesday, February 15th, City Council voted unanimously to affirm a permit allowing Delta Bingo and Gaming a ten-year lease in Rockwood Mall. Nine depositions were made to Council including one from the RHA, but the majority were from the charity sponsors, who spoke to the good work supported from their association with Delta.

The potential arrival of Delta was made aware to the community in November of 2022, when a notice was posted in the Mississauga News. Although a proposal had been sent to the City Clerk for distribution to the Mayor and Councillors in October, it was not distributed, a fact that we confirmed during a meeting with the City and Delta Bingo in late December. It was decided at this meeting that the process Delta had



followed, as per the instruction of the AGCO (Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario) was flawed, outdated and not consistent with the City's process.

Delta was willing to set aside a request to address council pending community engagement, making the proposal public and providing names and email addresses to whom residents could send their comments. Two meetings were set, a new notice was

continued on page 3



Hazel McCallion
February 14, 1921 -
January 29, 2023

Beloved former Mississauga Mayor, Hazel McCallion was laid to rest on what would have been her 102nd birthday. According to Former Prime Minister, Jean Chretien, "She had a big heart and it was no coincidence that she was born on February 14."

God Speed, Hazel!

At a state funeral, held at Paramount Fine Foods Centre, thousands, including politicians of all parties and of every level of government, gathered to pay tribute to Canada's longest serving Mayor. Lovingly dubbed "Hurricane Hazel", in spite of her small stature, she was truly a force to be reckoned with. When McCallion was first elected Mayor in 1974, Mississauga was a bedroom community housing those willing to commute from Toronto. By the time she retired 36 years later, Mississauga had grown to become the 6th largest city in Canada. She became an international celebrity when

she was interviewed by Jimmy Fallon.

Not unlike the Queen, it seemed that Hazel would be eternal.

Although she retired in her 93rd year, the unstoppable mayor was still at work the week before she passed away of pancreatic cancer.

A frequent keynote speaker at our Annual Meetings, Hazel always seemed to be aware of our local issues, and while she put forth a gruff exterior, she was warm and personable on the inside. She will be remembered fondly by Mississaugans and all Canadians alike. RW



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"You can't fight city hall"

The adage "You can't fight city hall" is true.

I have been involved in local politics from the community perspective for more than 15 years. I have been an advocate for our neighbourhood and can be a pit bull in speaking out on topics important to us. I can also use a poisoned pen when required. But this past week I had an epiphany.

Municipal politics is not democratic. The only part that is democratic is that you can vote for a mayor and a councillor. When an issue gets to council, there are no party politics or guidelines; instead, the vote is cast based on zoning, by-laws and a predetermined process. The response of the community plays no part in any decision made by council. After all, we only have one supporting vote from our councillor, right? Wrong.

In the past few weeks, I have learned that those who are responsible for disseminating information to their communities, are often the last to know what is actually happening at City Hall, and do not have the means, opportunity or skills to find out. While a proposal was sent to the City Clerk in October, we still have not even received a confirmation to our request to send it to us, or for that matter, that it was received. We only received that proposal through the efforts of the AHHRA (Applewood Hills and Heights Residents' Association).

In December, following a nasty letter to Councillor Fonseca, asking for answers on what was happening in our neighbourhood without our knowledge, we met with City departments, who advised that there was miscommunication on their part and basically took responsibility. A statement was issued by

Fonseca on December 22nd, following the meeting. "If ever the addition of slot machines were to be added to the facility, I would be opposed. As it currently stands, I do not support the relocation of the Delta Bingo Hall, as they haven't made a concerted effort to engage or consult the community in order to make a sound decision that takes into consideration the viewpoints of all stakeholders."

We met with Delta Bingo and the Councillor's staff on January 16th. At this time, we were not advised that Delta had already signed a lease and a permit

had been issued the prior week. They did, however, agree to community meetings and to provide real information on where residents could send their written concerns.

Many residents sent us copies of their letters, and 51 left comments on our website. While few supported the move,

either by written comment or during the community meetings, Delta's proposal was approved. While temporarily shocked that our councillor voted in favor of Delta, I took some time to reflect on her earlier statement. The community was given a chance to voice concerns, there was public engagement, and the viewpoints of all stakeholders were considered. Her decision reflects that there was no reason for the City to deny Delta a permit; the zoning supported the intended use and, while the neighbourhood was not in favour, the charities provided strong enthusiasm not only for Delta but also the part they play in raising funds for local charities. We can only hope that the councillor will also stand behind the rest of her statement in ensuring that slot machines are never allowed at Rockwood. **RW**

Dale Biason

President, RHA



continued from page 1

posted in the Mississauga News, which included enough information, and all other appropriate information was posted on our website.

The first meeting on February 7th was virtual. Approximately 80 attended. The first hour was primarily an overview of Delta Bingo and numerous testimonials from the sponsors, about the good works they do, and the opportunity that Delta provides to support their charities. As one resident put it, the sponsors were being held up like babies in order to defend against the community's opposition.

