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19 Calthorpe Ave Highland Creek SOLD \$1,227,000

Oct 2020



11 Haviland Dr Listed at \$998,800 SOLD \$1,125,000 in 1 Day August 2020



26 Ivan Rd
Represented Buyer
SOLD \$900,100
June 2020, Lot 50' X 220"



86 Portsmouth Dr Listed for \$899,800 SOLD \$1,050,000 in 2 Days February 2020



<u>2 Delbeatrice Cres</u> Listed at \$1,249,800 SOLD \$1,400,800 in 2 Days Sept 2020



50 Broadbridge Dr Lawrence/East Ave. SOLD \$975,000 July 2020



53 Portsmouth Dr Represented Buyer SOLD \$905,000 April 2020



37 Invermarge Dr Meadowvale/Lawrence SOLD \$1,200,000 in 5 Days February 2020



24 Satchell Blvd Listed at \$949,800 SOLD \$1,085,000 in 2 Days Sept 2020



202 Lawson Rd.
Represented Buyer
SOLD & CLOSED
July 2020



57 Ravine Park Cres Listed at \$899,900 SOLD \$1,060,000 in 3 Days March 2020



23 Winding Crt Listed at \$1,249,900 SOLD \$1,275,000 in 1 Day January 2020



23 Delbeatrice Cres Meadowvale/Lawrence SOLD \$1,331,000 in 7 Days August 2020



1 Milroy Cr Highland Creek SOLD \$1.1 Million in 2 Days June 2020



28 Starspray Blvd Ridgeway By The Lake SOLD \$805,000 in 4 Days March 2020



56 Elkwood Dr Listed for \$938,000 SOLD \$955,000 in 2 Days January 2020

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## Sophia Tan

416-286-3993 416-417-4488

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Email: sophiatan@sympatico.ca

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Kevin Narraway

West Rouge Life is published two times a year and delivered to every house in the community by volunteer West Rouge residents. We invite your letters and comments about material in this issue, or on any other matter of

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TEL 416-272-4239

EMAIL kuzmich.ayling@gmail.com

#### **DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS**

 SPRING/SUMMER 2021
 MARCH 1, 2021

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 JULY 31, 2021

The views and opinions expressed may not necessarily be those of the West Rouge Community Association. The Association will not assume responsibility for malicious or libelous content. We assume no responsibility for the return or safety of unsolicited material. Please direct any editorial correspondence to the Publisher.

This magazine is produced by community volunteers.

## ON THE COVER

VOL.20 NO.1 FALL/WINTER 2020



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## President's Message

Kathi Loughran

Please feel free to contact me: loughrank@hotmail.com



What a strange year it's been! The pandemic has changed our lives in countless ways. Lots of people have been using this time to tackle projects around the house and to clean, purge and organize, as I have done. Many community members have also been spending time enhancing their yards.

It has been amazing to see our community come together during this difficult and unusual time. Solidarity has been demonstrated through lawn signs thanking front line workers, painted rocks with inspiring images and messages, and neighbours helping each other with errands and by sharing essential supplies. We will get through this pandemic together by continuing to show kindness and concern for everyone in our community.

While most community events have been cancelled, West Rouge Community Association (WRCA) Board members have continued to work on behalf of the West Rouge community. We have collaborated with neighbouring community groups to write letters and a media release expressing our opposition to the Large-Scale Waste Processing and Bio-Gas Plant proposed for 633 Coronation Drive. Our concerns include the anticipated level of emissions, increased truck traffic and noise. This proposal will be before the Environmental Registry Office of Ontario until October. For updates about this proposal, refer to our website (www.westrouge.org).

Additionally, WRCA Board members have participated in a number of discussions with Metrolinx

about the closure of access at Chesterton Shores to the Waterfront Trail that occurred in September. We continue to advocate for alternate access to the Waterfront Trail, as well as increased safety measures for residents who now access the Trail through the GO station parking lot.

I would like to take the opportunity to express gratitude to one of our long-standing Board members, Anne Garland. Anne recently resigned from the WRCA Board of Directors, after serving as secretary for the past five years. Anne has been a dedicated Board member and she approached every situation with a smile. Everyone always looked forward to her delicious contributions to our volunteer appreciation events. We thank you, Anne, for everything you have done over the years to support the association and our community.

As I mentioned in the previous issue of West Rouge Life, WRCA is always looking for additional volunteers. We strive to have the WRCA Board of Directors reflect the diversity in our neighbourhood. If you are interested in giving back to our community, please contact me via email at loughrank@hotmail. com and we can discuss ways that you can become involved.

Hopefully next year we will be able to participate in all the wonderful community events that make our neighbourhood such a special place. In the meantime, continue to enjoy time spent with loved ones, be it virtually or in person. Be well!

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## Vijay Thanigasalam

MPP Scarborough-Rouge Park

105-8130 Sheppard Ave. East, Scarborough, ON Website: vijaythani.ca • Twitter: vijaythani 416.283.8448 • vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org



I hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy and safe during these times. It has been quite an adjustment for us all this year, with the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to thank each and every one of you for taking the necessary precautions and adhering to the recommendations put forth by the Ontario government and public health officials. I am proud to say that all three levels of government have been working together to serve our residents. By working together, we have been able to contain the spread and slowly resume our day-to-day activities.

What has always defined us as Canadians and Ontarians is that we always pull together and look out for our neighbours and care for one another. Now, more than ever, we need each other. It is indisputably important to be kind and strong. Showing empathy and kindness to our senior citizens in our neighbourhood is paramount.

### **SPREAD KINDNESS CAMPAIGN**

My office and I along with a team of dedicated volunteers and local business owners have been working diligently to ensure that we are there for our residents during such unprecedented times. We launched the Spread Kindness Campaign as a response to the growing need to support our seniors and residents during this time. Through the Spread Kindness Campaign, we have been able to provide essential groceries such as milk, bread, fruits and canned foods along with masks for seniors and residents of Scarborough - Rouge Park.

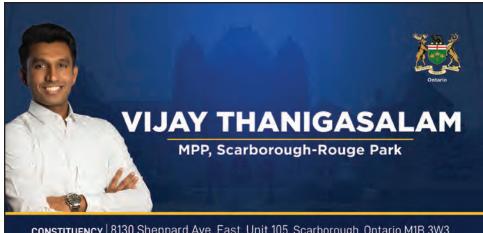
#### **VIRTUAL JOB FAIR**

I also understand the great impact that COVID-19 has had on our economy. I was happy to partner with Amazon and conduct a virtual job fair to ensure that my residents had an opportunity to engage directly with the Amazon hiring team to ensure they understand the application process. I know that many students and youth were also looking forward to their first summer jobs. I was also able to connect with an experienced Talent Acquisition Lead to provide them with the skills they need to help them land their first job through a Virtual Resume Clinic.

## MEETING WITH SCARBOROUGH HEALTH NETWORK

I met with health experts from Scarborough Health Network and Education Minister, Stephen Lecce, to voice your concerns and to seek their recommendations for reopening our schools safely. I assure you, that we will continue to work together with health experts and all levels of government to ensure that the people of Scarborough - Rouge Park are healthy and safe.

On behalf of my family and office, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a Happy New Year! I look forward to continuing to represent the people of Scarborough - Rouge Park. Due to the implications of COVID-19, I kindly ask that you please call my office at 416-283-8448 or email at vijay. thanigasalam@pc.ola.org to set up an appointment to discuss any matters with me. Thank you for your understanding, and I look forward to meeting you soon!



CONSTITUENCY 8130 Sheppard Ave. East, Unit 105, Scarborough, Ontario M1B 3W3
OFFICE (416) 283-8448 vijay.thanigasalamco@pc.ola.org

## HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

Please contact my office at (416) 283-8448 or vijay.thanigsalamco@pc.ola.org

if you need help with any provincial matters such as:

- Marriage, Birth, or Death Certificates
- Family Responsibility Office
- Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- Driver's Licenses, Health Cards, or Photo ID Cards
- Health Care Issues
- Education Issues
- Senior Services

#### **Important Numbers:**

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**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** 

WE ARE VOLUNTEERS who take time out of our day to make life in West Rouge better for everyone in the community.

### OUR PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS ARE:

- · to distribute information of interest to the community,
- · to promote and encourage participation in civic and community life, and
- · to monitor and act on those issues before our governments of concern to residents.

The West Rouge Community Association relies on your support. Please contact your street captain or any board member to learn more and to become a member!

## From the Publisher

Ken Kuzmich



Our community needs a new outdoor basketball court at the West Rouge Community Centre.

West Rouge and the West Hill area have always been a hockey hotbed. West Rouge will soon become a basketball hotbed – thanks to the Raptors and general growth of basketball across Canada. We already have our own basketball association (read the article in this issue of the magazine).

The demand and need are there. Everyday, I walk my dog by the current so-called court, which is really just a couple of nets stuck in the middle of a parking lot, and this joke of a basketball court is used even during the winter, where I often see it used on warmer days.

Aside from the need for something better, that parking lot must be the biggest waste of space in Toronto. By my account, the parking lot is full only 5% to 10% of the year and empty the rest of the time. We need to do better with these city assets.

I don't play basketball, but I have noted the strong usage and the idea to improve or replace it came to me when the West Rouge Community Association was discussing how to use "Section 37 funds".

Section 37 of Ontario's Planning Act is one of the key planning tools available to the City of Toronto to help ensure new development is accompanied by the necessary investment to enhance our high quality of life. Section 37 enables the City to negotiate contributions towards local community benefits for development applications that exceed a site's zoned height and density. Unlike other municipal financing tools such as Development Charges and Parkland Contributions, Section 37 benefits are provided primarily in the local community within which the development is located. Section 37 also provides greater flexibility and precision than other tools, allowing secured benefits to be direct, tangible, and responsive to local community needs. In the downtown wards, these kitties can be as high as \$500,000 because of the higher level of development and big projects. The townhouse development near our local No Frills at Port Union Road and Island Road generated a \$50K contribution

from the developer to the City under the terms of Section 37.

The problem is that a new basketball court costs about \$250K (renewal of the Heron Park court was \$150K) not \$50K, so the idea of asking the City to use the \$50K for this purpose is moot. In any case, the WRCA Board asked the City to allocate these funds for community signage, to enhance the profile of the West Rouge community and to enable better communication with regard to community activities.

While the West Rouge Community is slated to receive a refresh of the Bob Loptson playground in spring 2021, I inquired about the feasibility of a basketball court to be included in the scope of this project. Unfortunately, this can't be done. City staff advised that playground equipment is replaced every 25 to 30 years, which is considered the end of its natural life and when it begins to become a safety issue. Anyway, there's not enough money in the city budget for both.

How do we get a new basketball court? It is up to the community to push for this. In 2019, Toronto City Council endorsed the most ambitious parks and recreation facility development program implementation strategy in Toronto's history, representing a \$2.223 billion investment in recreation facilities across the city over the next 20 years. The money is there, we just have to push for it.

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2019-2038 (FMP) reinforces the City's commitment to providing high-quality parks and recreation facilities for all residents. The plan is informed by Toronto's growing and changing population, and by the ongoing high demand for parks and recreation programs and services.

Local advocacy by our community can show the City of Toronto that West Rouge shares an interest and desire to support capital investment in a basketball court. While capital budgets require long-term vision and advocacy of similar projects often has taken 5 to 7 years to take shape, I am hopeful we can lead this advocacy and have this improvement as part of our community in the future.



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## Jennifer McKelvie

Toronto City Councillor

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#### INVESTMENTS COMING TO WEST ROUGE

Through the spring and summer months, it was inspiring to see our community come together to support one another. We have celebrated birthdays with car parades, supported local organizations with donations and encouraged one another with painted rocks, sidewalk chalk art and messages of positivity in front windows. I am proud to represent the West Rouge community.

