

MWRRRA



The Meadow Wood Rattray Ratepayers Association

Published in the fall and the spring

Spring 2011

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, April 28

Green Glade School

7:15 to 9:30

“Air Quality – Next Steps”

Invited Panelists:

Pat Mullin, Mississauga Councillor
Ward 2

Brenda Osborne, Environmental
Management - Mississauga

Charles Sousa – MPP, Minister of
Labour

Dr. Boyd Upper, AQTF CAC*
member

Dave Fletcher – Holcim

Mark Hiseler – Suncor Energy

Dorothy Tomiuk - MIRANET

*Air Quality Task Force Community
Advisory Committee

President’s Message

Greetings to everyone in the neighbourhood and welcome if you have recently moved in.

One year ago, this neighbourhood was involved in the debate over the installation of a 900 MW gas-fired generating plant on property belonging to Ford of Canada in Oakville.

Opposition to the plant focused on increased pollution in the already overtaxed air shed and safety concerns as to the plant’s location close to major transportation routes and homes.

As a result of the opposition, a report commissioned by the Ontario Government presented by the Air Quality Task Force made recommendations relating to the Clarkson air shed. There is now pressure on government, industry and community members to work toward

the implementation of these recommendations.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at Green Glade School on April 28. A panel made up of representatives from government, local industry and the members of the Task Force Community Advisory Committee will speak to the future of our air shed. There may not be a gas plant coming to our area, but new industry will come to the Southdown Industrial Area. All partners must work to lower pollution not add to what is already over taxed.

Since last year’s AGM, our vice president, Sue Shanly has been very active as our representative on MIRANET (Mississauga Residents Network). Sue worked on our behalf to get the message to the government that there was a “healthy alternative” to the proposed plant. Sue has also worked at developing

the community’s response to the city’s Strategic Plan and its proposed Budget and Business plan for 2011 – 2014. Sue’s report from MIRANET is included in this newsletter.

This past January, city planners brought forward Phase 2 – Analysis and Recommendations on the Clarkson Village Study. A public meeting of the planning committee should be held sometime this spring. There are still concerns over the proposed level of intensification especially in the section along Lakeshore Road between Meadow Wood Road and Clarkson Road South. The report is available online at <http://www6.Mississauga.ca/online/planbldg/ClarksonVillageStudy/CLKVillageStudyPhase2-September2010.pdf>.

See you on April 28 at our Annual General Meeting. **Jane Moore**



MIRANET Update March 2011

by Sue Shanly, MIRANET
Representative for MWRRA

MIRANET (Mississauga Ratepayer Network) recently held its second Annual General Meeting. This year there were nine Subcommittee reports from many different MIRANET members. This number was more than double the number of reports we had at our first AGM.

Two reports specifically hold interest for members of the MWRRA starting with the Clean Air Report. As most of you know on October 7, 2010, the Ontario government indicated it would not proceed with the Oakville Power Plant and that no new natural gas-fired power plants would be built anywhere in the south west GTA.

Since the Air Quality Task Force (AQTF) report was released last June, MIRANET has pressed for a meeting to go forward with the implementation of the key action items, including a local Air Shed Management System pilot project that would set policy across the province. This past January, a meeting was held at MPP Charles Sousa's office to discuss the implementation of the AQTF report. In attendance, was Charles, Minister of the Environment, John Wilkinson, Boyd Upper and members of MIRANET's Clean Air Subcommittee.

In the spirit of the Energy Minister's statement last October that there would be no new gas-fired generating plants in

the GTA, MIRANET is opposing the 280MW Greenfield South Plant planned for the Sherway area. We have also decided to expand our Clean Air Subcommittee and take on environmental issues more comprehensively as MIRANET's new Environment subcommittee. We are participating in the City's Living Green Master Plan and are uniquely positioned to monitor the Green Pillar of the City's Strategic Plan.

The MIRANET Municipal Finance Committee is responsible for following the City's Budget Committee and reporting on significant financial and property tax issues. We are also engaged in proposing improvements to the City's budget process. We have had some initial success in that the City introduced a Budget and Business Plan 2011 – 2014 that allows a broader view of expected expenditures and tax increases beyond the current year. The City's Budget Committee met on December 13, at which time staff presented a proposed budget with a tax increase of 8%.

At the same time, the Budget and Business Plan 2011-2014 was presented projecting a total tax increase of 30.1% over the next three years. MIRANET passed a motion at its January meeting that these increases are excessive. In January, the first of two deputations to the City's Budget Committee submitted a consensus economic forecast for 2011 and recast the budget with a tax increase of 3.5%, including an infrastructure levy of 1%. We argued this was "reasonable, responsible and fair for city ratepayers". MIRANET continued to lobby for an improved budget process that would be more effective and streamlined. On February 23, we submitted our analysis of the current budget process to the City Manager and the Mayor with a significant number of senior staff from both the Region and the City present. MIRANET encourages the City and Region to make this an annual event, perhaps through an improved shared event.

On March 2, the City Budget Committee met and passed a 5.8% tax increase. MIRANET is disappointed in the outcome of the Budget Committee decision. This increase is much higher than the reasonable 3.5% increase we proposed. Peel Region's 2011 Operating Budget passed with a moderate tax increase of 2.5%. MIRANET is considering attending the City's Audit Committee to raise issues of unaccountable expenditures.

MIRANET continues to reach out and encourage new ratepayer associations. We are also committed to encouraging broad public participation in the electoral process and dedicated to the ideal of effective good government. Having a flat structure with over 24 ratepayer groups, MIRANET will continue to try to effect the changes that the citizens of Mississauga's ratepayers feel are important.



