

# HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION Rockwood TIMES



## Garnetwood Park SPLASH PAD

OPEN DAILY 9AM - 11PM  
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...



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## BCC Survey

The new and improved *Burnhamthorpe Community Centre* is scheduled to re-open next year and the planners are looking for your input: the programs that you would like to have available and how you plan to use the facilities.

A link will be posted on the RHA website at [rockwoodvillage.ca](http://rockwoodvillage.ca)

## Celebrate Summer!



**Saturday June 25th, 11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
in the new Splash Pad in Garnetwood Park**

Councillor Fonseca will be bringing the *Hot Dogs*, and the GTAA will be providing an *Ice Cream* truck. It is recommended that you bring your own water bottles which can be filled at the water station, to reduce excess waste. For those that do not have water containers, bottled water will be available. It promises to be a great opportunity to have some fun, free food and to meet your local representatives and your RHA Board members. Children are not mandatory, but we hope to see lots of them too! **RW**

## Resident Concerns Addressed at AGM

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on May 4, 2022, and featured an address by Mayor Bonnie Crombie on affordable housing. Please see the article on page 5 for details of her remarks. Other guests included Gerald Adad from Safecity Mississauga, who made a pitch to reignite the Neighbourhood Watch program in Rockwood Village. While many of us have signage on our homes that we are part of this program, it is actually defunct.

*If safety in our neighbourhood is a concern for you, volunteer for our Neighbourhood Watch by sending Gerald an email at : [nsm@safecitymississauga.on.ca](mailto:nsm@safecitymississauga.on.ca)*

We were also pleased to have a presentation by Robyn Connolly from the GTAA. The details and expectations of the reconstruction process were explained in full. While the last time we experienced construction at the airport was very noisy and intense, so far, the skies over Rockwood are pretty quiet. In spite of the minimal disruption to the quiet enjoyment of our neighbourhood, the GTAA will be showing its commitment to community engagement by providing an ice cream truck for our event on June 25th at Garnetwood Park. Last but not least, Councillor Chris Fonseca and her team addressed many questions from residents including an additional leash free zone in Beechwood Park and

*continued on page 2*



## CONTACTS

*The Rockwood*

*Homeowners' Association*

### Executive Officers

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Frank Medoro • *Treasurer LM*

Kimberly Lulham • *Secretary*

### Directors

Lisa Portolese • *Safety and Roads*  
Sumit Kapur • *Miranet Representative*

Richard Schwarz • *Membership*

Angela Loconte • *Community Help*

Iris Schweiger • *Parks & Rec*

Jason Moscatini

Susan Clunie

Diane Maganja

LM - (Life Member)

•

### Airport/Noise Complaints

416-247-7682

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[www.rockwoodvillage.ca](http://www.rockwoodvillage.ca)

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[rha.safetyandroad@gmail.com](mailto:rha.safetyandroad@gmail.com)

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## More Consultations = More Delays

Ponytrail, north of Burnhamthorpe, is the first and major entrance from the east into Rockwood Village. It is also the gateway to Mississauga's city centre. The road itself should evoke the feeling of "Welcome to Our Fabulous City." Sadly, it does not reflect our community that was once a pristine and coveted as a most desirable area. Instead, it now reflects total neglect. That's because the road repair after the construction in 2019, was meant to be only a temporary fix, until the budgeted date for completion in 2021.

It is now 2022, and the temporary medians and curbs are falling apart, and the City has now moved back the construction to 2023. As the only information given to the public is posted on their website, the City was very crafty in posting the information on the day of our AGM and hid it well in the Q&A section.

Apparently, the project is delayed awaiting yet another consultation. This

may just be code for "We did not do our due diligence and we do not yet have approval from the townhouses to erect noise walls on their property." Although, a date of summer 2023 was given, there was a caveat: the current design is only CONCEPTUAL, and yet another consultant has been hired to do a TECHNICAL design and there are lots of investigations that still need to be done.

A project of this nature, starting in summer 2023, means that Rathburn E., along Garnetwood Park will be torn up during the peak of the season, and once again, probably cause havoc and make the park inaccessible all summer.