#### **SCARBOROUGH CARES**

As an immediate response to COVID-19, we launched CARES - Collective Action and Response for Everyone in Scarborough. This partnership between the City of Toronto, the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) and the crisis response organization, GlobalMedic, worked to tackle food insecurity in Scarborough. Staple foods including rice, lentils, barley, chickpeas, green peas and kidney beans were delivered in bulk by GlobalMedic and repackaged into 500 gram bags by staff and volunteers for direct delivery to local organizations and foodbanks. A bag of lentils in a grocery store may cost \$2.00 to \$3.00, but by buying in bulk, this initiative could produce that same bag for \$0.60. I am pleased to share that in four months, the CARES initiative packaged and delivered over 165,000 pounds of food, along with 15,000 Hygiene Kits, to over 50 community-serving organizations across the Greater Toronto Area.

Tackling food insecurity is a priority for my office. Thank you to the members of my staff who were redeployed to the facility and thank you to the members of the community who volunteered at CARES. Efforts like these show that even during challenging times, our community is able to come together to support one another. Thank you for showing that Scarborough CARES.

#### SUPPORTING LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Local restaurants are often called upon to support fundraisers, festivals and community organizations. With the impact of COVID-19, it is particularly important that we step up and support our small businesses, when possible. This spring, Tourism Toronto launched a new website called togotoronto.com. The new website made it easier for residents to support local businesses while also maintaining public health guidelines. My office, in partnership with students from Centennial College and UTSC's The BRIDGE, facilitated outreach to over 250 Scarborough restaurants to share information about togotoronto.com, the City's website building initiative, ShopHERE, and other available marketing supports. If you are looking to try a great new area restaurant, I share a different local favourite via social media on #TakeOutWednesday. To date, we have featured great local spots across Scarborough -Rouge Park, including Mark's Pizza, The Patty Stop and Fratelli's Village Pizzeria. I encourage you to join me and suggest some of your favourites!

### INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE Port Union Road

I am happy to share that the widening of Port Union Road is on schedule. To date, the following have been completed: pre-engineering, sub-surface utility investigation, the arborist report and exploratory digging to confirm the location of Enbridge infrastructure. In August, the Province of Ontario began the required work on the Port Union Bridge over the 401. This includes bridge rehabilitation and steps necessary to accommodate the City's road widening. Rogers commenced utility relocation this summer and will wrap-up by November 1. Enbridge will use the findings of their exploratory digging to determine where the gas main needs to be relocated to satisfy the road widening alignments.



My office will be organizing a community information session prior to the start of construction. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about this long-overdue project for our community. A date will be shared on my website and in my e-news.

### **Bob Loptson Playground**

In September, the City launched a playground survey to improve Bob Loptson Playground in West Rouge Park. The redesigned playground would include new playground and play elements, accessible play features and additional seating. Thank you to the families and young playground users who completed this survey. Construction is planned for spring 2021 and I look forward to cutting the ribbon with you.

#### Island Road and East Avenue Bus Stop

I am also pleased to share that in collaboration with

the Toronto Transit Commission, the bus stop at Island Road and East Avenue will be extended and made fully accessible in spring 2021. This design includes installing a retaining wall adjacent to the Black Dog Pub parking lot and extending a concrete pad on Island Road by 14 meters to meet the sidewalk on East Avenue.

#### **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

My office continues to serve you. We can be reached by phone at 416-338-3771 or by email at councillor\_mckelvie@toronto.ca. We can also meet with residents at our constituency office by appointment. Please sign up for my weekly e-newsletter at www. jennifermckelvie.ca to receive updates about these initiatives and more. You can also follow me on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter via my handle @ McKelvieWard25.

## **Gary Anandasangaree**

MP Scarborough-Rouge Park



3600 Ellesmere Rd, Unit 3, Scarborough, ON 416.283.1414 • gary.anand@parl.gc.ca

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have witnessed the unwavering resilience and close-knit nature of the West Rouge community. Be it the heartwarming birthday car parades, local restaurants generously providing meals to front line workers, or encouraging chalk messages of hope written on sidewalks and driveways across the neighbourhood, West Rouge residents continue to go above and beyond to support each other, and those in need.

#### FEDERAL RESPONSE TO COVID -19

Canadians have endured numerous, unprecedented challenges as a result of COVID-19. From small business owners to non-profit organizations, students to seniors, this pandemic has been a unique and life-changing experience for everyone.

Despite the obstacles, the kindness and compassion Canadians have shown one another is unmistakable. Our efforts have required great sacrifice, but we will continue to get through this together.

Like all once-in-a-generation challenges, Canada's response to COVID-19 required bold and immediate action. Our government delivered the most comprehensive economic response plan in Canadian history to help protect individuals and businesses across the country. This included the Canada Emergency Response Benefit which supported Canadians who lost their jobs due to COVID-19, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy which allowed businesses to rehire over a million Canadians, the Canada Emergency Business Account which has provided crucial relief to thousands of small businesses, and top ups for individuals receiving OAS, GIS, GST and the CCB.

This July, our government announced our plans to continue supporting Canadians and safely restart our economy over the next six months. The \$19 billion Safe Restart Agreement will invest in a number of targeted support measures, including the procurement of personal protective equipment,

increased testing and contact tracing, assisting municipalities with the delivery of key services, funding health care systems, providing additional support for vulnerable Canadians, creating child care spaces, and ensuring those without paid sick leave can take time off when necessary.

#### LONG TERM CARE

Like all of you, I was deeply disturbed to read the concerns raised by members of the Canadian Armed Forces who were deployed to long-term care homes across Ontario-- including the Altamont Care Community here in West Rouge.

The egregious mistreatment of residents, abhorrent conditions of facilities, and alarming pattern of neglect in long-term care facilities has become increasingly evident and requires urgent action. We cannot allow such gross negligence to continue.

After learning this horrifying news, I wrote to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier Doug Ford requesting immediate action, including the implementation of enhanced standards of care for long-term care facilities in Canada. There is no excuse for jeopardizing the health and safety of Canadians. We simply must do better.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL**

Many parents have contacted me about the tough conversations they have had regarding their children's return to school. As a parent, I know that this is a deeply personal and difficult decision. While teachers and principals have done an incredible job in preparation for the challenging year ahead, we cannot afford to take any risks. The Government of Canada's \$2 billion Safe Return to Class Fund will help support school safety, and as your Member of Parliament, I will continue working with parents, teachers, principals, and fellow elected officials to ensure that the safety of students, teachers, and staff remains our top priority.

## **GARY** ANANDASANGAREE, MP



SCARBOROUGH-ROUGE PARK



"During the COVID-19 pandemic, my team and I, as always, are here to assist you with all federal issues. Whether it is COVID-19 related federal supports or other inquiries, we are here for you."

## **Constituency Office**

3-3600 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough, ON M1C4Y8

416.283.1414 GARY.ANAND@PARL.GC.CA

Finally, as we approach the end of the year, let us remind ourselves of the lessons learned throughout this pandemic. The value of spending time with family, the importance of being there for our neighbours, the simple joy of a walk along the Waterfront Trail or in the Rouge National Urban Park, and the ability we all have to help shape a better tomorrow through simple acts of kindness.

As always, I encourage you to call me anytime at 416-283-1414 or send an email to gary.anand@parl. gc.ca. My team is eager to listen to your ideas and work with you to continue building a better community and country for everyone.

Yours truly,

Gary Anandasangaree





## Anu Sriskandarajah

TDSB School Trustee - Ward 22, Scarborough-Rouge Park

Please feel free to contact me: 416.395.8787 • anu.sriskandarajah@tdsb.on.ca



#### 2020/2021 SCHOOL YEAR UPDATES

We've heard from parents that they wanted smaller class sizes and Trustees approved more than \$30 million in funding to enable staff to develop a plan that would see the hiring of an additional 366 teachers and the redeployment of 400 central teachers to lower class sizes across the board to help improve student and staff safety in our schools.

Toronto Public Health identified some communities as being at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19. Schools in these communities will have JK/SK classes capped at 15 students, while Grade 1 to 8 classes will be capped at 20. In all other schools, JK/SK classes will be capped at 26, Grade 1 to 3 classes will be capped at 20, while Grade 4 to 8 classes will be capped at 27.

With regard to virtual school (or remote learning), students will be taking part in live online learning throughout the day and see class size caps of 29 in JK/SK, 20 in Grades 1 to 3 and 35 in Grades 4 to 8. To achieve these class sizes, the TDSB used money from TDSB Reserves (\$29.5M), the Ministry (\$6.3M), and the regular TDSB budget (\$2.9M). This approach balanced the urgent need to spend additional funds to lower class sizes, but doesn't get the Board into financial trouble in the years ahead by using too much of those reserves, much of which are set aside for employee benefits.

The federal funding announcement that was made in late August resulted in \$6.5 million for additional teachers. This funding supported approximately 60 more teachers. The funding also provided \$10.1 million for "school reopening emerging issues", which was used to support teacher staffing and to purchase technology.

A question I often get asked from concerned community members is the screening process in the schools. For the first two to four weeks, all staff and students were expected to conduct a self-assessment. They were expected to verify their self-assessment based on direction from Toronto Public Health. A self-assessment for students was verified in two ways: A parent or guardian signed the TDSB HEALTH PASS daily and the student showed it to the staff member at the entry door. The parent or guardian was also able to complete the assessment on the TDSB Health Screening App, which generated a QR code that a student scanned at the entry door (if they have a mobile device) or the student gave their name and the staff at the entry door verified the status. If a student did not have the verification to show their self-assessment was completed, they were asked if they were feeling well. If the student was feeling well, they were allowed into the classroom. Their names were noted down and their parents were contacted to provide verification. If they said no, they were brought to the Wellness Room. High school students were responsible for their own screening.

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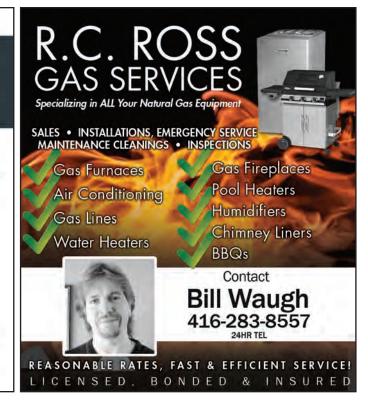
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## Environmental Stewardship in West Rouge

By Bob Hester | Photo: Paul James

We all love nature. Some of us have cottages where we can get away from the hustle and bustle of the city and relax by a lake or in the woods. Many of us take vacations or day trips to natural areas. But nature is under great stress everywhere, primarily due to loss of natural habitat, pollution and invasive species.

Environmental stewardship is the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices and works to ensure the sustainability of future generations of all other forms of life on earth. In simpler terms, it means caring about and caring for the natural environment.

It is easy to feel that one person's individual contribution could not possibly matter. However, many people taking action can have a real and substantial impact. In this article, I want to highlight things that we can do as West Rouge residents to improve our local natural environment. Many have been discussed in greater detail in my previous articles in West Rouge Life.

Native plants are an excellent alternative for the garden. They support local pollinators such as butterflies, bees, wasps, moths, ants, beetles and flies. Pollinator habitat is in short supply in urban areas and native plant gardens are essential to their survival in these areas. You can consider converting a portion of your lawn into a pollinator garden.

Many species of bee are solitary, using either tunnels in the ground, hollow plant stems or tunnels in fallen logs to lay their eggs. When managing your garden, leaving areas of bare soil, leaving plant stems standing in winter and not removing fallen logs will provide places for solitary bees to lay their eggs. You can also build nesting habitat for solitary bees.

