

# WELCOME HOME

## SJHRA SPRING NEWSLETTER



### GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD

As we say goodbye to winter and anxiously await the summer months, we want to thank you for continuing to support the Sir John's Homestead Ratepayers' Association. Since the cold weather hit earlier this past fall, we may not have connected with past members or had the opportunity to encourage residents to join the association. It's not too late! If you would still like to join, we'd love to have you! It's easy, just send an email to [sjhraweb@gmail.com](mailto:sjhraweb@gmail.com) and we will happily assist you. At present there are 94 members.

While we begin to enjoy the warmer weather, we continue to keep busy with planning and watching over the neighbourhood to keep it looking beautiful as well as safe. Here's a recap of what has happened at Sir John's and what's to come.

On Saturday, April 27 we had our Earth Day neighbourhood garbage cleanup - it was a great success! We had approximately 20 neighbours come and help beautify Sir John's Homestead. By far this has been the best turnout we've had in several years. We are happy to report that during the cleanup as well as with previous ones, there was less garbage. This is a great new trend and we hope to keep it up. **A special thanks to all who helped with this great cause** and an **extra special thanks to Kaila** for spearheading this worthy cause.

Now that the snow has melted, the playground garden area is coming back to life. The tulips and crocuses have come back from hibernation, and the wood chips are visible.

Thanks to the heads up from Domenic, we have instigated the repair of the cap along the garden wall by the City, which is at the northeast corner of Dundas and Redstart.

We are excited about our quickly approaching annual **Gardening Day**, which will be on **Saturday, May 25**. The focus this year will be on the green space area along Sir John's, just west of Solitaire Ct. (north of the walking path). A few years ago, some members, Bob Alden and Nick Close, took the initiative to "push back" the overgrown area and create more green space. As the years passed, we have occasionally revisited the area and cleared it of weeds, planting more shrubs and placing wood chips to slow down the weed growth. Our involvement in this area has made a difference. We have spent time in other areas recently and it is time to revisit and "spruce" it up!

Continued on next page.



## GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD CONTD.

As the day approaches, we will send an email reminder and you can also watch for the lawn signs to remind you. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Before we know it, it'll be BBQ season and we can't wait to welcome you to the [Sir John's BBQ event](#), which will take place on [Saturday June 22, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.](#) It's been a few years since we've had a BBQ and through a casual suggestion from a neighbour, we decided to plan one for this summer. The initial planning stages have been set in motion and we are pleased to confirm that Heritage Mississauga has offered the use of The Grange property, which is great news because in the past street closures were done, requiring extensive planning and permitting with the City. We are also happy to confirm that our Ward 8 councillor, Matt Mahoney, has accepted our invitation to attend the BBQ.

We look forward to welcoming all the SJH residents at the BBQ and in order to successfully plan this event, we need your feedback. We want this BBQ to be a success for everyone! Please take two minutes and answer this quick survey. Your time will greatly help our planning efforts.

Survey Link:  <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MZKVM9T>

On behalf of the Board,

Keith Salt

President, Sir John's Homestead Ratepayers' Association

## EARTH DAY CLEANUP

Here are some great pictures of our Earth Day neighbourhood garbage cleanup. Not only was it fun, but it was a great success!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Saturday, May 25, 2019*

### ANNUAL GARDENING DAY



More details will be sent out via email as the date gets closer.



*Saturday, June 22, 2019*

*11 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

### SJH ASSOCIATION BBQ



All residents are welcome to attend - please join us! Food and drinks will be provided, and the best part is that you can meet and catch up with your neighbours. Help us make this event a success for everyone by taking two minutes to answer our quick survey.

Survey Link:  <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MZKVM9T>

More details will be sent out via email as the date gets closer.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Roy Ivor was an environmentalist before the term was invented.

We want to thank Gene Schuster for sending this article our way. It's a definite must read, if you haven't already. Below is a great blog article about The long and winding lane to Roy Ivor's legacy.

The self-taught bird expert, who moved into the forest just east of Sawmill Creek north of Dundas St. near the current main entrance to UTM with his mother to set up a bird rescue and rehabilitation centre in 1928, wrote numerous articles for nature magazines over the years, including National Geographic.

Among those pieces was a warning about the likely negative effects of pesticides on birds published more than a decade before Rachel Carson's famous book on DDT, Silent Spring, which came out in 1962.

Despite the fact that he had no formal educational training in ornithology, Ivor became renowned for his ability to nurse birds back to health from injury and to establish relations with them that made them seem like pets, rather than wild animals.

His meticulous observations of nesting and feeding habits fed his reputation, as did his expertise in the strange ritual of "anting." Some birds catch ants and get real pleasure in rubbing them against their wings and tails. Ivor's article titled The Enigma of Bird Anting ("With 21 illustrations, 15 in natural colours") appeared in National Geographic 60 years ago last month.