The RHA Roads Committee has requested that, in the interim, the City should clean up the intersection of Rathburn and Ponytrail. We will also request another public meeting with the Councillor and the City Planners responsible for the project. **RW**

## AGM *continued from page 1*

the plans for the reconstruction of Rathburn and Ponytrail. Please refer to the articles in this newsletter for the further details. As the meeting ran long and some attendees were not able to hear all of the Councillors responses to the questions asked, these responses will be posted on our website: **www.rockwoodvillage.ca**

## New RHA Board Members Elected

We are pleased to announce the election of three new Directors to the RHA Board: Susan Clunie, Diane Maganja and Jason Moscatini. Congratulations and welcome! We are looking forward to the fresh new ideas they will bring to the Board. **Congratulations to all!**



# Coming Soon... New Signage for Rockwood

Fourteen years ago, the RHA Board started a process of negotiating signage for our neighbourhood. To this end a contest for a design was held and the winning design is now used as the RHA logo. Unfortunately, the original design and the artist's name have been lost over time.

As it was not possible to re-create the original design, a new sign was commissioned. The Board reviewed hundreds of sign concepts before deciding on this one. The new design contains elements of the original design but shows enhanced foliage, representing the ambiance of our community. We hope you like it!

When we started the process, many years ago, we were looking at a significant cost to have the signs

made, installed and maintained. The good news is that, with the assistance of Councillor Fonseca, money was allocated to the community, from the Audubon benefits, for our signage.

The signs will be printed, erected and maintained by the City, and the \$5,000,

originally earmarked by the RHA for this project, will be spent on charitable donations and other community events.

The design has been submitted to the City for reproduction, and we are looking forward to seeing the signs erected soon. *RW*



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## Request for another Off-Leash area

For your reference the city website [www.mississauga.ca/city-of-mississauga-news/news/be-a-responsible-dog-owner-in-your-community-2/](http://www.mississauga.ca/city-of-mississauga-news/news/be-a-responsible-dog-owner-in-your-community-2/) states the following:

• • •

- Preventing your dog from scaring or jumping on children, other people or pets
- Preventing lawsuits or vet bills from injuries that could occur

*RHA Director for Parks and Recreation*



Thank You!

To all of you who have sent us your membership dues, we thank you.

We would particularly like to thank those who sent far more than requested. Your extra donation is very much appreciated. While membership month is May, it is not too late for you to send your \$10 by e-transfer to [rha.executive@gmail.com](mailto:rha.executive@gmail.com) or drop off your cheque to 1691 Branchwood Park, or send us a note to come and pick up your membership dues.

While we have received a good response, 80% of our members have not yet responded.

*You can send your membership fee of \$10 by e-transfer to [rha.executive@gmail.com](mailto:rha.executive@gmail.com) or send us an email for a drop-off location near you.*



See you at the **SPLASH PAD**  
on Saturday, June 25th



*"On behalf of myself and the Ward 3 office, we wish you all a happy and safe summer! If you have any questions and/or concerns please feel free to reach out. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Garnetwood Splash Pad opening on June 25th!"*

*Chris* **Fonseca**  
Ward 3 Councillor



[twitter.com/ChrisFonseca3](https://twitter.com/ChrisFonseca3)



[www.chrisfonseca.ca](http://www.chrisfonseca.ca)



**Chris.Fonseca@mississauga.ca**

# Mayor Bonnie Crombie Addresses Housing

Mayor Crombie is not a fan of Bill 109, the controversial ``More Homes for Everyone`` Act. According to Crombie, the City has serious concerns with their report and stated,

*``They can't take a one-size-fits-all approach... and they are ignoring what makes neighbourhoods unique and makes the community great.``*

While the Province was clear that this was to be a road map, no municipalities were invited to sit on the task force. Without input from the municipalities, the province is pulling out the stops to approve developments, but not necessarily affordable housing.

Municipalities are looking for opportunities for more affordable options, along with rental units and senior housing. The mayor was clear that it is the developers who have the most control over what is built. While the

City can require developers to adhere to planning and development regulations, they have no say about what type of units should be built.