Many native birds nest in cavities in dead or damaged trees, which are unavailable on most suburban properties. Bird houses can provide nesting opportunities for a variety of locally nesting native species. Examples are House Wren, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted

Nuthatch, Tree Swallow, House Finch and Northern Flicker. The sizes of the bird house and entry hole are specific to the species that you want to attract. The habitat in the vicinity of the bird house must be suitable for the species that you hope will use it. Also important is a removable side or bottom so the interior of the box can be cleaned out between nesting seasons. Nesting birds are territorial, so one bird house for a species is enough.

Bird feeders provide food for winter-resident birds when food is scarce. This improves their overwinter survival and fitness for the mating season. A bird feeder also provides fuel for migrating birds on their way to or from their breeding grounds. Regular cleaning of the feeder (to prevent spread of disease) and of the ground below the feeder (to avoid attracting unwanted pests and predators) is required. Location of the feeder is also important: away from windows and trees or shrubs. As with bird houses, you can either purchase or build your bird feeder.

A creative way to improve local biodiversity and, at the same time, reduce garden pests, is to install toad abodes, which are small shelters where the toads can get out of the sun and away from predators.

Invasive species spread aggressively and crowd out native plants. Examples are Dog-Strangling Vine, Garlic Mustard and Periwinkle. Removal of these invaders will allow the native plants to prosper.

Cats kill very large numbers of birds, field mice and chipmunks. If you want your pet to spend time outdoors, it should be tethered or in an enclosed area from which it cannot escape.

Research is required to make informed choices on improving your own natural environment. Fortunately the internet is loaded with information and plans. Winter is the perfect time to think about what you can do next spring.



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Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup> was a successful day for us – we held our First Virtual Uplifting Party to support our local women's Shelter – Julliette's Place. It was a fun day of learning, sharing and raising funds. We are happy to report that we raised almost \$6,000.00! 100% of this money goes directly to fund the shelter.

## Thank you to everyone for making this Party so successful!

To the incredible presenters for donating their time, energy and fantastic demonstrations, (in order of presentation time) **Penny Lee** Physiotherapist, **Jennifer Beckford** Home Designer, **Dino Dilio** Make Up Artist, **Jennifer Tryon** Crafter, **Katheryn McLean** Chef, and **Liz Furlong** – Mixologist

And thanks to the hero's at the shelter who shared their experience and discussed how the pandemic has effected their operations, and of course, to everyone who participated and/or donated to this worthwhile cause.

If you would like to watch the video and highlights of the day, please visit us at, www.HeatherLemieux.com - click on ABOUT and go to Community Involvement, the link is <u>Virtual Uplifting Party Review</u>

















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## West Rouge Basketball: Daring to Dream

By Kristina Laukkanen



What started out as a community engagement initiative for

children in early 2019, suddenly grew and evolved into a full Basketball Club that has become the pioneer basketball club in the beautiful West Rouge community here in Toronto. A joy to parents and a delight for the children and youth.

As 2018 came to an end, it saw Coach John and his family migrate to Canada and to continue working to positively shape the lives of children and youths using sports and recreation as an avenue to achieve this.

By the end of 2019, West Rouge Basketball had planted itself in the community engaging over 250 children every week in various activities and several communities.

West Rouge Basketball deploys Quest 2 and High Five Principles of Healthy Child Care development to engage and deliver qualitative programs to its athletes.

WRouge Basketball is a sport and recreation club in the heart of the West Rouge community in Toronto, Ontario. It is designed to engage children in fun and exhilarating activities giving kids from age 4 and up, access to quality sports at an early age, while partnering with parents and society for positive children upbringing.

At the center of it all, is a passion and desire to use recreational activities to communicate values to our kids/athletes, keep them healthy and inspire them to dream.

Below are some of the activities of the Club:

- All Star Girls Basketball Teams
- U4 and U6 Starters program
- Teams from U8 to teenage teams (JR Boys Team)
- Summer camp
- And other community engagement initiatives.

The Junior Boys Team is designed for teenagers and it's an avenue to run leadership training and mentoring, so the athletes can positively contribute to their families and society at large.

The sudden emergence of the pandemic didn't stop recreational activities, as we engaged in online Saturday live sessions for athletes. This can be seen on our YouTube and Facebook Pages @ westrougebasketball

An important objective of the club is to bring families and community together. This initiated several programs within our organization which included:

- Moms who Love Basketball
- It's a Family affair
- The Last Dance
- Athletes Unite
- Solidarity BLM programs 1 & 2

Finance has never been a barrier for any child being part of the club, as Coach John has always approved scholarships for athletes who desire to play. Furthermore, the club has been running free Wednesday basketball programs and also free weekly soccer programs every Saturday for kids in the community. Photos, parent's comments and testimonies can be seen on our Facebook page and website www. westrougebasketball.ca

West Rouge Basketball has also become an ambassador for West Rouge, as we have initiated programs in other communities in the City and we call it "From West Rouge With Love". These programs are meant to add our voice to helping children and youth have positive upbringing in several communities in the city of Toronto.

You could view several Programs and events on YouTube, Facebook or our website. Facebook and YouTube are more frequently updated.

#### **OUR TEAM**

West Rouge basketball has 20 coaches, and 12 of them are parents and residents of the West Rouge community. The passion that our volunteers bring to our programming and the spirit that it carries throughout is truly the heart of our organization which makes these programs possible. Here is what one of our volunteer coaches had to say since joining:

"I met Coach John at a school silent auction evening and once I heard what he was bringing to our community, I immediately wanted to be a part of it. Being witness to the very beginning and seeing the impact that it has had on the kids has been tremendous. Organized sport is more than just about sportsmanship - it's about dedication, confidence building, teamwork and most of all, fun. This truly creates a solid foundation of life skills that these kids may not otherwise have had access to. Becoming a coach has also enriched a part of my life that I didn't realize I had room for.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 25** 

## Highland Creek Community Association



By David Adamson, President, Highland Creek Community Association

Since my last report submission in January 2020, we have been challenged with the COVID – 19 pandemic outbreak. This has impacted not only our respective communities but the country and the world. Certainly, our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones. It was necessary for Highland Creek to cancel the annual Heritage Day event in June as well as postpone our Annual General Meeting that was scheduled in April 2020 at the UTSC. We must continue to maintain safe distancing practices, the wearing of face coverings, avoiding large crowds and of course washing hands on a regular basis until this pandemic is eradicated. Thanks to all the frontline and healthcare workers and those working behind the scenes for their dedication and commitment.

#### LONG TERM CARE FACILITY

On June 23, 2020, I had the opportunity and privilege to attend Altamont Long Term Care Facility, along with MP Gary Anandasangaree, to provide a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Councillor Jennifer McKelvie who was in attendance at a City of Toronto meeting at the time. The Military personnel present were made up of various sections and had completed their 'tour of duty' in dealing with the coronavirus outbreak. This was the second and final group deployed at Altamont. The soldiers and all involved were recognized for their excellent work and dedication.

### **COMMUNITY PRESIDENT'S MEETING**

The HCCA hosted the President's meeting on July 9, 2020 maintaining safe distancing practices and other COVID protocols. Those present included representatives from Highland Creek (David Adamson & Bill Yarn), Centennial (Kathy Rowe), West Rouge (Kathi Loughran) and Guildwood (Jim Whitney). Elected representatives MPP Vijay Thanigasalam, along with Councillors Jennifer McKelvie and Paul Ainslie were also in attendance. A number of issues were discussed that ranged from: HCCA- proposed UTSC 9 story student residence

building on Ellesmere/Military Trail (subsequently approved at the Scarborough Community Council on July 17, 2020), BRT transportation plans that involve the widening of Ellesmere Road from Kingston Road to Military Trail in a residential area to accommodate bus lanes and development plans within the Village of Highland Creek.

**CCRA** - Coronation Drive Waste Processing and Bio-Gas plant development proposal.

**WRCA** – closure of Chesterton Shores level crossing as per plans by Metrolinx.

**GVCA** – steps to increase membership in community associations with related input.

These meetings allow each organization to provide and discuss updated information within their respective communities and also for the elected officials to share relevant information. We will continue to hold these meetings and the next meeting was planned for the fall of this year, although this could change due to COVID protocols.

#### **R.C.L. HIGHLAND CREEK BRANCH 258**

As previously reported, the current location of the Legion at 45 Lawson Road was sold in May 2019. The Legion's new home will be at 305 Morrish Road. This location was purchased in February 2020 and is where the Salvation Army was previously located. Before moving in, reconstruction work will have to be done and hopefully the Legion will be able to move in during the spring of 2021. In the meantime, the Legion is still open for business with revised opening days and hours and all are invited to attend. In closing and on behalf of the Highland Creek residents, we extend our best wishes to you.

David Adamson, President Highland Creek Community Association Telephone # (416) 2817758 Email: dw.adamson@rogers.com

## **Local Literature**

By Noelle Jack

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your pre-teen?

Why not consider an exciting novel to entertain her during the long winter evenings ahead?

This local author has her second novel in publication at the moment. **Being Pete** will be available on-line, the easiest way to get hold of books during COVID, both as a paperback and an e-book from Archway Publishing, Amazon, Chapters and Indigo, by late November, 2020.

#### **SUMMARY**

Driven to meet her cowboy hero at whatever cost, 12-yearold Natalie opens a Pandora's Box of problems in her bogus letter to the Tex Canyon Foundation. In her attempt to impress the judges, she presents as her father, a war hero she has never met and all this before passing herself off as a boy.

When confronted with these lies, Natalie is forced to navigate her way through a labyrinth of evolving untruths, that ultimately lead her to the young soldier falsely referred to in her letter! Only now does she learn what a real hero is made of. But is she too late to set the record straight? The imminent collapse of her plans and the shaky reconstruction of a more admirable outcome drive the plot forward.

#### **EXCERPT FROM BEING PETE**

Natalie slowed her steps just enough to read the ad again and saw something she'd missed the first time, the last line ... telling him why you should be one of the three lucky boys chosen, and you could win this chance of a lifetime! She stopped mid-stride. "So, it's just lucky boys, is it? Not lucky boys and girls. No fair!"

Crumpling the offending section of the newspaper, she flung it into a heap on the floor. Rex picked it up and tried to hand it back, but Natalie's mind was not on her dog. He dropped it and sat forlornly looking up at her.

It was happening again, wasn't it? Another door slamming in her face that said, 'Girls Not Allowed!' What about all the girls who would love this adventure? Don't they know girls have dreams of cowboys too? She sure did. She would adore riding into the sunset or the sunrise, or even the fog, if Tex was riding beside her. How she'd love to slip on buckskins and jangling spurs, feel the flap of leather against her legs, her face shaded under the broad brim of a Stetson hat. And once that sun had slipped over the horizon, she'd consider it heaven to just laze around a campfire while some old harmonica wheezed melody to the rising sparks and the stars above. Natalie sighed at the wonder of it knowing that's exactly what she wanted, given the chance.

And so help her, she would have that chance. She snatched up the crumpled paper and stomped into the kitchen, Rex trailing behind her. She yanked spatulas and spoons out of the utensil drawer, tossing them onto the counter, in search of a pair of scissors. Then, brandishing her cutters, she smoothed out the page as best she could, slicing up one side of the contest ad and down the other. Rex pushed against her legs, trying to lick her hand and as much of the paper as his tongue could reach. Together they made such a mess, with Rex's mouth in the way the whole time, that she ended by stuffing the rest of the mangled paper into the garbage hoping that no one would miss it.