Continued on next page.

## DID YOU KNOW? CONTD.

He was featured regularly in the popular press, which cemented his reputation as a bird whisperer. You don't forget a photo of a chickadee sitting on a man's pipe while he prepares to light it. Or a reporter's description of a grateful robin, whom Ivor had nursed back to health, bringing him a worm in gratitude.

Or a hawk, with a bad wing, hopping around after his "doctor" as if he were the Pied Piper. In a Sept. 18, 1968 column about Ivor in The South Peel Weekly, (datelined Erindale) reporter Don Edwards described how a series of wire cages that held injured birds were connected to a flyway directly to the house's porch. Thus the literal title of the memoir Ivor published that year, I Live With Birds.

"One of the hawks," wrote Edwards, "will let Ivor into the large cage, sit on his hand and even take a piece of food from between his lips. No one else dare set foot into this enclosure since the hawk makes it crystal clear that other visitors are not welcome."

Ivor's Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary, named for the narrow path that snaked its way from two stone pillars that stood at its entrance on Mississauga Rd., was the forerunner of the many successful citizen-led animal rescue operations we now take for granted.

Like many of them, he spent a lot more time on the birds than on the finances. A devastating 1970 fire destroyed his home and almost wiped him out. Only three birds survived. A fundraising campaign, which included a big rally at Huron Park, raised more than \$40,000 and put Winding Lane back on his feet. Sherway resident Irene Gabon, who was a freelance stringer for The Globe and Mail at the time, remembers sneaking into Ivor's hospital room with Toronto Star reporter Frank Calleja to interview Ivor, whose eyes were bandaged because of smoke damage.

Alzheimer's disease was already taking its toll on the Order of Canada recipient. "All he wanted to talk about was his birds," said Gabon. But then, that was always the case.

He returned to Winding Lane for a few more years before Alzheimer's forced him into a Streetsville nursing home. He died Dec. 10, 1979, three days before his 100th birthday. His long-time assistant Bernice Inman-Emery carried on his work until 2005 when she was also diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Like her mentor, she inspired great trust in her patients. When members of a local writers' group met at her place, members would read while Inman-Emery fed a baby bird or raccoon on her lap.

After she died in Jan. 2009, friend Diana Aspin told News reporter Julie Slack that "at one of our first meetings, she took a handful of mice from the freezer, microwaved them to perfection and lay them in a lectern. She then screeched to an owl nesting at Erindale College. In it swooped, scooping up the mice with its enormous talons and took off."

The City bought most of the sanctuary property in 1987 when Steve Mahoney was councillor. Erin Mills Developments also donated a portion of Sawmill Valley land. After Inman-Emery's property was sold to a developer in 2008, the City bought it back, thanks largely to the efforts of Councillor Katie Mahoney. There have long been plans to officially acknowledge the Winding Lane work, a task Councillor Matt Mahoney may now have inherited.



## DID YOU KNOW? CONTD.

The crumbling chimney of Ivor's house is the only thing left of the sanctuary. The Winding Lane work should be remembered by more than a local street name, a UTM student residence building and the Ivor Woodlands subdivision sign on The Collegeway.

Ivor is buried at the Cosmopolitan Union Cemetery, located behind St. Peter's Anglican Church on the hill across the road from that sign.

Gabon well recalls the frigid December day of his funeral.

"It was very cold up on top of the hill," she says. "A sparrow chirped as the casket was lowered."

Article Source: Mississauga.com | August 11, 2016 | <https://www.mississauga.com/blogs/post/6805040-the-long-and-winding-lane-to-roy-ivor-s-legacy/>

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are always looking for newsletter stories to share with residents. If you have something that you think is newsworthy, and a benefit to Sir John's Homestead, please send it to us. You can email your newsletter story/idea to [sjhraweb@gmail.com](mailto:sjhraweb@gmail.com).

## DON'T FORGET

- ✓ It's not too late to join our association. We'd love to have you as a resident member!
- ✓ Annual Gardening Day - **Saturday, May 25, 2019**
- ✓ SJH Association BBQ - **Saturday, June 22, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
  -  We want to hear from you - please complete the survey!  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MZKVM9T>
- ✓  Join the Sir John's Homestead Facebook page for our neighbourhood use.
  -  The page link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1368189393284464/>
- ✓ Has your email changed? Please let us know so that we can keep your contact information as up to date as possible.

thank  
you

for reading the SJHRA Spring Newsletter!



[sjhraweb@gmail.com](mailto:sjhraweb@gmail.com)



[sirjohnshomestead.com](http://sirjohnshomestead.com)