Mme. Mayor advised that the City lost an opportunity to develop the land on the Andy Bathgate driving range in the Eglinton/403 area for affordable housing and a LTC home. Although the City passed a motion to drop development charges for this land, the province put it up in the public market to sell to the highest bidder, and without consideration of the needs of the community. Unfortunately, the Province can use an MZO (Minister's Zoning Order) to by-pass the City planners and give a developer the green light without public consultation and without the approval of the municipality.

According to Crombie, the housing crisis is an affordability issue. There are sufficient plans in place for future development to accommodate a



growing population. The issue is that they may not necessarily meet the need for affordable housing. The mayor is working with several ministers to find options to place more pressure on developers to build affordable homes including rental and senior residences. **RW**

*For more information on housing and what the city is doing to make more affordable housing options:*  
[www.mississauga.ca/council/council-activities/council-advocacy/housing-affordability/](http://www.mississauga.ca/council/council-activities/council-advocacy/housing-affordability/)



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## COMMUNITY

# Let's Move, Rockwood Residents!

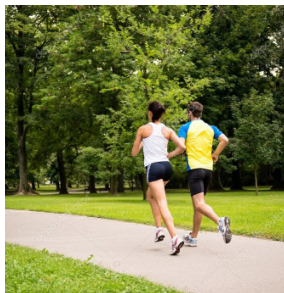
## Lace up Your Shoes, Tune up Your Bikes and Get Active!

Now that summer is here, it's time to stay active outside. And what better way to do this than beating the heat while splashing around on the just opened spray pad at Garnetwood Park.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the first RHA community event on June 25 to celebrate the opening of the Garnetwood Park Splash Pad with Councillor Chris

Fonseca. The GTAA (Greater Toronto Airport Authority) will be providing free ice cream from a truck for our enjoyment as we have been and will be exposed to more plane noise as a result of runway rehabilitation. We are looking forward to seeing you at this event. For details see Page 1.

Whether you live, work or study in Rockwood, get outside and move using an active form of transportation, while staying safe and following the rules of the road. Active transportation includes walking, rollerblading or travelling by bike, scooter, skateboard, wheelchair or other mobility devices designed for



your family (strollers and wagons). After a walk or ride in the summer heat, relax and picnic by the spray pad to make a day of it. Washrooms and garbage/recycling cans are near by. Or you might like to pack all green in reusable plastic containers like I do.

Consider swapping the car with a mode of active transportation for getting to everyday destinations like work, school, the grocery store, the bus stop and now add the Garnetwood Park spray pad to your list. Not only will it help you stay healthy, it also creates safer streets, reduces traffic congestion and reduces carbon emissions.

## REAL ESTATE Has the Bubble Burst?

It seems like only yesterday that we were entrenched in a sellers market and homes were selling well over ask. But things have changed--and quickly. While two months ago, houses would be selling well over ask in less than a week; today, they are sitting on the market unsold.

There are two traditional reasons for this turn around: supply and demand, and interest rates. Houses are not selling as quickly, increasing supply. Higher interest rates are making it harder to qualify and therefore harder to buy. Buyers will have to qualify at rates 2% over current rates, which is almost 2% more than just a few months ago. At that time, if buyers qualified at a rate of 4%, today they would have to qualify at 6%. Rates are set to rise at least 1 point over the next 6 months.

This time there are also other reasons: inflation, supply chain issues and, in general, the cost of living. Gas is guzzling much more of the suburban budget.

Not unlike the stock market, the real estate market has its ups and downs. For those selling, do not despair. In 2017, the last time the red-hot real estate market came under attack, prices fell back a bit, but within a year were again breaking records.