40 Years for the MWRRA – 40 More?

In the spring of 1971, neighbours became alarmed over issues coming to light in the city. The particular issue that rallied people was a planning proposal that would have put 30,000 new residents in an area bounded by the lakeshore, the railway corridor, Port Credit and Southdown Road.

Resident groups were established and in November 1971, the dormant Meadow Wood Area Residents Association was reborn as the Meadow Wood Rattray



Residents Association (MWRRA) with the proposed intensification as the main focus. The MWRRA worked along with these other resident groups in the lakeshore community, to overturn the proposal.

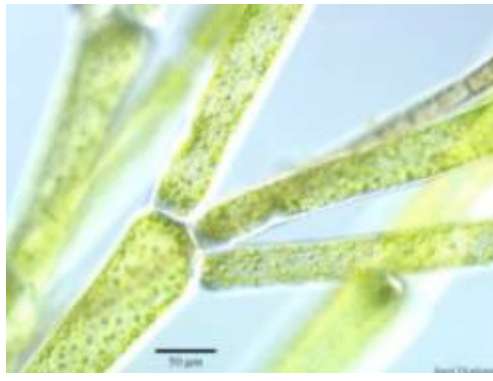
In 1975, work resumed to save the Rattray Marsh from development. Along with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, local groups and industry, we fulfilled the dream of preserving this unique ecosystem.

Over the past 40 years, the MWRRA has grown to include the Clarkson Road South area and the Trenhome neighbourhood. We now have 790 homes in our association.

For 40 years, MWRRA directors have worked on issues dealing with maintaining the Rattray Marsh, pollution monitoring and reduction, development, property assessments, and education.

Members have also worked locally on improvements to our parks and museums. The MWRRA continues to reach out to the neighbourhood through its annual events like the June picnic, local information meetings and newsletters.

Please help us continue the legacy of this successful organization. Support us by becoming a member and volunteering your time. As you can see the issues may change but they don't go away.



Why do I smell frogs or something worse in my backyard?

by Maureen Shaw

Perhaps you have lived in the MWRRA area for a long time and have already come to terms with the summer and fall odour emanating from the lake, but maybe you are like I am: surprised, puzzled and hoping for improvements.

Thanks to Councillor Mullin, I have been supplied with (and will be happy to share) many interesting links that explain the problem which has been studied in depth by credible researchers (to start, check out Ontario Water Works Research Consortium (OWWRC) at www.owwrc.com).

The Peel Region says that "Cladophora is the source of odour in the lake." (see image). Visit this web page to learn more <http://www.peelregion.ca/pw/water/sewage-trtmt/algae/index.htm>.

The problem is the result of zebra mussels (brought here on the hulls of Mediterranean ships); these pesky critters have cleared the water, making it really nice to see into, but also really lovely for algae growth. The algae die in hot weather and dislodged, travel in clumps to the shore (hence the stench); stormy conditions, particularly from the east exacerbate the problem.

So what can we do to decrease the noxious smells?

While it wouldn't hurt to decrease the amount of phosphorus we put into the



lake through run-off from our lawn fertilizers or through decreasing our use of detergents with phosphates, according to the OWWRC, "High resolution spatial surveys of Cladophora abundance along Halton shorelines that included inputs of major streams, waste water treatment plants and storm sewers could not detect any impact of these local inputs on Cladophora growth patterns. The explanation for this lack of relationship is found with the dreissenid mussels that now continuously cover rocky substrata in Lake Ontario and even extend on to soft bottom substrata. Measurements of phosphorus excretion by these mussels indicate that mussels are now the dominant source of readily available phosphorus in the coastal zone."

To get rid of the mussels and the algae, we need to support the efforts of the OWWRC. I personally would like to provide them with real data collected daily by residents who live close to the lake. It wouldn't be very onerous: just put a notepad by your kitchen window; every time the taste of the water or the smell of the air is 'froggy', jot down the date.

Our collection of this data will strengthen the case for concerted effort. If you're interested in participating in this data collection, please send a note to Maureen Shaw, via our association's email address: www.meadowwoodratepayers.com

Photo Contest 2011

Don't you love living in this neighbourhood? If you had to choose a season or subject you love to photograph, which one would you pick? Why choose?

Our neighbourhood photo contest allows you to enter whatever you like as long as it celebrates our neighbourhood. We will publicize the winning photos on our website, at the Bradley Museum, as well as award prizes to the winners.

- 1-4 photos may be submitted per person
- Contestants can enter in any of four categories: seasonal, people, plants, miscellaneous
- We invite submissions from contestants under 18 and over 18
- All entries must be submitted digitally as a jpeg file by August 31, 2011

If you are a professional or avid amateur photographer who would like to help with the judging (or establishing the judging criteria), please contact Maureen Shaw by May 1 at skitter345@sympatico.ca or through our email address MWRRA@rogers.com.

What's On

April 9 – Rattray Marsh Spring Clean-up

stewardship@creditvalleyca.ca

April 18 – 22 – Earth Week

April 28 – MWRRA Annual General Meeting

May 8 – Jane's Walk

www.janeswalk.net.walk

May 14 & 15 - Mississauga Marathon

www.mississaugamarathon.com

May 22 – Museums of Mississauga

Free admission, 1 – 5 p.m.

May 29 – Canadian Cancer Society

Lorne Park Garden Tour

georgetowndufferinpeel@ontario.cancer.ca

June 11 – MWRRA Picnic

August 31 – MWRRA Photo Contest Deadline

MWRRA Picnic

Saturday, June 11, 2011

4 p.m. until dark

Bradley Museum Park grounds

Sponsored by the MWRRA for all residents within the association boundaries.

- Meet your neighbours
- Live music
- Games, races, crafts and a campfire

Get involved with the planning or on the day of the event. Call Mary Ann Stokke at 416-420-8027.