\*\*\*

Dear Tex, Natalie began, upstairs at her desk hunched over a sheet of her best writing paper, her hands still shaking with emotion. She regretted the butterflies on the corners, but it was all she had. My name is Natalie McIntyre ...

Natalie stared at those opening five words for several seconds. What would the contest judges think when they saw that a girl had written in? Would they just toss her letter in the waste basket? ( to be continued...)

## West Rouge People

Shirley Samis - Long Time Resident of West Rouge

By J. A. Purmalis

A few words come to mind when describing Shirley Samis. Joyful. Fun loving. A hoot! This incredible mother of five has called West Rouge home since 1959. You may find her relaxing on her porch, sipping iced tea, watching the world go by, her iconic (or is it...ironic?!) cow statue positioned right next to the front steps.

In 1958, Shirley was living with her husband Ted ("Sam") (they met at Smitty's Family Restaurant) and their three children in a basement apartment at the corner of Danforth Avenue and Danforth Road. Bursting out of their small space, Shirley and Sam knew their children needed a walkable public school, green space to explore and a kind community to grow up in. Shirley's best friend's uncle was a real estate agent, and it was he who drove the family out to the newly developing West Rouge.

"I thought we were going to North Bay!"

Shirley recalls the long drive east; West Rouge might as well have been North Bay or Timbuktu for all she knew. Raised in the Beaches neighbourhood of Toronto, the far east of Scarborough (which was Pickering back then) seemed like a world away. She describes what she and Sam had driven so far to see: a 20 x 20 structure - a living room, kitchen, washroom (only a tub and toilet) and two bedrooms. Four hundred square feet. Five rooms. Their future home.

Cashing in an insurance policy and combining it with their life savings, the Samis' purchased their "cozy cottage" on Island Road in 1959. Due to the fact that it was on a septic system, and with a desire to add more space for their growing family (two more children would soon join the household), Sam dug out a cellar to provide the boys with their own room and dug trenches for pipes from the house to connect to the sewer line. Shirley laughs when she describes the work her husband put in, "he dug so far down, you couldn't even see him!"

When Shirley describes the West Rouge she raised her family in, three C's come to mind: community, comradery and company. She describes a community of young families, friends and neighbours "floating back and forth" between houses, children happily playing in the multitude of green spaces, (tobogganing the hill at Ridgewood was



a popular winter activity), everyone helping everyone else out. She reminisces about late-night bonfires, backyard pool parties and her and her friends saving their beloved clubhouse by purchasing it from Pickering for \$1.00. The Township of Pickering wanted to tear the structure down. After it was saved, the clubhouse was used for dances and parties. No one was wealthy, no one's home was huge, but comradery and company were in constant supply and the safety, love and support were priceless.

Fascinating fact: West Rouge was part of the Township of Pickering when Shirley and Sam bought their home in 1959. It became part of the Borough of Scarborough on July 1, 1973. West Rouge then became part of the City of Toronto in 1998. Shirley and her family have lived in three different municipalities - Pickering, Scarborough, and then Toronto - without ever moving!

In addition to raising five children, Shirley and Sam worked hard in their careers (with lots of time for fun and whimsy thrown in for good measure). Shirley began her working life at General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) which was once the financing arm of General Motors. When she got pregnant, she quit her job (as was the norm back then) and Sam worked for a man named Fred in Whitby delivering vegetables. Later, he got a better job with Scarborough Township, after waiting patiently day after day at the township offices (which were then on Eglinton Avenue) until they finally hired him! When her children were older, Shirley returned to the workforce, enjoying a long career with the TD Bank, starting at West Rouge Plaza (yes, there was a TD bank there back in the day) and eventually becoming the branch manager at Kingston Road and Warden and then at the Woodbine and Danforth location, where she retired from in 1994.

Sam always enjoyed working with his hands; fixing cars was his passion. He also enjoyed driving antique cars and he was known to drive his 1920s/30s Ford Model A during the Highland Creek Canada Day Parades. Sam passed away peacefully at his home in the spring of 2013.

Shirley has been quite busy in her retirement, "enjoying life" as she puts it - spending time with her 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, travelling the world (name a city, country or continent, she's probably travelled there: Spain, Portugal, Africa, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, the list goes on...) and being involved with Probus Clubs and Rotary Clubs, the former being seniors clubs focusing on meetings, speakers and charity work and the latter focusing on local or international causes and handson projects.

Of West Rouge, she has nothing but affection and the best of memories, "It is a great place to bring your kids up."



This article was written by J. A. Purmalis who moved to West Rouge in 2011. She is a Grade 5/6 teacher in the Toronto District School Board. This is her second article for West Rouge Life.

### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21**

Slowing down and making time to volunteer has brought so many joyful moments on Saturday mornings - I'm so proud to be a part of this coaching team and organization."

- Kristina Laukkanen - U4 Program Director/U8 Coach | Local Resident | Mom of Two

By 2019, a year after migrating to Canada Coach John had already received several awards from TCHC, TCHC/MLSE, KIA, TCHC/ Jays Care Foundation funded programs for his contribution to positive children upbringing through sports in various communities in Toronto. Coach John, has been the Junior Team basketball Coach at Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute for the past two seasons.

Coincidentally, Coach John Emore hails from the same nationality and tribal extract as the Toronto Raptors President Masai Ujiri. John believes that somehow and someday he will be a role model to teenagers and children all over Canada, helping them have a positive upbringing, impacting their spaces and ultimately sparking a passion in them to Dare to Dream.

#### **WEBSITE & LINKS:**

www.westrougebasketball.ca www.coachjohnacademy.ca www.facebook.com/westrougebasketball www.youtube.com/westrougebasketball

Phone +437-972-5554

## **Pets Corner**



By Renée Petersen

#### HAPPENINGS AT THE TORONTO ZOO

By the time you read this article, fall will be well underway. Our very own Toronto Zoo has had many wonderful events happen, from the Scenic Safari to Pedestrian walkways, Wild encounters, the blooming of Vincent van Gross the Corpse flower and Terra Lumina. Such a special place to visit for the whole family, to be outdoors as well as being able to tour the pavilions and enjoy the wildlife and nature from around the world. The fantastic staff and volunteers at our Zoo make it a welcoming and safe outing for the whole family. As the situation in the city with COVID-19 changes, so many events at the Zoo, so keep checking on their website to see what is new and exciting!

Did you know that Service animals are welcome at the Toronto Zoo? There are guidelines as to what animals are allowed, documentation requirements and areas of the Zoo that are open for service animals. Specific information can be found by contacting the Toronto Zoo or checking on the Toronto Zoo website under Accessibility – Service animal. www.torontozoo.com/tz/serviceanimal.

#### **ANIMAL WELLNESS IN CHANGING TIMES**

Speaking of pets, just as life has changed for us, so has it for our companion animals. Being home more, spending more time together – wonderful. Now work times and places may have changed, children may be back in school – new routines for all and days perhaps more hectic than the past summer months. Some pets will adjust well and others may need a little extra TLC to get through the changes. Perhaps a dog walker may help – someone from the community who would like some exercise and connection with a companion animal. Training should always be a part of your dog's life, incorporated with play time to make it fun. Your furry feline pal may also benefit from some playtime set aside.

From Ontario SPCA and Humane Society: Animals experiencing stress that can develop into separation anxiety may exhibit the following signs when you are away from home:

- Urinating and defecating house trained dogs having "accidents" indoors.
- Barking, howling or whining.

- Chewing, digging and destruction of household items.
- Escaping from their crate.
- Excessive drooling or panting.
- Pacing in a fixed pattern when separated.

Some things you can do to help reduce the risk of stress developing into separation anxiety for your furry family members. The earlier you can start these routines, the better!

- Create a consistent daily routine. If your pet went on two walks per day when you were home, keep that routine moving into the next few months.
- Mealtime should be given at roughly the same time every day.
- Before going back to work/school, "Nap time" or "Quiet time" should be used as a rest time throughout the day. This is to help your pet adjust to being alone by giving them some time away from you.
- You can also practice going outside for a few minutes and then coming back. Your furry friend needs to learn that when you leave, you will always come back.
- Provide them with self-entertaining toys, chew toys or other independent activities.

Remember your furry friend needs time to adjust to your new routine, so be patient and keep an eye out for how they are acting during these times!

For more animal wellness tips, visit ontariospca.ca/blog

### **CHECKING OUT THE TURTLES**

An outing to consider – a visit to the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre in Peterborough. No, not in the Rouge, but it is a wonderful place to learn about the turtles who inhabit the Rouge, turtle rescue and rehabilitation, and how we can help turtles survive. To find out about booking a tour, email: education@ontarioturtle.ca. Check out their website for detailed information about the centre! https://ontarioturtle.ca/

I wish everyone a good winter with plenty of outdoor time and fun times with your companion animals!

## West Hill - Highland **Creek Lions Club**

Serving the East Scarborough Community for 75 years



By Marius Ois

Our Annual Waterfront Run for the Lions was held June 27 on a virtual basis. The weather was favourable, benefitting the run participants. Lake Ontario's higher water level had no negative impact on our run route, as it did in previous years. We thank the many volunteers and members from other Lions Clubs in the region who assisted us with the event and we appreciate the contributions from our loyal local business sponsors listed on our website. Please note that another Run, the Ron Moeser Memorial Fun Run, organized by the West Rouge Sports and Recreation Association, took place on October 3rd on the same waterfront route, using a similar virtual format.

On June 27, our Lions Club presented bursaries to students at the Commencement celebrations of Sir Wilfred Laurier C.I. and West Hill C.I. The award presentation at Sir Oliver Mowat C.I. will take place in the fall. This is an annual Lions Club Award to students for outstanding achievements in community service. A monetary contribution was also made to Maplewood High School for their Commencement celebrations.

Our fund-raising efforts, such as our Waterfront Run, Rain Barrel Sale, and Craft and Gift Sale at Heron Park Community Centre in December, provide the monies we contribute to summer camps such as the CNIB Camp Joseph and Lions Camp Kirk. Fundraising also pays for bursaries, support of the local food bank throughout the year, contributions to the East Scarborough Storefront, Special Olympics, Lions Dog Guides, and Lions programs for youth and the blind, as well as for Lions International Efforts, such as Disaster Relief. All this could not happen if it were not for the volunteer work of our dedicated Lions Club members. In order to keep the many programs alive, we depend so much on our members. The more members we have, the more we can make good things happen in our community. Our Club Membership Growth Plan is an ongoing effort to attract new community-minded individuals to join the West Hill-Highland Creek Lions Club, a club that offers friendship and companionship - a kind of social club with a purpose! We operate out of the Heron Park Community Centre on Manse Road at Lawrence Avenue East.

We always welcome inquiries about what we do, how members of the community can assist us and how to become a member. Check our website lionsclub.ca to find out more about what we do and how to get in touch with us.

VOLUNTEERING IS THE BACK BONE OF A HEALTHY COMMUNITY.



Student Views from Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute

#### THE MOWAT TRANSITION

By Jonah Hartley, Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute, Grade 9

Moving into high school I was entirely prepared to encounter change. After all, I was progressing from my modest middle school into the massive community that is Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate, and it was mine to explore. With that, I received increased individualism, which is something always exciting for someone my age. It also carried an air of uncertainty, and I trembled as I processed my new reality taking my first steps into Mowat last September. It was one of the most considerable changes I had ever undergone, and as with most change, it came with bumps along the way.

Integrating into my new school meant learning on the fly, a lesson that has turned out to be very useful right now. It was a totally new experience, and in the first few moments of entering the building, I had been greeted by caring teachers, passionate student leaders, and a massive line of infamously rowdy high schoolers that I had to join. Grade nine did not begin perfectly, but as with all transitions, it quickly turned out for the better. Within a week I had met so many new uniquely interesting people. I found out that all of my peers were just as nervous as I was, and we bonded over our shared anxiety.