For buyers, it may be a good time to pick up a good deal, and without having to waive standard conditions. With flux in the market, make sure your financial institution appraises your property during the conditional period. **RW**

Dale Biason, Salesperson  
Royal LePage Realty

Further, if active transportation rocks your boat, take advantage of Mississauga's approximately 500 kilometres of multi-use trails, shared park pathways, bike lanes and signed bike routes. Check the Mississauga Cycling Map to plan your bike route ahead of time. There are also signed school walking routes thanks to schools participating in the Mississauga School Walking Routes program. **RW**

*Have an awesome summer!*

*Iris Schweiger*

*RHA Director for Parks and Recreation*

*(Title taken from the "Let's Move, Mississauga" event run by the City of Mississauga's Road Safety Committee and Traffic Safety Council throughout the months of April.)*



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& HAPPY  
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**PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE**

Hello Rockwood Homeowners' Association,

After the presentation on the Rathburn/Ponytrail project, at the AGM on May 4th, I feel that there are a lot of outstanding questions and issues that need to be addressed.

### 1) The Medians / Islands Final Design

a) Will the large medians be designed with trees and vegetation to help with climate change and extreme storms as well as enhance the prominence of that section of Ponytrail and Rathburn as the gateway into the City centre and enhance the neighbourhood?

#### Context

There are articles published on the importance of native ground cover, shrubs, trees and other landscaping elements to accommodate future climate change and extreme weather. Over the last several years the run off following extreme rain downpours are becoming more frequent. Landscapes can be designed to require less maintenance and no irrigation through xeriscaping. Trees not only remove greenhouse gas but will aid in rain water run off over land which is a reality in this area. This area is in a flood zone as reflected in our insurance premiums. These medians could serve as secondary water swales. Equally important is the fact that the Region collects for the City a stormwater charge on residence water bills that is calculated based on the amount of hard surface on their property. The City should lead by example. In addition, this section of Ponytrail and Rathburn is a vital route and gateway to the City centre along Rathburn from those coming from Toronto. This is reflected in the 4 lanes of roadway and the large distinctive medians that mark you are entering Mississauga and are no longer in Etobicoke.

### 2) Potential Cost Increases from the Date of Project Estimate to the Date of the Contract Award and Completion

- In what year was the estimate for the project budget made in? Not what year the project was approved.
- Is the City ready willing and able to approve additional funds to top up the project's current approved budget due to inflation and other increases due to supply chain?
- Or, is it the staff's plan to reduce the project design, quality and scope or "value engineer" the project to match the capital project budget funds that were developed in years past?

#### Context

This is a critical issue since the budget was likely developed, submitted and then went into the following year's capital budget for approval by Council. Several years have likely passed since it was originally developed. Good budget principles and industry practices would include contingencies for both unforeseen items during construction as well as contingencies for construction escalations costs to reflect the point in time when the budget was developed to the point of contract award. In municipal government that is likely 18 months. But it is unlikely that unforeseen events such as the impact of covid has had on timeline delays, office closures and supply chain material cost increases in 2020, 2021, 2022

would have been anticipated. Costs have significantly increased.

In addition to the inflation costs to date as noted above there are cost increases going forward, if the contract for the construction takes an additional year or more to be awarded, or, if it has been already been awarded but there is a delay in the start of ground breaking until 2023 the cost will increase.



### 3. Project Status Updates

a) Will the City assign the appropriate staff to create a dedicated web site and a group email address with all of the names of the Rockwood Homeowners Association members as well as anyone else in the neighbourhood who wishes to be added or sign up at any time to address these issues, other questions and obtain on-going updates on the project?

#### Context

We require the current schedule showing a timeline of the critical path and all upcoming milestones and provide regular updates going forward.

Despite all efforts and good intentions made to date, the reality is the project implementation has not been very transparent and open process. There are thousands of residents in the immediate area who are directly affected and have no idea what is going on.

*In closing, thanks to the all members of the Rockwood Homeowners' Board for their time in pursuit of making our neighbourhood better.*

Regards

Randy Rason



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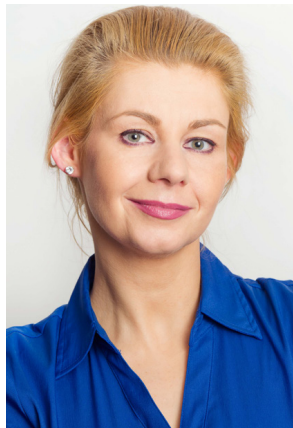
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