Initially, Shawn Fisher, CEO of Delta told the audience that the plan was to relocate the Mattamy Hall as a Bingo-only hall, with no alcohol and no slot machines. The opportunity to be licenced for gaming of this nature was not available. An astute resident asked what Delta would do if the opportunity again became available. He responded that they would apply the next day.

Delta was asked if they were considering other locations. It was pointed out that there were other available units, not located in a residential area, that offer better parking and accessible transit. They replied that this was the unit they wanted and were not currently considering any alternate locations. Unknown at that time, a lease had already been signed and a permit issued on January 11th, 2023. Other questions and opinions were raised as to traffic and safety issues.

The second meeting was held at the intended location, in the old Rona Store at Rockwood Mall, Thursday, February 9th. The first part followed the same agenda as the virtual meeting. However, the acoustics were poor and may have accounted for the agitated mood of the 100 people in attendance. At the end of the meeting, it was disclosed that Delta would bring their case to Council on Wednesday, February 15th.

During this process, the RHA urged residents to send their comments, and supplied email addresses of the appropriate persons. While we already had sent the results of an initial survey, we posted a second survey, which also collected comments. The first survey had a 68% negative response to locating a bingo at Rockwood. The second survey was compromised and did not provide conclusive results. However,

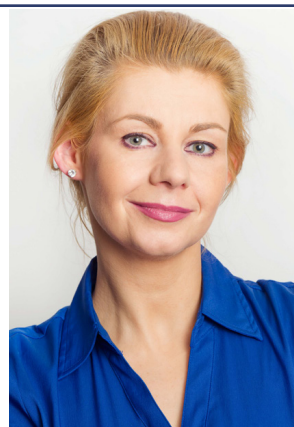


the 51 comments, along with our arguments against a Bingo Hall at Rockwood, were sent as requested and became part of the documents set before council. The bottom line is that this issue had been resolved long before community engagement began. The permit was issued on January 11th, 2023, before the RHA met with Delta and before the community meetings were held.

There is some good news. The lease will include a prohibition on alcohol, and the mall has agreed to work with traffic planners to ensure the safety of pedestrians, reduce congestion on Dixie and ensure that the entrance and exit points are suitable.

We have been told, but cannot confirm that it was the sponsors who did not approve of Delta applying for the permit to allow slots in 2012, when it was an option. Going forward, we will work with our MPP to ensure that slots do not come to Rockwood Mall. While the city has confirmed that the location meets the zoning requirements and other expectations, it is the AGCO that regulates what happens in the Bingo Hall.

The hall would require the approval of the sponsors to apply for such a licence. *RW*



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Safety Lighting Request for Trail 11

One of our residents asked if it was possible to have lighting installed on the trail from Audubon Blvd. to Dundas Street, particularly through the Rockwood area of the trail. The RHA asked Councillor Fonseca to request this from the City of Mississauga.

The response that we received was that the trail was located on the Hydro One Transmission Corridor, through an agreement with Hydro

One and the City of Mississauga. Hydro One specifically restricts the use of lighting on the trail due to the proximity of hydro lines and the existing Enbridge Gas line; therefore, we will be unable to have the requested lighting installed. The potential for solar lighting was also denied for the same reason. RW

If you have any requests or concerns regarding Parks and Recreation in Rockwood Village, please send them to rha.parkscommittee@gmail.com. Susan Clunie, RHA, Director



With **CAR THEFT** on the rise, it is more important than ever to protect your car KEYS while not in use. Thieves are using RF signal extenders to easily detect, copy and swipe your keyless car. However, storing your keys in a Faraday box or a similar product, which is lined with layers of metallic material to block a

key's signals, is one way to prevent theft of your vehicle. Parking your car in the garage and installing GPS trackers are some other ways to prevent car theft. *Report any suspicious activity to PEEL REGIONAL POLICE at 905-453-2121.*

PUBLIC ART for the new Burnhamthorpe Community Centre



Have your say
Take the PUBLIC ART SURVEY and help select the winning design !!

As part of the renovation of Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, the City is commissioning on-site public art. The artwork will be the first in the permanent collection to integrate accessibility as a core component of the visitor's experience.

Last year, professional artists and artist team submissions were evaluated and four applicants were shortlisted and invited to develop proposals. Now, it's time to select the winning design!

You can review the submission under consideration and then choose your favourite design through the survey:

yoursay.mississauga.ca/burnhamthorpe_art/survey. Responses are open until March 5.



on items in Ward 3 and the City of Mississauga with my e-update. E-mail me at chris.fonseca@mississauga.ca to subscribe

Chris Fonseca
Ward 3 Councillor



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Rockwood Residents Answer the Call!

Our ability to support local charities comes from your \$10.00 membership fee.