I see that same spirit in our community as well. Throughout this pandemic we have come together with our collective fears and helped each other through. There has been a precedent that we do whatever we can to aid whoever needs it. From drive-by birthday parades to food donations for essential long-term care staff, and even small business support campaigns, we have changed as we needed. It is the small headaches of this awful situation that lead to unity, and a united community becomes something more. It becomes a home.

But homes change with the people in them, and our community citizens have been constantly changing for the better for a very long time. Just a couple of decades ago, we desperately needed an improvement for our stark lack of diversity. In fact, the main hallways of Mowat feature pictures of the graduating classes, and they demonstrate how Mowat lacked the perspective that an ethnically diverse school has. At one point we had garnered a very fitting nickname: "Mo-White". But compared with the rest of our area, we excelled to a point that a placement in Mowat was so coveted that

students would register with alternative addresses to attend. The need for change was sometimes hard to see, but it was there. While Mowat might have looked good on testing scores or applications to attend, it didn't provide opportunities for everyone.

The change began in our community. We grew from a largely white, quiet, Toronto suburb into a dynamic mix of all backgrounds that took our community to a higher level. Breaking down those barriers took time and courage, but that perseverance was worth it. New students were given an opportunity to bring their talents and experiences to Mowat that they could not have before. So just like our community, Mowat changed for the better.

Student life at Mowat now features options for every personality and meaningful connections are unavoidable. It's remarkable how decades of our community history have shaped Mowat. Without the success we have had in building our area, Mowat wouldn't have seen its success right now. There is still room to improve, and uncomfortable change takes place, now more than ever, but it is constantly for the better.

Best-selling author C.S. Lewis says "There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind." Whenever school comes back it will surely be very different, but we will change as needed, and it will be for the better. Mowat grew and learned with the community in the past, and evolving through this challenging period in history I know we can continue to be that meticulous example we have always been. I am ready to see the wonders that the future holds in store.

#### **RACISM AND THE MEDIA**

By Maja Ting, Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute, Grade 11

In the racial strife that has rocked our world over the past several weeks, lack of media representation may seem a very "first-world" problem. It is clear that people are not always just mocked for who they are, but sometimes murdered and brutalized because of it. However, better media representation goes a long way in breeding compassion. Movies and TV shows play an integral role in modern-day society. Nothing influences attitudes and trends as strongly as primarily visual forms of media,

Student Views from Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute

condensed in easily-processed graphics and soundbites. However, movies often encourage the domination of people of colour by promoting white traits as the only positive social norm. As it becomes increasingly clear that being simply "not racist" is simply not enough, we can start becoming anti-racist by filtering what we see onscreen through non-Caucasian-constructed lenses - and pushing for more accurate representation of people of colour on the big screen.

Movies cast countless "beautiful" Caucasian actresses, but fail to acknowledge that these actresses represent a tiny minority of women. This advocacy of just one type of beauty is a form of systemic discrimination against certain people groups - especially black women. Black actresses who are chosen to play major roles in movies, if they are chosen at all, are often those who fall close to the "thin, white" beauty standard. Well-known black actresses include Zendaya, Kerry Washington, and Zoë Saldana, who are all slender and have relatively fair skin and long, straight hair. To many, black women such as these actresses are beautiful because they "act white" or "look white", and they are widely upheld as standards of black beauty that other black women should strive for - when, in reality, they actually represent a multiracial beauty. This attitude is not just racist in itself; it makes the white norm invisible and deracialized, and it becomes common sense to many that black women are, at best, less beautiful than white women and, at worst, ugly. It appears that, despite the colourblind language that society has adopted, actual attitudes as espoused by the media have barely changed over the past couple of centuries from those once held by slave masters and traders.

While black women routinely face criticism for not being "white" enough, Asian males often face a similar yet distinct problem. Because Hollywood wants the exoticness of a "hot" Asian main character, but does not want an actor who actually looks Asian, the actors chosen to play Asian male protagonists in mainstream movies are often "Wasians" - partly white, partly Asian - who look more white than Asian (think Henry Golding, Charles Melton, and Daniel Wu). Furthermore, the positive representation of casting "Wasian" males in likable lead roles is a fairly new occurrence - one that cannot undo the many previous,

offensive, one-dimensional portrayals of Asians: Jackie Chan, continually insulted by his co-stars' characters, his English too poor for him to understand; Fu Manchu, the cruel and calculating villain, his name an Anglicized rhyme neither Mandarin nor Cantonese; Mickey Rooney as the perpetually enraged Mr. Yunioshi in Breakfast at Tiffany's, smacking his lips - which barely close over exaggerated buck teeth - with lust over Audrey Hepburn.

When watching movies, it is a basic impulse to feel the same things as the characters on-screen. Movies almost universally provoke reflection and important conversations, influence attitudes, and spark joy. Even in the Age of Globalization, not many cities are as diverse as Toronto - and, even in Toronto, how many of us are exposed to cultures outside our own in ways that don't involve screens? Most broad generalizations of certain people groups probably find their roots in inaccurate media representation. That is why it is so important that the media takes care to pass on - and we take care to consume - correct, compassionate information. Culturally rich movies with casts made up mainly of a visible minority - such as Crazy Rich Asians or Black Panther - occasionally emerge, but Hollywood still is not trying as hard as they should. We need more non-white characters - not as political statements, but simply as accurate representations of the people they are supposed to portray. Accurate representation of people of colour will help breed compassion; inaccurate representation insidiously breeds hatred. That is why we must demand more from Hollywood, and raise the standards for our media consumption.

## **BLACK LIVES MATTER HERE**

By Daniella Dumbrique, Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute, Grade 12 In the midst of a pandemic, it warms my heart to know

some still refuse to turn their backs on injustices of human rights. Recently there has been an uptake in the discussion of police brutality and systemic racism through the Black Lives Matter movement. With the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery in the US, as well as Regis Korchinski-Paquet in Toronto, people are growing more tired of headlines announcing yet another innocent black life lost

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at the hands of the police. Even though slavery has been abolished since the 1800s, it's clear to see the poisonous roots it has dug into our society. In Canada, Indigenous peoples also face injustices disproportionately given the size of their population.

On May 29th I went to a peaceful protest in downtown Toronto, objecting to the death of Indigenous-Black Canadian Regis Korchinski-Paquet being declared a suicide. Regis' mother called the police to help Regis, hoping they would bring her to Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health after a family conflict left her distressed. Once police arrived, her mother and brother were not allowed inside and the last words they heard her say were, "Mom help. Mom help. Mom help." The protest called to release the information the police have withheld from the media. Knia Singh, the family's lawyer, said, "The process must be fair, and unfortunately the way [Special Investigations Unit] investigations are conducted now limits transparency" (Nasser, CBC).

The organizers of the protest took precautionary measures in order to ensure a safe demonstration was maintained, as per the family's request. We were instructed to keep 2 meters of distance between protesters and wear face coverings. The protest began at Christie-Pits Park and was originally scheduled to end at Queens Park. Due to the presence of anti-BLM protesters, organizers travelled backwards through the march and informed us that the new destination would be the Toronto Police Headquarters.

It was extremely refreshing to see so many activists and allies of the Black and Indigenous community risking their safety to attend the rally. I was so relieved that the protest involved no violence, looting or arrests. Everyone respected one another's opinions, and it served as an amazing example of how a peaceful protest should occur.

Unfortunately, not every demonstration has had this result. With the presence of social media, it is even easier to be exposed to the looting, rioting and violence that sometimes occurs. While opinions on the correct way to facilitate change at these protests vary, it is important that we consume media and formulate opinions carefully.

It is very easy to become distracted and lose sight of the core message of Black Lives Matter. We cannot ignore the presence of systemic racism in North America, and the consequences it carries. We are not meant to ignore race, but celebrate and appreciate every human's uniqueness and differences.

This makes me wonder about how Black Lives Matter is impacting our own community. With a predominantly white student body, Mowat students have faced our own issues with diversity and acceptance. As cocaptain of Mowat's Multicultural Council, I was able to investigate first-hand the cultural dynamics of our school. It was amazing when students came together during our heritage month events and celebrated as well as educated themselves on various cultures. However, it always worried me that students didn't truly care about inclusion and diversity, as much as they did about getting cheap patties and samosas from our events. It also began to concern me that Council participation began to decrease as the year went on, and we saw very little involvement from the younger grades.

Black Lives Matter is not just a trend. It speaks on deep rooted discrimination and how we view one another as fellow humans. I believe this movement is powerful enough to ensure another death is not swept under the rug, and will continue to create change through legislation. This stems from us as individuals recognizing our own privileges in society, and using them to dismantle systemic racism. I'm so grateful for the staff and administration at Mowat who are working to include new perspectives in the curriculum, and hope that it fosters a greater understanding of how the past has shaped the present. In turn, I hope the younger generations at Mowat continue to fight for equality and inclusiveness at Mowat and in our community.

Work Cited: Nasser, Shanifa. "Release evidence in Regis Korchinski-Paquet death or turn it over to outside agency, family lawyer says." CBC News 10 June 2020. https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/regis-korchinski-paquet-toronto-1.5606704

Student Views from Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute



## **LOCAL LESSONS ON COVID AND RACISM**By Iman Hassan, Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute, Grade 12

Poulter, Sean, and Jessica Green. The picture that shames selfish Britain: Heartbreaking image shows pensioner clutching shopping list facing empty shelves stripped by panic buyers - as supermarkets are forced to start rationing. 2020.

When you look at that picture, what do you see? An elderly man looking at a piece of paper? Or an elderly man who looks lost? Or perhaps just some empty shelves that need to be restocked with products? If you are not aware, that picture went viral after Canada and the WHO (World Health Organization) declared Covid-19 a pandemic. Panic buying became a part of this pandemic. That picture explains this situation very well.

This pandemic may seem negative to a lot of people, but it has brought so many good things to the human race. I had never thought that I would live through a pandemic and I'm guessing you probably didn't either. Living and going through a time where schools, workplaces, and even businesses had to be closed, shocked me. However, we did not lose hope. Many countries found ways to cope and continue education and businesses virtually. Thank God for globalization!

Despite waiting in long lines while social distancing in masks and gloves, this virus has taught me many things. It has made me become more grateful for food, for a home, a bed, and a family to be around. Many people did not have the facilities that we do even before this pandemic. Thinking about the less fortunate has made me become more patient, empathetic and grateful. I have also learned that for many others out there, living at home may not be the easiest, like it is for most of us. Some have mental illnesses such as OCD, depression, anxiety, and trauma. For them, staying in the same place can make their symptoms worse. Some things that I have started doing in these hard times to keep my own mental health well are: going outside for walks, biking with my family, writing, reading, drawing, and even putting together a 1000-piece puzzle! It's amazing what staying at home can make you do.

I have also realized that this pandemic has humbled a lot of people. Many people who were always ready to boast about themselves or make someone else feel low verbally, physically, or even by social media, have become better people. My family and I connected with relatives and family members that we hadn't seen in years. Others have started spending more time with their loved ones. The overall climate of our planet has gotten better. Many horrible things have happened in the past and most of them have been dealt with and solved. If we as humans can survive through many pandemics and wars, then we can survive and hopefully make it through this one.

