



A Report from our President

Hello to all our association members. It has been some time since we communicated via the Newsletter and so this edition will be very full with a lot of news that impacts our beautiful neighbourhood.

The first item is a big thank you to you, our members. We now have 93 members from the 134 homes in Sir John's Homestead or over 70% of the homes. This equals our highest membership total of last year and we will continue to introduce our new neighbours to the association as they move in. We would love to have everyone join and we will continue to pursue that goal.

Thank you for your continuing support.

- - - Michael Spicer, President

Garage Sale

An informal poll of the neighbourhood did not indicate strong support for a neighbourhood Garage Sale this year. We will revisit this idea for the late Spring of 2014.

This decision is not meant to discourage any of our members from holding their own individual garage sale and I am sure the neighbourhood will be supporting your personal garage sale if you choose to hold one.

Earth Day: April 20th

On behalf of the Sir John's Homestead Rate Association, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the participants of the 2013 Earth Day clean up. Although the weather did not cooperate with us at the start (a mild blizzard greeted us), it did improve over time, resulting in a HUGE success! We managed to accumulate over 22 garbage bags of trash amongst the 20 volunteers that came out to help. The Earth Day clean up did not go unnoticed. The municipal law enforcement officer from the Waste Management Division of the city of Mississauga, contacted me personally to thank me and the crew for our contributions to the neighbourhood. She was so pleased with our proactive

behaviour, that going forward she would like to directly support any in future initiatives.



Once again a BIG Thanks, and the SJHRA is looking forward to seeing you all at our next Earth Day which will be scheduled in the Spring of 2014.

- - - Kaila Vargianitis- Sugeng, Member-at-Large

Neighbourhood Watch Reminder

As part of our ongoing commitment to our neighbourhood, Sir John's Homestead Rate Association is proud to be part of the Neighbourhood Watch program in Mississauga. Just a gentle reminder, that if you notice any crime, vandalism or anything that may be of concern to you, please report it as soon as possible to Safecity Mississauga.

Our contact is Brittany Wakefield, who is our Program Coordinator for the Neighbourhood Watch Program at, neighbourhoodwatch@safecitymississauga.on.ca.

- - - Kaila Vargianitis-Sugeng, Member-at-Large

Noise Violations Update

As we have reported in previous editions of our Newsletter, some members of our community lodged a number of complaints regarding excessive noise coming from some of the townhouse units. These complaints were filed with both the Mississauga By-laws office and the Peel Police department. Prior to these complaints

being heard in Court on February 7th this year, a settlement was reached between the Crown Prosecutor and Deerhurst, the owners of the townhouse complex. Deerhurst pleaded guilty and was fined an amount of \$2,500.

This outcome is important because it demonstrates that these offenses are a violation of Mississauga's noise by-law, and because a Court conviction was the end result. Our Municipal Councillor, Katie Mahoney, was instrumental in bringing the various parties together to discuss the problem and develop a complaint procedure. As a result, the Police department is responsive, and the By-laws office acts following receipt of written complaints. We also believe that the Townhouse management office recognizes its responsibility for addressing unacceptable behaviour of its tenants, and reacting to our concerns.

Because of the transient nature of many of the townhouse tenants, it is probable that this problem may recur, although on a diminishing basis. If it does, there is a clear process to be followed which will be successful, providing all those who have a complaint, participate by following the established procedure. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Board of Directors. Thank you for your support.

- - - Tom Zakrzewski, Vice-President

SATURDAY JUNE 8 PLANTING

We need lots of volunteers to come out at 10 am this Saturday for a couple of hours to replace some shrubs which have not survived the winter. Location: Just in front of the naturalized area and stream on the north side of Sir John's Homestead and west of the entrance to Solitaire Court. This is our annual spring ritual where the city provides the shrubs and woodchips and we do the planting and spreading. Please bring a shovel and a wheelbarrow if you can. Below is a photo from last spring.



OUR FRONT ENTRANCE

Our front entrance is looking magnificent this year with the spring bulbs in full bloom and the sign gleaming. To keep it looking great all summer, I would like to have a small number of volunteers to help me with occasional maintenance (weeding etc.) on this bed. If you can help out, please email me at green@sjhra.ca

- - - Bob Alden, Garden Committee

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA THAT IMPACTS OUR AREA

Our Councillor, Katie Mahoney, keeps your association up to date on City activities that are of interest to our neighbourhood and may have some positive impact.

- **New LED Street Lighting:** The City is undertaking a citywide Light Emitting Diode (LED) street lighting conversion project through December 2014. All street lights in Mississauga will be converted from the yellow-orange of traditional High-Pressure Sodium (HPS) to the more natural white LED lights.

The new LED lights will significantly reduce the maintenance costs and should result in a 55 percent reduction in future energy consumption for the City. LED lights will also increase safety, visibility and reduce light pollution into the night sky.