In December, Mayor Bonnie Crombie, sent a “call to action” to Mississauga Resident Associations to support our Food Bank: “Over the past year, 46% of food bank users in Mississauga have gone into debt to buy food. The Food Bank has also experienced a 60% increase in demand due to inflation and the continuing impacts from the pandemic. For these vulnerable neighbours, the rising cost of living means they will have to choose between buying food and paying other necessities. As many of our neighbours in need struggle with the rising costs of fresh and



nutritious food, we must work together to ensure hungry neighbours have healthy food on their tables. I hope that I can count on your continued support to help our hungry neighbours.”

Without sufficient time to organize a community effort, we sent a cheque on behalf of Rockwood Village for \$1000. But next

year, we hope to supplement that by encouraging local food drives and donations. We are aware of one such local drive. Every year, a resident at 1855 Maple Ridge organizes a local collection for donation of food stuffs. They even offer some draw prizes for donors. Many of our residents have long term connections with their neighbours. We are hoping that when we reach out to you next fall, you will put those connections to use and assist us in gathering food and/or gift certificates to accompany our monetary donation.

Thanks to your RHA membership contributions, we have been making monetary donations, on behalf of Rockwood Village, to the Food Bank, St. Vincent de Paul and the Red Cross (in support of Ukraine) for many years. *RW*

**MAY THE 4TH
BE WITH US**

Mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting,
to be held this year, via zoom on
May 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Information on receiving your link to the
meeting, the agenda and other information will
be posted on our website:

www.rockwoodvillage.ca by April 1.

Last year, we agreed to consider changing the
name of our Association to be inclusive of all
residents, not only homeowners. A motion will
be brought forth at this meeting to change our
name from

**Rockwood Homeowners' Association to
Rockwood Residents' Association
(RRA).**

To be eligible to vote at this meeting, you must
be on our membership list. If you are receiving
eblasts from us, you are already on that list.

If not, please join us now:

www.rockwoodvillage.ca/join-us.html

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COMMUNITY

Exercise Caution March is Coyote mating season!



With spring just around the corner, it is time for us to remember that it is also mating season for our natural wildlife. This includes the coyotes and foxes that are commonly spotted in our community. And, with winter still in the air, they are also in search of food.

Over the past two years (2021 to 2022), the City of Mississauga Animal Services has reported a decline in coyote incidents by approximately 81 per cent, with no reported coyote incidents involving humans. An incident is any reported physical interaction involving a coyote, a pet, or a human. The stats provided included information from the City's interactive coyote map.

While seeing a coyote can be intimidating, the risk of encountering a coyote remains low, as many coyotes try to avoid humans. At the same time,

coyote sightings are more prominent in the winter as they have less coverage, and their fur contrasts against the snow. Winter (December – March) is also coyote mating season, so they may be seen in more populated areas looking for a mate. If you observe or encounter a coyote in Mississauga, please report sightings to Animal Services at 905 896 5858

Coyotes play a vital role in our ecosystem, aiding in controlling rodent, rabbit, and goose populations and addressing diseased or deceased wildlife. Many residents remain dedicated to reporting sightings and referring to the City's interactive coyote map to check if coyotes have been seen in their neighbourhoods.

Residents are encouraged to exercise caution when outdoors and are



reminded not to feed wildlife. Under the City's Animal Care and Control By-law, feeding wildlife is illegal and violators can be fined a minimum of \$300. This includes leaving food out, food waste, and disposing of food in natural areas. *RW*



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Mississauga.. the 2nd most expensive place to live in North America? *Really?*

Is it really possible that Mississauga is ranked the second most expensive place to live in North America? According to a study from PolicyAdvisor, a Toronto based on-line life insurance provider, Mississauga is out-ranked for this distinction only by New York City. Vancouver, Hamilton and Toronto, all made the top ten.

A study of the cost of living in the 10 largest cities in Canada and the U.S. was conducted. It compared earnings and common expenses in the 20 cities, but other than rent, you may be surprised that what was reviewed included: a bottle of water, a cappuccino, the price of a movie ticket, the price of a meal at a restaurant, a monthly gym membership, a single transit ride and a monthly transit pass.



The rankings reflect the combined costs of those expenses as a percentage of the city's average monthly net salary. Numbeo, a user-generated global cost-of-living database, supplied the data.

High rents in New York City were enough to boost these expenses to 57% of an average New Yorker's monthly salary, placing it in the number 1 spot.

While rent in Mississauga is half that of New York City, the high cost of transit and the fourth lowest net salary of all 20 cities, earned it second place.

Calgary was awarded the 20th spot on the list, making it the cheapest place to live in North America. According to PolicyAdvisor, the ranking "contains some surprising results," noting that most people might expect a suburb like

Mississauga – with a population of 717,000 people – to be more affordable than a larger city like Los Angeles, which has roughly 3.9 million people. "Even though some major cities in North America might be perceived as having lower living costs, when factoring in the average salary in the area, it's not as clear cut." RW

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