Talking about horrible things from the past, racism continues to be an ongoing issue in the world today, especially racism and police brutality. Recently the murder and death of a black man named George Floyd by a Minnesota policeman sparked a lot of attention in the media and around the world. Protests, riots, gatherings, and videos surfed the internet all around the world. So where exactly am I going with this? I want to bring this into consideration because police brutality is an ongoing issue but racism is a bigger one. The fact that the man who was killed was black and his killer was white, angered the world. People from all backgrounds, religions, classes, colours stood up for this one life that was taken unjustly.

Racism is a disease and another virus just like COVID-19, one that infects and kills a person's love and humanity. It is an act of hate, discrimination and injustice based on the colour of someone's skin. To me, racism is a horrible way to take someone's rights and life away from them.

There are many topics that address and talk about racism in Islam. This is one of them:

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"All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also, a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action." -The last sermon of Prophet Muhammad before his passing away.

Many well-known figures have also spoken about racism in Islam and how it contributes to society. el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz for example said:

"America needs to understand Islam because this is the one religion that erases from its society the race problem. Throughout my travels in the Muslim world, I have met, talked to, and even eaten with people who in America would have been considered white, but the white attitude was removed from their minds by the religion of Islam. I have never before seen sincere and true brotherhood practiced by all together, irrespective of their color."

When talking about the people he saw on his pilgrimage to Mecca, he wrote:

"Their sincere submission to the Oneness of God, and their true acceptance of all nonwhites as equals makes the so-called 'whites' also acceptable as equals into the brotherhood of Islam with the 'nonwhites'. Color ceases to be a determining factor of a man's worth or value once he becomes a Muslim. I hope I am making this part very clear because it is now very clear to me.

Reflecting on all these verses and quotes, I can say that no one is born racist and that racism is in fact something that is learned or developed over time. I think if you surround yourself with more people of different races, colours, and backgrounds, you will start to understand and like them for who they are, not for their skin colour or status. Educating yourself on other races, cultures, and religions is also another great way to end racism. Lastly, speaking up during acts of discrimination and injustice also decreases racism.

I have a friend group of different races, cultures, backgrounds, and skin colours. Despite our differences, we love and support each other for who we are as humans, not as a Muslim, or a Christian, or a White or a Black but as HUMANS.

However, I have to say that it was not always like this. To be honest, when I first went to my high school, Mowat, in grade 9, I noticed it was filled with a majority of white people and for a while I did not feel comfortable being in an environment with not as many brown people or people of my race and culture. I thought I would have a really hard time fitting in and making friends with people of different races because I was so used to being in an environment with only brown people and brown culture. I now realize that I have been missing out from being a part of a school community with different races of all kinds being in peace with each other despite their cultural, religious or political differences. I love to see humans of all kinds loving, caring and supporting each other no matter their race, culture, or religion.

I am so happy to have friends of all races. It has taught me to be more open-minded, inclusive, confident, and less hesitant to talk to them. Being in a friend group like this has broken barriers of racism, discrimination and unnecessary feelings of hatred and I hope many other people who have not yet opened their minds to love, unity, and the peace experience, will do so, and hopefully very soon.





## From The Archives

Some things change ... and some things stay the same, as you can see from this excerpt from the Winter 1987 issue of the West Rouge Community Flyer.

The West Rouge Ladies Club flourished in an era when women were not allowed to join Lions Clubs and Rotary Clubs, but alas is with us no more.

Then there's speeding. It's been a big issue in our community this year, but evidently not a new one.

Happy reading!

#### WEST ROUGE LADIES' CLUB

In 1951, two enterprising ladies, Doris Dick and Ethel Dand, got together and decided that the West Rouge needed some social activity for female residents.

At the time, about 75 families resided in the West Rouge, and Doris and Ethel invited many of the women residents to tea. This proved such a success that it was decided to form a club that would have regular meetings. Thus was born the West Rouge Ladies' Club. The first meetings were held in various members' homes, until the Club became so large that new premises had to be found. The "new" West Rouge Public School allowed the Club the use of one of the classrooms for the meetings.

The West Rouge Ladies' Club (WRLC), is both a social and a service club. Throughout the years, it has raised many thousands of dollars through bazaars, dances, raffles, bake sales, fashion shows, auctions, etc., for the benefit of needy families in the community when tragedy strikes.

The West Rouge Public School (in the years when the area was part of Pickering Township and funds were scarce) benefitted from the efforts of the WRLC through the donation of playground equipment, a film projector and screen, an annual scholarship for the boy and girl with the highest marks, books for the school library, etc. Many other needy causes also received assistance from the Club. The Retarded Children's School in Whitby is one good example. The Club's recent activities have raised money for the Emily Stowe Shelter for Battered Women, and will continue to help in time of need.

The social side of the Club includes theatre and dinner parties, outings, pot luck suppers, summer barbecues, and a Christmas party with gifts, games, a terrific supper, and even Santa Claus Him(Her)self!

Much more could be written about the WRLC and its past activities, but space does not permit. We meet in the teachers' lounge at West Rouge Public School on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m. The annual membership fee is a mere \$2.50 and Club meetings are run on parliamentary lines with a full Executive and an annual election of Officers. The WRLC extends a most cordial welcome to all ladies in the community to join us at one of our meetings.

WE WORK A LOT! ——WE PLAY A LOT! ——WE HAVE FUN!

If you would like to know more or would like a member to introduce you to the Club meetings, please call: Pat Williams, any time at 282-6818.

## SPEEDING

We are experiencing problems with speeding on many of our streets, especially Rouge Hills Drive.

Many of our streets do not have sidewalks; therefore, the children must walk on the roads.

Even though the speed limits have been decreased, there are still people speeding along Rouge Hills

Drive. Please slow down and obey the speed limits before a severe accident occurs.

Other streets which have speeding problems are Island Road, Fanfare Avenue, and East Avenue.

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## West Rouge Sports & Recreation Association



By Louise Redgers Bonnycastle, President

As you all know, these have been trying times for organizations. We have had to cancel all of our scheduled events since mid-March. The Board and I feel very unhappy that we have been unable to continue to promote a sense of community and have fun and safe events for everyone. As we move into the Fall and unknown territory, we are reluctant to make any promises about events as we do not want to disappoint.

We are trying out new ideas and old things in a new way. We offered a photography challenge complete with prizes for the youth of our area over August and early September. Other ideas are in the works and will be posted on both the West Rouge Resident's Facebook Page and our website.

Our annual Ron Moeser Memorial Fun Run took place virtually this year on October 3. Runners were able to run the course, time themselves and enter the information at their convenience, allowing for social distancing and safety of course.

As I write this report, we are currently working on an outdoor Halloween event for the little ones in the Parking Lot and Fields behind the West Rouge Community Center. While it won't be the fun and games of previous years, we are hoping to have a walk-through event with some treats for the little ones at the end.

The Pumpkin Parade that has become a community favourite over the last couple of years is also being worked

on currently. We will have to adhere to public health and safety guidelines but are hoping to put on some sort of display at the Port Union Community Center on Sunday, November 1.

We are unable to run our annual Holiday Artisan Sale as we have in the past. The sheer number of people involved prohibits this under current rules. I would still like to offer the local artisans a way to sell their wares to our local residents virtually, so I am working on a possible way to connect vendors with shoppers via our website for the Holiday season. Email me if you are interested.

Breakfast with Santa cannot be run as it has in the past. We may have to try something else or take a pass for 2020, but we will see where the path leads us.

We are all looking forward to 2021 and some great events to come. More movies, more activities for kids and seniors, the return of our Parking Lot Sale and so much more. If you have ideas, I would be thrilled to hear from you. We want West Rouge to have the best community spirit in the entire city!

Louise Redgers Bonnycastle President, West Rouge Sports and Recreation Association

Email: Louise@wrsra.org Website: SportsandRec.ca



## The Zoo Report

When did you last visit the Toronto Zoo?

By Dolf DeJong, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Zoo

The past months have been difficult for us all as we have worked together to deal with the challenges of COVID-19. Your Toronto Zoo has worked hard to reinvent ourselves to reflect the 'new normal' as we continue to navigate through this strange time. When you return, your Zoo experience will look a little different as we work at continuing to flatten the curve and take the steps required to look after everyone's well-being. Our one-way walking paths, with additional safety precautions, is a great first step to reconnect you with your favourite Zoo residents when you are ready to come visit



- Online Booking To Purchase Time-Tickets Before Your Visit – allowing us to socially distance our guests and manage capacity
- New One-Way Walking Paths
- Additional Cleaning Protocols
- Wearing of facial coverings, are mandatory for persons
   2 + years of age and who are medically capable, when inside buildings, including our restaurants, bathrooms and pavilions.
- Hand sanitizer stations throughout the Zoo
- Scenic Safari Drive-Thru Still Open! Enjoy your Zoo from the comfort of your own vehicle

As you know, our not-for-profit Zoo has been hit hard since we closed to the public on March 14 due to COVID-19, as we rely heavily on earned revenues from



our guests to support our operations. As a result of this pandemic, we have worked tirelessly to develop new revenue generating opportunities (like Scenic Safari, Camp Wild Tails and reopening Terra Lumina earlier in the season) and introduced new onsite operational measures to try and maximize our ability to host you safely. We know how important it is to you to connect with our animals and participate in our important conservation work. It has been perplexing at times and I am so proud of our team for their work protecting your safety, as well as that of our staff, volunteers and the animals in our care.

Our mission remains connecting people, animals and conservation science to fight extinction. Thank you for your patience and enthusiasm as we do our best to keep you connected to changes onsite at your Toronto Zoo.

An important subject that COVID-19 has highlighted and brought closer to the forefront is the significance of community and collaboration. As our new Strategic & Master Plans clearly outline – our community is our champion for wildlife conservation and local support of your Zoo is critical.

With that in mind, your Toronto Zoo is excited to be taking steps to bring our Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus (TZC3) - a new gathering hub for our local community - to reality. The revitalization of our front entrance is a critical next step to modernize your Zoo, serve underrepresented communities, build connections and enhance awareness of our mission.

We know that our organization can better serve the community by creating opportunities for people to connect with nature, learn about conservation, and participate in events at a facility located at the Zoo's entrance. The TZC3 will provide the community with access to animal exhibits, multi-use spaces, a changing exhibit hall, conservation facilities, an event space and theatre outside of the Zoo's main gates, ensuring accessibility for all.

For more information on what we are up to at your Zoo be sure to follow us on our social media channels and I look forward to seeing you at the Zoo soon. Thank you for your ongoing support!

## Membership Report



By Larry Whatmore

### SUSTAINING COMMUNITY LIFE DURING A PANDEMIC

Greetings to all. How are you doing? Normally, I would have enjoyed rubbing shoulders with you at our many community events and programs this past spring, summer and fall. But of course, 2020 has turned out to be a year of social disruption and isolation, the likes of which we have never seen before. And adapting to this wasn't easy.

Here in West Rouge, we've been more fortunate than many. If you had to be in quarantine, work from home, or you couldn't go anywhere because so much was closed, West Rouge is a pretty nice place to be confined to. Those living in congested neighbourhoods, apartment towers or in communities without green space had it much harder. The congestion we experienced on Rouge Beach this past summer bears this out.

It has also been a challenging year for WRCA and for the many other volunteer-led organizations in our community.

The very purpose of a neighbourhood association, a community club, or an event organizing committee is to create social cohesion in our community. This creates the bond that keeps West Rouge socially connected and reinforces the sense of pride that we all feel about living in such a beautiful neighbourhood. But how do we foster social cohesion when we can't come together?

Fortunately, we have benefited from some good digital alternatives. We have vibrant local Facebook sites, managed by local volunteers. The WRCA website, Facebook page, e-newsletters and signage became even more important as community connectors. And if you're like me, you have embraced the wonders of Zoom to connect with friends and family, near and far.