The City is working through replacing all of the 49,000 street lights and it is difficult to pinpoint when our neighbourhood is scheduled for conversion, but I am sure that you will notice the change!

- **Reflective Hydrant Markers:** Our neighbourhood fire hydrants have been ‘tagged’ with distinctive blue plastic markers in the shape of the Firefighters Cross, to help Firefighters find the fire hydrants quickly at night. These plastic reflectors offer a cost effective, reflective and easily identifiable solution to an important need to keep our community safe.
- **Dundas Street Construction is coming:** You may have noticed the numerous spray-painted markings on the boulevard and sidewalks along both sides of Dundas Street recently.

The Region of Peel is planning a major water main replacement project along Dundas Street for later this year. Construction season may impact our neighbourhood entrances.

- **Wildlife Problem:** Linda Hunt, an Animal Control Officer with the City of Mississauga has provided the following great advice about controlling/preventing the damage that the wild animals that also live in our neighbourhood have done to our lawns and gardens in the early spring.

Although it unlikely that these animals will be active over the summer months, we can all take the precautions Linda has suggested, to prevent a reoccurrence in the late autumn, when food sources start to dry up.

A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO NUISANCE WILDLIFE

Wildlife species such as raccoons, skunks and squirrels thrive wherever food, water and shelter are plentiful which explains why they have adapted so well to urban living. Wildlife populations are cyclic so some years may see a dramatic increase in wildlife activity, however your neighbourhood will only support a certain number of animals and that number is directly linked to food availability. That is why trapping and removing these animals may provide a temporary fix but wildlife populations will bounce back if there is no effort made to reduce food sources.

REDUCE FOOD SOURCES

Taking a community approach to minimize food availability is the key to effectively reducing wildlife populations. By limiting these food sources in your community you will see a dramatic reduction in wildlife activity.

- Garbage and Compost (keep indoors or sealed away until morning of pick up)

- Flower and Vegetable Gardens (install pest fencing - apply natural spicy spray of water and hot sauce mix)
- Fruit and Nut trees (remove windfalls, collect ripe fruit daily)
- Grubs (identify and treat species – some grub larvae have 2-3 year cycles)
- BBQ's (clean and remove grease trays after every use)
- Bird feeders (collect spillage, remove feeder if you are attracting wildlife)
- Fish ponds (cover at night or dig deep so fish can escape from raccoons)
- Pet Food (feed indoors OR feed during day and remove)

PROTECT YOUR HOME

Wild animals prefer to live where there is ample food which frequently causes them to invade our homes or yards in search of a den site. Squirrels choose elevated den site locations while skunks are limited to burrowing, raccoons will choose any site. Inspect the exterior of your home in the spring and fall to ensure these areas are in good repair and secure against wildlife.

- Chimney (install steel mesh or commercial cap)
- Roof Exterior (check for holes, gaps and shingles for lifting)
- Roof vents (install steel vents and heavy gauge mesh screen inside attic)
- Soffits, Facia, Eaves trough (check for water damage, replace rotted wood)
- Bathroom and Dryer vents (screen with mesh on exterior – never block vent)
- Window wells (cover with mesh screening)
- Light fixtures (remove nesting material)
- Decks and porches (bury steel mesh around perimeter and outwards in L shape to prevent burrowing)
- Shed or Garage (check for holes, gaps – keep doors closed)

CAN I TRAP AND REMOVE NUISANCE WILDLIFE?

Legally you can humanely trap and re-locate a wild animal if it is living in your house or actively damaging your property. As per the Ontario Fish & Wildlife Conservation Act; relocation is limited to approximately 1km. Trapping is not usually recommended as you may trap a nursing mother and relocating her will cause her young to suffer and die. Alternatives to trapping could include a hu-

mane noise, light or odour deterrent. For instance, a radio strategically placed near a raccoon's den site can cause her to move out and relocate her young.

HIRING A PROFESSIONAL PEST CONTROL COMPANY

If you decide to hire a pest control company here are some things to consider. Make sure the company specializes in wildlife, reunites babies with parent, uses humane methods such as exclusion and employs experienced staff with a background in wildlife or biology. Ask for references and whether they carry liability and WSIB insurance. Get an on-site free estimate which should include an exterior home inspection. Beware of companies that use scare tactics to make a sale or tell you that they will release the animal beyond 1km. Look for a company that offers guarantees and preventative measures as part of their service.

SICK OR INJURED WILDLIFE

The City of Mississauga's Animal Services will remove sick or injured wildlife from residential properties. If you find a sick, injured or orphaned animal, call Animal Services at 905-896-5858, after hours 905-615-3000. For additional wildlife information, resources and preventative tips please visit the Animal Services web site at:
www.mypetmississauga.ca.

IN CLOSING

We are always looking for new ideas to keep improving the common spaces of our neighbourhood, so please do not hesitate to contact any of our Board members with your ideas or comments.

Thank you on behalf of your Board of Directors.

SJHRA Board of Directors 2012-2013

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