



April 2012 Newsletter



www.gordonwoods.ca

The GWHA website has been up and running since December with over 1,200 visits so far. We sincerely hope that residents are taking advantage of the information that we are posting on a weekly basis as this becomes our main forum for information exchange. We encourage you to visit regularly and to pay particular attention to the Development Issues section.



Community Liaison

The GWHA executive is working with the City Planning and Rezoning staff and our Councillor on a number of issues emerging in our neighbourhood. In order to keep lines of communication open with all concerned it is important that we approach these issues in a thoughtful, productive and professional manner. To that end, Sharon Giraud, President of Gordon Woods Homeowners' Association has been designated our community liaison. Sharon is working with our Councillor's office and other parties, diligently gathering information to share with residents via our website. This is no time to be burning bridges...let's keep the communication flowing in a cool, calm and collected fashion that will help all of us make informed decisions.



Development

Check out the Development Issues section of our website for current events such as...

2167 Gordon Dr – Raffi Konialian, present owner of the property at 2167 Gordon Drive (previously owned by Janoscik) has submitted a rezoning application to the City to permit eight detached dwellings on a condominium road (in addition to a ninth dwelling on Gordon Drive). The executive of the GWHA has reviewed a preliminary plan of the development and has submitted a response to the City in opposition to the plan as presently proposed. This can be viewed on our website. Also on our

website is a copy of the notice sent by the City to some of our residents with general information on the proposed development. We strongly encourage Gordon Woods' residents to send their views in writing directly to the City contacts listed on the notice. As required by the Planning Act, a public meeting will be held at which time a report detailing the proposed development is expected to be presented by City planning staff. We will be notified of this meeting.

The GWHA works cooperatively with developers and the City to ensure that the special nature of the urban woodlands of Gordon Woods is protected while recognizing that some development is a reality. We have strongly resisted development inconsistent with this balance. Our success in upholding the character of our neighborhood has been demonstrated in a number of applications and appeals over the years that were ultimately denied by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). In some cases financial support from our residents (by way of a "Defense Fund") was necessary to engage legal and planning consultants and in all cases residents demonstrated their passion to preserve this unique neighborhood. Check our website regularly for new information as it becomes available.

Grange Drive/Hurontario Development –

Many of you may have noticed a large sign posted on Grange Drive announcing an Amendment / Rezoning application. The GWHA Executive is well aware of this and is in ongoing communication with the Councillor's Office and Planning. At the moment this is a **CONCEPT ONLY**. Official plans have yet to be submitted to Planning for approval. Once Planning receives an official application, it is sent to a plethora of city departments to determine if a rezone of this nature is appropriate. This includes the Fire Department, Transportation, School Boards, Police Services, Canada Post, Gas and Hydro, Hospitals, Municipal Services, Community Development etc. These various departments need to weigh in as to the sensibility of this project. Also included on this list is the Gordon Woods Homeowners' Association as a major

stakeholder, as well as the Cooksville Homeowners' Association as the condos are in their district.

It is essential that we represent a strong, united, cohesive group of concerned citizens who are interested in protecting the mandate of our community. Letters from homeowners at this point will not serve us well and will only be put in a file. The key to being heard is ongoing diplomatic conversation with the other interested parties so that we are not discounted as a group of rag tag homeowners without leadership and purpose. We ask that you allow the GWA Executive to fulfill the role you elected us for and permit us to communicate with the government departments to formulate our answers in the best interests of our community. We will ensure all our communications are put onto the website so that the community is well informed. When the time is right, we will also ask residents to write impassioned letters to the appropriate departments and we will keep a portfolio of all letters so that we may present them as a united front.



Entrance to Gordon Woods

With all the new townhomes finally finished on Grange/Harborn/Premium Way, there has been quite a bit of garbage being left by contractors fixing deficiencies on the properties. The Councillor's office has notified the builder that they must stop dumping in the area. The other challenge we are facing is that the MTO lands are now being used by tow trucks and cars for parking. We are working with the City to try to get this addressed by the Province.



Tree By-law Update

City staff have now received Council approval (March 7, 2012) to hold public information sessions on the proposed Tree By-law amendments. Following this public consultation process, a report will go back to General Committee with the recommended amendments. The information sessions are scheduled as follows:

Saturday May 12 @ 1-4 p.m. at Mississauga Valley Community Centre (McCallion Room)
1275 Mississauga Valley Blvd.

Monday May 14 @ 6:30-9 p.m. at St. Gregory Elementary School (Gym) 1075 Swinbourne Drive.

Wednesday, May 23 @ 2-5 p.m. & 6:30-9 p.m. at Port Credit Memorial Arena (Credit Room)
40 Stavebank Road.



Neighborhood Watch

There was a strong police presence in our neighbourhood in March due to a number of attempted break-ins. A suspect was quickly apprehended by police. Given the idyllic nature of Gordon Woods, with large yards and many trees, this gives thieves plenty of cover. We are looking for a volunteer to spearhead our Neighbourhood Watch Committee. If you are interested, please notify the executive@gordonwoods.ca.



Coyotes

We have a number of 4 footed friends who make Gordon Woods their home. Residents are being cautioned when walking the neighborhood, especially at dusk and dawn when the coyotes are most active. Please see the City link for additional information: <http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/citywildlife>.



Membership & Email

This is a reminder to residents who have not already done so to send your 2012 membership dues to our treasurer, Shelly Byman. Also be sure to send us your email address in order to receive up-to-date information on current events in the community. If you are new to the neighborhood please contact us to join.



Contact Us

Send an e-mail to executive@gordonwoods.ca about these or any other issues.

GWA Executive Committee