But for most of us, digital connectivity isn't the same as good old-fashioned, in-person connections. We look forward to getting back to this in 2021.

Coming out from under the shadow of COVID is going to feel like relaunching our community out of hibernation. To do this well, we will need our community association and our volunteer community networks like never before.

WRCA looks forward to being a catalyst for this community relaunch. And we can all play a role in this: as a volunteer, a member, a financial supporter or a participant.

I want to thank all community members who purchased a membership this year at a time when we all had more important things on our mind and when many were experiencing financial stress. Thanks to you, WRCA is in a good place to be a financial catalyst for this relaunch.

This is also a great opportunity to think about involving yourself in community life. For many of us, the best way to overcome social isolation is through social immersion. Get involved and volunteer for one of the many great organizations serving our community. Care to chat about this? Please contact me or our president, Kathi Loughran. We will be happy to meet with you, preferably in person!

2020 has been a year to "batten down the hatches" and "ride out the storm". Let's make 2021 the year in which we renew our neighbourhood connections and fully embrace all that living in West Rouge offers us.

Larry Whatmore Membership Director (416) 562-2101



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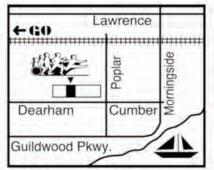
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After discharge from hospital, many patients should be referred to a rehabilitation hospital or clinic to regain strength and return to independent functioning. It is very important that Physiotherapy begin as soon as possible after surgery to ensure a prompt recovery.

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The exercise program is gradually increased based on the healing time of that particular surgery. We find that using modalities such as laser, ultrasound and Electro-Accuscope help to heal and repair the wound faster with less pain. Our treatments typically last from 45 minutes to 1-1/2 hours, depending on the condition being treated.



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# **Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans Care**

Please Help, Donate Today

By Evy Lang





It is a warm, sunny afternoon sometime around late August. On this particular day, unlike the many scorching, stifling days we have experienced this summer, there is a soft, tranquil breeze blowing nonchalantly through the trees. It gently strokes the verdant blades of grass on the front lawn, mischievously chases a busy little bee, that really has no time for such nonsense, and playfully ruffles the wisps of snowy cotton candy on Vincent's\* head as he sits, like he does most afternoons, in front of the Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans Care, watching the evening crew arrive for their shifts.

They are a lively bunch! Sporting freshly pressed bright-coloured scrubs alive with tropical blooms, beloved cartoon characters and other amusing, cheerful patterns. They greet each other with smiles, compliments, bursts of laughter, and bubbly, animated conversation. They do this while hurrying to the front door, as there is not a moment to waste – everyone will need to complete the COVID-19 screening process, clean their hands, and put on a fresh mask before they head over to punch in and prepare for their shift. The usual questions will be asked and answered, temperatures taken, signatures scrawled swiftly in boxes on forms that have become such a regular part of daily life it is hard to imagine the time they did not exist.

They greet Vincent with waves, grins, and the occasional "How are you?" and "What a beautiful day!" He smiles and nods in agreement. Though he doesn't always catch their words, the tone of their voices and the warmth in their eyes tell him all he needs to know. A couple of minutes later, the morning crew starts to head out. They too are friendly when they walk by, albeit much more subdued. Their movements are slower; their empty lunch bags hanging limp by their sides, their scrubs just as colourful but not quite as crisp as when they arrived, their hair a little looser and their makeup faded after a day's work. They pull off their blue masks and inhale deeply. They munch on apples or take long swigs from water bottles. Some

head to the parking lot, others towards the bus stop up the street. Vincent watches them go, off to now put in another shift at home cooking dinner, caring for children, parents, or spouses, doing laundry, cleaning bathrooms, feeding pets. Making sure again that everyone is looked after, their needs met, all the tasks completed, before they head to bed to rest their weary bodies so that tomorrow they can do it all again.

Vincent feels a hand on his shoulder; it's Claudia\*, his evening Personal Support Worker. She is asking if he would like anything from the nourishment cart before she returns it to the kitchen. He normally takes only a cup of coffee but this time he asks for cookies with it; the breeze has roused his appetite. She returns with both momentarily and ensures he has a good grip on the cup before she lets go. She puts the cookies on a napkin on his lap and he thanks her. He will enjoy his snack outside before returning to his room to watch a sitcom or two on Chanel 11 prior to joining his fellow residents in the dining room for dinner.

The breeze continues to dance on the grass; butterflies chase one another among the soft pink blooms of the Rose of Sharon that graces one of the gardens; squirrels race across the parking lot, hunted by an invisible adversary. The busy little bee buzzes on, happily unaware of the variety of activities taking place in the unassuming brick building behind her that would make even her own hive seem like a sleepy little cottage in comparison.

If you would like to learn more about the Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans Care, please visit us at www. tonystaceycentre.ca or contact our Executive Director at TSCAdmin@universalcareinc.ca

Evy Lang Manager of Operations Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans Care

(\*) names have been changed in the interest of privacy





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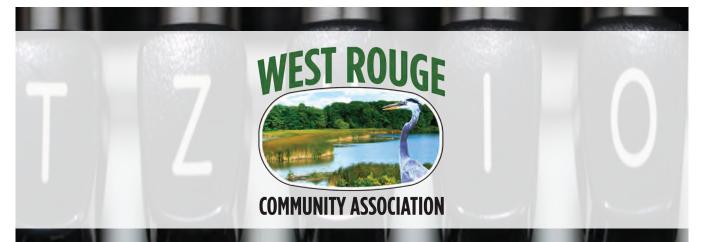
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Volunteer publisher wanted to take West Rouge Life to the next level. Manage, write, edit, and create this magazine two times per year. Training and support provided.

Contact WRCA President – Kathi Loughran - loughrank@hotmail.com

## West Hill Baseball League

By Greg Blazina



### COVID KEPT KIDS OFF THE FIELD THIS PAST SUMMER, BUT LEAGUE IS OPTIMISTIC

The West Hill Baseball League was forced to cancel baseball this past summer to avoid any chance of passing COVID-19 between players, coaches, umpires and spectators. A dedicated group looks forward to getting kids safely back to the baseball diamonds next season.

People ask me what I do in the winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring. - Rogers Hornsby

Each year close to 600 kids aged 3-18 take to local baseball diamonds donning West Hill Baseball uniforms, and many of those kids live in West Rouge. Before anyone steps on the field, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes. A new website, refined logo, field permits, winter training (thanks to the volunteers who run this for free), and a thorough inventory of equipment is managed. All of this is done by volunteers with a connection to the community and appreciation

for the game of baseball.

We should also recognize the local businesses who sponsor the league each year. Donations and sponsors from local businesses help to keep registration fees affordable for families, reducing the cost that might prohibit some kids from playing baseball. In addition, this is a great way for families to see which local businesses support the community they live in.

The West Hill Baseball League is committed to getting everyone back to the field next summer. Planning for the 2021 baseball season will begin during the fall of 2020 and registration opens in January. We hope to see familiar faces returning to the diamonds next year and hope readers will remind family and friends it is never too late to learn how to play baseball.

Greg Blazina Director of Sponsors West Hill Baseball League sponsors@westhillbaseball.com





# Waste Incineration Too Close to Home

By Kevin Narraway (West Rouge Community Association) Kathi Loughran (West Rouge Community Association), Kathy Rowe (Centennial Community and Recreation Association), David Adamson (Highland Creek Community Association)

### PROPOSAL FOR LARGEST WASTE PROCESSING AND BIO-GAS PLANT IN ONTARIO OPPOSED BY SOUTHEAST SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY

The community of Southeast Scarborough is surrounded by natural beauty. Bounded to the east by the Rouge National Urban Park, to the south by Lake Ontario and the Scarborough Bluffs, to the west by Highland Creek, and to the north by the Toronto Zoo, our neighbourhood features some of Toronto's greatest natural and cultural treasures.

Unfortunately, as we move forward with recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and enjoy the outdoor spaces in our neighbourhoods, we now find our community threatened by a proposal to build in our midst at 633 Coronation Drive, Scarborough, the largest waste processing and bio-gas plant in the Province of Ontario. To learn more about the proposal, please visit www.westrouge.org.

We are concerned that our community is being considered as a "sacrifice zone", as we are living near an industrial park that presently includes a wastewater treatment plant and seven chemical plants operating on or near Coronation Drive. The significant emissions from these facilities (cancerous or non-cancerous) are among the highest in Toronto according to ChemTRAC 2019 report.

If the proposal for a large-scale waste processing and bio-gas plant moves forward, the following environmental, health, and social harm could come to our community:

- Traffic conflicts and accidents on local streets because of the increase in truck traffic;
- Waste spillage in the local area from open air trucks servicing the plant;
- Odours, noise, and gases polluting our local parks and making the Waterfront Trail undesirable;
- Contamination to our drinking water supply due to leakage from the plant into the nearby Water Treatment Plant which serves hundreds of thousands of residents in Toronto; and,

 Harm to local animal species from emissions and gases generated by the plant and the truck traffic to service the plant.

This proposal will create a large-scale waste processing and bio-gas plant that will:

- Add heavy truck traffic through local streets in the order of 200 trucks per day, 24 hours a day;
- Add noxious gases into the environment including one particular gas that exceeds provincial limits by more than 300 percent; and,
- Add over 10,000 tons of Greenhouse Gases into the environment just from truck emissions alone.

In 2015, the community worked with the City of Toronto to modernize the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant located not far from this proposed development. The City listened to the concerns of the community, and after completing health and traffic studies, chose an option that avoided the need for five waste trucks leaving the plant each day, as it had the least impact on the environment and health, safety and welfare of local residents. The proposed large-scale waste processing and bio-gas plant, which will involve between 20 to 40 times as many waste trucks per day, is being considered through the provincially mandated Environmental Compliance Approval process.

We are asking the Provincial Government to consider the concerns of our community, including environmental and health concerns. We request the Provincial Government to work with the City of Toronto to find a more appropriate place for this waste disposal facility and ensure that it is not located in a neighbourhood.

The Community Associations of Southeast Scarborough, along with local residents, are working together in opposition to the proposed large-scale waste processing and bio-gas plant. We ask residents to encourage local politicians to stop sacrificing our neighbourhoods. There are more appropriate places for dangerous and harmful facilities than southeast Scarborough.



William Jacob, *D.Pod.M.*Anney Chih Chun Liu, *D.Ch.*Raj Sarangarajalu, *Regd.Pt.* (Physio)
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## West Rouge Real Estate Report

By Elizabeth Ayling, Sales Representative, Royal Lepage Connect Realty



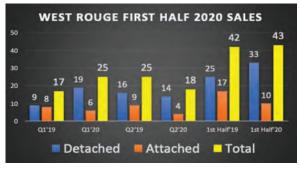
For the first time ever, the average detached home price in West Rouge has surpassed one million dollars! And, has out-performed the general GTA market.

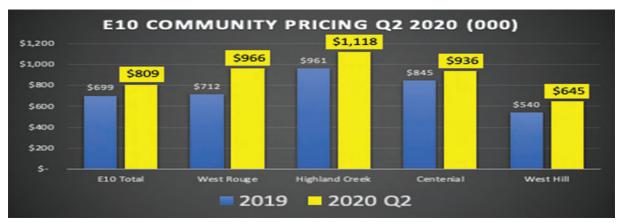


This represents about a 27% increase over the 2019 average price. This kind of price growth was seen through the 416 and 905 areas of the GTA, with 21% and 19% increases respectively. The West Rouge increase in average sales price for all house types (+35%) led the way compared to our neighbouring communities and E10 (the larger Toronto Real Estate Board area that we live in).

