



April 2011 Newsletter



Garden Party - June 20

Mark your calendars for Monday June 20th at the home of John Sabiston and Vida Stripinis, 2136 Grange Drive for the annual Garden Party. Enjoy the company of your neighbours, catch up on all the neighbourhood news and enjoy the serenity that only Gordon Woods can offer.



OMB Ross Appeal

The Ontario Municipal Board has scheduled a 3-day hearing to start on Wednesday May 4 at 10:00 am in the hearing room in the Mississauga Civic Centre, 300 City Centre Drive. The final scheduled day is May 6. Last Spring, Mr. Ross applied to sever his properties which front on both Parker Drive and Lynchmere Avenue into a total of seven lots. The three proposed lots on Parker conform to the zoning whereas the four on Lynchmere do not. The Committee of Adjustment considered the application in October 2010 and denied the proposed severances. Mr. Ross subsequently appealed the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board and the May 4th hearing is to consider the appeal. Both the City and area residents expressed concern that the proposed lots would result in an excessive number of trees being removed. The City suggested that Mr. Ross proceed by means of a rezoning application rather than land severance so that an optimal design could be achieved that would strike a balance between tree removal, the character of the neighbourhood and the right of Mr. Ross to develop his property. The Gordon Woods Homeowners Association supports the position of the City and encourages all interested residents to attend.



Tree By-law

In July of 2009, a significant number of trees were illegally removed from a lot on Premium Way. Charges were laid under the Tree By-law and a conviction was obtained. Similarly in July 2010, a large number of trees were removed from a Gordon Drive property and again charges were laid under the tree by-law. At the initial trial in October, the case was stayed until May. What these two infractions have demonstrated is that the existing tree by-law is ineffective at controlling the removal of trees. The GWA brought its concerns to the MIRANET (Mississauga Ratepayer Association Network) steering committee and discovered that the experience in Gordon Woods was not unique; similar situations had occurred elsewhere in Mississauga. Hence, several other Ratepayer Associations shared the opinion that the existing Tree By-law was broken and needed to be fixed. MIRANET formed a Subcommittee with representation from four different Ratepayer Associations. This Subcommittee drafted a report and discussed it with Councillors Tovey and Mullin at a meeting on April 6. Both Councillors also shared the view that the existing by-law had shortcomings that needed to be addressed. Councillor Mullin moved a motion on April 13 that directs City Staff to study the problem and propose changes to the Tree By-law. The main

issues identified by the MIRANET draft report are: 4 trees per year is excessive; single large trees require protection; the existing fines are not a deterrent; and tree removal contractors that are employed by the property owner also be made liable to fines, thereby adding an element of self-enforcement.



Your Thoughts?

We all love the Gordon Woods neighbourhood, its trees, its quiet streets, its special atmosphere - that's why we choose to live here. However some of us have less time and/or interest to become directly involved with neighbourhood and city issues and the GWA. Whether you have the time to become personally involved or not, we encourage you to help us take care of the neighbourhood on your behalf. You can do this in two ways, both important:

- The first is to communicate with us via our email, gordonwoods@rogers.com. Let us

know what you think about issues facing our community and our city. We cannot try and reflect your interests and concerns unless we know what you think.

- The second is to ensure you are a paid member of the association. The more members we have out of the total number of Gordon Woods' residents, the more influence we have as a group with the City. They will listen to numbers!

GWA Executive Committee