Across the GTA, August 2020 real estate performance compared to the same period a year ago was up across all metrics. Home sales were up 40%, new listings were 57% higher, the average price was up 20%, and homes are selling more quickly, as the average days on market has dropped by 33%.

West Rouge performance has been similar for Q1 and Q2 2020. Overall sales are on par with last year, but detached home sales are 32% higher for the first half of 2020.







Elizabeth Ayling has lived in West Rouge for over 20 years, raising two daughters in our community, and is your West Rouge expert. This article is paid for space in West Rouge Life. If you would like a quarterly in-depth update on West Rouge real estate please contact Elizabeth at 905-831-2273, eayling@trebnet.com Not intended to solicit properties currently under contract. Data as per TREB stats.

# Letter to the Publisher

Who needs cottage country when you have West Rouge?

By Jeysheel Dharmaraj

Yes, indeed! When did you last take a creative stroll without any pressures, wild thoughts about to do lists, or the future minus electronic devices?

I am glad that I did just that and have been addicted to doing this more regularly. Not sure if it was boredom or my courses on critical thinking that stimulated me to do something a bit different. I love walking but decided to do it really leisurely and not like I was on a "training for the Olympics schedule."

I am very glad that I did this! I let my mind wander and decided to do the walk alongside Lawrence Avenue towards Rouge Beach. I walked slowly and tried to notice details, hear the sounds from insects and birds, smell the wildflowers and grasses near the marsh, feel the quiet and beauty of my natural surrounding right here in West Rouge. The ducks swimming in tranquility, the red winged blackbird comfortable in her habitat, and the clear blue skies were a painter's dream.

The sudden sound of the oncoming rush of metal on the tracks brought me back to the reality of our chaotic world and even this sound was something different that brought a beautiful harmony of nature and industry. As I walked, I realized the awesome beauty of this area and the reason we can be thankful. I can go on, but this was a veritable treat for the senses.

As I approached the lake, I observed the patience of the fisherfolk with their lines, relaxing on chairs to get a bite! And as I turned the corner, I took in the expanse of Lake Ontario and its slow rippling waves and families with kids taking in the water and the sand. The numerous leaves and slow changes in colours by the Bluffs was something to stop and savour. There were several options to explore, either keep going to meet Port Union or return to explore the three side paths around the marsh. Idling boats and faster motorboats went about enjoying the breeze on the calm waters of Lake Ontario. I discovered there's so much right here in our backyard that it can take months if not years to explore streets, hiking trails, walking paths, either on your own two feet or rent a bike at the GO station and shoot the breeze.

Escape the pollution of cars, traffic, clogged highways and sometimes unwelcome stares in cottage country, by making this your cottage country! Rediscover West Rouge for yourself, gently and slowly!

Written by Jeysheel Dharmaraj, a resident of West Rouge, who likes creativity, writing, cooking, exploring, stamps, coins, books, travel and people.



## Rouge Park Report

Enhancements to the Rouge Beach and Marsh Area of Rouge National Urban Park

By Kelsey Bowles

In the age of physical distancing, it has become increasingly evident just how important outdoor green spaces are to us all, especially in urban areas. In Toronto, more than 40% of residents live in an apartment or condo and staying cooped up in a small indoor space can be draining and have an impact on one's well-being.

This is where protected areas like Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) come in. An urban escape accessible to millions of GTA residents, the park provides room to roam close to home. It's about to get better, and Parks Canada is asking for your help to do it.

In 2019, Parks Canada started planning several enhancement projects as part of the establishment of RNUP. One of these projects aims to implement improvements to the Rouge Beach and Marsh area of the park at Lake Ontario. The Rouge is a national urban park within the West Rouge's backyard, and we recognize that members of this community have invaluable insight about the area that will undoubtedly enrich our plans. We hosted a series of community tours in the area in February 2020 and had originally planned to host a public information session this past April, but unfortunately due to COVID-19, we had to put a hold on in-person engagement. We would like to build on the momentum and great feedback from the community that we've received so far. In order to do this, we have moved our engagement online until it is safe to host in-person sessions again.

LetsTalkRougeNUP.ca is an online engagement platform that Parks Canada is using to collect your input and hear from you. At this website, members of the public can learn more about park projects, and provide comments, feedback and suggestions. If you prefer, this tool is also available in French at ParlonspunRouge.ca.

If you would like to get involved, all you need to do is register for an account and you will be able to have your voice heard every step of the way. Our top priority is to ensure that community members are involved in our process from beginning to end, and beyond.

One thing we've consistently heard is that Rouge Beach is an area of particular interest to the West Rouge community. In recent years, the Rouge Beach access road and parking



lot have experienced significant flooding events, requiring the closure of the lower parking lot for most of the summer season. Infrastructure enhancements to improve both the natural environment and visitor access are topics at the forefront of discussions surrounding Parks Canada's proposed project for this area. Furthermore, a new trail and boardwalk that will provide an in-park connection from Rouge Beach to the Mast Trailhead is being explored.

At the heart of these proposed improvements is species at risk protection and ecological restoration, along with continued efforts to protect and enhance the Rouge Beach and Marsh, and reduce the impact of erosion around the parking lot and day use areas.

Parks Canada also has plans to increase law enforcement presence in the area with Park Wardens, as well as park staff to provide educational programing, outreach and visitor services. Did you know that in 2019, Parks Canada responded to more fisheries violations in the Rouge, primarily at the beach, than any other national park in Canada?

The Parks Canada team at RNUP is working diligently to ensure enhancements to the Rouge Beach and Marsh area help to significantly improve the natural and cultural integrity of the area, and foster meaningful connections to its natural beauty and rich history.

Parks Canada looks forward to continuing to work with the West Rouge community to enhance, restore and improve the Rouge Beach area, and we sincerely appreciate the responses we have already received from the community.

As the Let's Talk RougeNUP online platform grows, it will provide Parks Canada staff at the Rouge with the ability to share information on different projects as well. Each project will have its own page within the site and a dedicated place to provide your comments and feedback. So be sure to check back for newly-added projects or updates.

For more information, or if you have any questions about the proposed projects to enhance the area, please register for an account on the letstalkrougenup.ca website or contact Parks Canada's Rouge National Urban Park Projects Team at pc.projetsrouge-rougeprojects.pc@canada.ca. West Rouge is my home.
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By Paul Cookson, Marketing Consultant, paul@adarmygroup.com, 416-271-7994

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Next, if your current sales are in the tank because what you sell isn't needed or it's not possible because demand has dropped due to closures or rules in place due to the pandemic, then it's time to pivot to gain back your lost sales.

Think about what some businesses have done to survive, as you think about ways for you to do the same.

Some restaurants to make up for lost sales created a "senior meal" program for local seniors.

A dress manufacturer in Toronto immediately started making masks to help fill the huge demand for masks.

Dyson designed & built ventilators to fill the huge demand for them at the outset of the pandemic hitting North America.

The reality of dealing with stay at home orders, decreased product availability due to factory slowdowns, and in some cases complete shutdowns plus huge price increases has made it critical for business owners to look for solutions in creatively adapting and identifying gaps in the current market.



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## **Local School Report**

A Time of Change and Growth at William G. Davis Junior Public School

By Nick Gordon



### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Last year was certainly an interesting one at William G. Davis Junior Public School. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the strength and resilience of our community shone through and I was continually impressed by our amazing students and their families.

As the principal of Davis from 2015/16 to 2019/20, I had the pleasure of watching all of our students develop into caring, mindful leaders who have the ability to bring positive change to not only the Davis community but the world beyond. Every day when visiting classrooms or virtual gatherings and speaking with students, I was impressed by their thoughtfulness, ingenuity, and creativeness – which is what learning is all about.

I was also encouraged by all of the physical enhancements to Davis during my tenure. For instance, I'm excited to announce that over the past several months, Davis continued with its school yard enhancement and had many more trees planted, organized by our Parent Council. Over the summer months, Davis also received additional outdoor natural wooden benches to support yet another outdoor learning area.

We believe that by adding these additional outdoor learning spaces, we have provided Davis students with learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom walls and support inquiry and experiential learning opportunities. It is my hope that once we return to school this September, Davis will continue with plans to further develop Davis' outdoor learning spaces, so that the entire community can enjoy the beautiful space that Davis has in a safe manner. These learning spaces are the result of the advocacy of our amazing Parent Council, which continues to lead and push for additional enhancements.

Mr. Nick Gordon, Principal, William G. Davis Jr. P.S. (2015-2020)

### MESSAGE FROM DAVIS PARENT COUNCIL

Like with many things, these times will continue to have an impact on the efforts of Davis Parent Council and, we suspect, many other Parent Councils in our City. Just think of all of the vibrant school fundraising events organized by our community Parent Councils over the years – shout out to the West Rouge JPS Fun Fair and the Charlottetown JPS Winter Fair, just to name two. And, of course, I have to mention the success of our very own Davis Social Night and Silent Auction, an evening event open to the whole community. After a year off, we're hoping to combine two years of effort into one awesome Social Night in 2021! Stay tuned. In the meantime, we will be continuing with our other successful school-level fundraising efforts at Davis, to the extent we are able in the present COVID climate.

Amazing local events like the Davis Social Night help raise funds for things like computer equipment, outdoor recreational structures and equipment, expert speakers and special educational events. They also contribute to the fabric of our community with fun and inclusive events for all. We are most fortunate to have such an engaged community where this type of support for the sake of our children is possible.

For our part, Davis Parent Council has already been getting the creative juices flowing on how we can best engage the school and broader community this year. We also continue to look to how other important aspects of our work, like advocacy and support, play into our next steps.

Along those lines, Davis Parent Council has decided to start a committee consisting of representatives from the Parent Councils of public schools in the areas of West Rouge and Centennial. Our goal is to connect like-minded volunteers during bi-annual meetings, so that we can discuss local initiatives, support one another and share ideas. To join this local Parent Council collaborative committee, please email us at insanicm@gmail.com and we'll add you to the email list. We look forward to connecting with your Parent Council! We're also always open to suggestions on how to partner with the West Rouge community at large, so please feel free to contact us with those ideas, also.

Davis Parent Council

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Toronto's Municipal Information Hotline (for problems in t	he community) 3-1-1 416-338-9050
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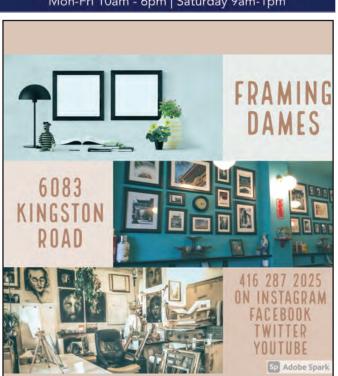
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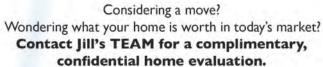


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Outside Back Cover RE/MAX - Sophia Tan

**MARCH 1, 2021** 

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Inside Back Cover

Ravine Auto Repair Centre

Inside Front Cover

RE/MAX Rouge River Realty - Trish French

For Advertising PLEASE CONTACT GITA FOR DETAILS







Trish French & Team

416-286-3993











### RF/MAX ROUGE 4

Salesperson in Rouge E10 2018 & 2019

## Thank you...

It has been an honour and privilege to serve so many families here in 2018, 2019 and over the past 35 years. Thank you for your trust.







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Tire Sales, Servicing, Repairs, & Replacements on site.





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Fall / Winter Special Includes:

Oil & Filter change with multi-point inspection
Visual brake inspection & tire rotation, if required
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Test battery & charging system
Test cooling system operation
Check fluid levels/condition

Check lighting and tire pressures
Road test Environmental fee applies

\$54

.95+tax

