



MWRRA

THE MEADOW WOOD RATTRAY RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Fall 2008

President's Remarks

This is the MWRRA's Fall Newsletter informing you on the events and developments in our neighbourhood.

MWRRA directors voted to join MIRNET, an umbrella organization of ratepayer groups working on issues that affect Mississauga as a whole. Our representative, Michael Giguere, has included an article outlining MIRNET's mission.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to past president Andy Sherwood and past vice president Brad Compton. Both Andy and Brad have moved away from the area. They were very strong supporters of the MWRRA and contributed many volunteer hours on our behalf. Our loss is another neighbourhood's gain.

If you haven't joined or renewed your membership, please take a minute to fill out the form included. Your continued support is needed and your input is appreciated.

*Cheers,
Jane Moore,
President,
MWRRA*



John Davies

Long time director John Davies passed away this August. John had lived here since 1962. He was the consummate volunteer and supporter of initiatives like saving the Rattray Marsh. He acted as our official bartender at the annual BBQ. He was active in reviving the association in 1971. We will miss John's enthusiasm. Our thoughts are with Wendy and family in the months ahead as they adjust to such a great loss.

Upcoming Events

Federal Election – October 14

***Discover Sheridan Creek
Walking Tour - October 18***

Proposal to Move Extended French

In our last newsletter we reported on a proposal by our Trustee, Don Stephens to relocate the Extended French program (grades 9-12) from Lorne Park S.S. to Clarkson S.S. (Resolution No. 08-13). The program begins in grade 7 at Green Glade and is a popular program with our area students. No doubt a lively debate of the merits of the program or some of the reasons it is chosen could be had, however, the fact remains that our students will lose access to one of our two area high schools. This program is the only means of attending Lorne Park S.S. open to all students in Peel as there are currently no academic requirements or limits on enrollment at Green Glade. Students already have access to Clarkson S.S. through both the English program and Early Immersion French program.

Trustee Stephens' motion also called for a change to the English boundaries for Lorne Park S.S. to include the Watercolours development off Indian Road on the basis that "*there is the opportunity to increase the yield(number) of secondary school students in Mississauga south by increasing the Lorne Park Secondary School boundary*". In other words, the reputation of Lorne Park will attract students from the Watercolours area who currently attend either private or separate schools rather than their designated school, Port Credit S.S. On the basis of this argument, we are concerned that the program move could reduce enrollment at Green Glade, which would not be beneficial to our school.

Reduced access to high schools and the potentially negative impact on Green Glade are the primary reasons we have opposed this motion. The proposal is currently being reviewed by the Curriculum & Instruction Support Services Department under Superintendent Chuck Waterman. Their report is expected to be reviewed by the applicable Trustee sub-committee at their monthly meeting on Nov 19 and their recommendations brought forward at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on Nov 25.

We encourage you to become informed and get involved in this issue. Visit our website or PDSB website for additional information and contacts.

Sithe - Update

Sithe Global - Southdown: 850mw natural gas powered electricity generation on Winston Churchill Boulevard

Sithe Global is reported to be ensuring they are in a competitive position to respond to the Minister of Energy's [MoE] directive to the Ontario Power Authority [OPA]. The OPA has been directed to secure 850mw of power to be delivered to the "west GTA" by 2013. Applicant qualification later in 2008 will be followed by a Request for [Procurement] Proposals. The contract[s] are to be let by June 2009.

Sithe Global expects to have a similar 800mw gas powered facility [Goreway-Brampton] operating by the end of 2008.

Currently only a minority of Council oppose natural gas power generation in Mississauga. Opposition is based on the possible negative health effects of added pollution in the "already taxed" Clarkson airshed.

A town hall meeting has been proposed for later in October, hopefully to involve leaders (including ministers) from key portfolios and agencies responsible for the region's energy challenges, the environment and health issues posed by the existing industrial area and any new generating facility in Clarkson such as Sithe.

It is hoped that the proposed meeting be held in Clarkson, within the airshed most directly affected.

Clarkson Village Visioning - Update ***RioCan and the testing of the Clarkson Visioning Process***

For almost 3 years, residents, planners, developers, and councillor Pat Mullin have been involved in developing a vision for the future of Clarkson. What has emerged is a desire for a place that is pedestrian friendly with easy access to local amenities and designed with some sense of the village's history. The need for higher residential density has been acknowledged especially with proximity to the GO station. Yet all along the way, the question on how to implement this new vision has lingered. How will it become policy and when?

There is a strong desire for some sort of pedestrian piazza, a meeting place to be incorporated into any new design. Having an open, pedestrian friendly space is considered central to the vision for Clarkson. As Mayor McCallion said, it could set the tone for the whole village. There is strong sense that any new development in Clarkson must be done right or the whole village will suffer.

The vision plan has not yet been written into any policy so it has no legal standing. But it is being put to the test with the RioCan proposal for the commercial site in the center of the village. RioCan proposes a 7-storey seniors residence and an expanded HomeSense along with smaller retail. A focus group, including members of the Clarkson Visioning Group, has been meeting to deal with the details.

Some people dislike the idea of 7 storeys on the site. Others were concerned with the actual design of the seniors building as it relates to the rest of the site. There are objections about the size of HomeSense and the amount of land used for parking. All would like to see the McDonalds join with RioCan so that the site can be extended east. There are questions about environmental impacts and loss of daylight for the properties to the north.

On September 15, city council received the planner's report and citizens were given the opportunity to address their concerns about the project. The consensus was that the project, as designed, does not fit within the vision for a revitalized Clarkson. Mayor McCallion strongly urged the developer to come up with something better, something that would be a model for the revitalization of the main street of Clarkson, working well for generations to come.

RioCan had filed with the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) last spring and the preliminary hearing was held September 18. RioCan has said they are still trying to negotiate with McDonalds and that they would prefer to come to some sort of agreement with citizens and the city rather than go to the OMB. Things remain unresolved at this point.

With the lack of legal structure for the vision and the ongoing ability of the OMB to disregard both citizens and the city, the process is indeed a test of all the work done in the past 3 years.

The Living Creeks of Mississauga Walking Tour **Discover Sheridan Creek, Saturday October 18, 9:30 - 11:30AM**

This is a guided walk to learn about Sheridan Creek's history, current issues and innovative ways to protect our streams and rivers. There are simple things we can do to make a positive difference to our environment; our local natural history and the plants and animals that share our landscape.

Come together as a community to share information and exchange ideas on this interactive walking tour! Take a stroll through our urban landscape, see the existing environmental conditions first-hand and learn about our relationship and connection to the local environment. It's a fun, family friendly activity!

Registration required. RSVP 416-536-2215 or contact the Credit Valley Conservation today to volunteer or to learn about proven tools and methods to implement sustainability initiatives and about upcoming events and opportunities! www.creditvalleycons.com

MIRNET - Ratepayer & Resident Associations Band Together

On October 1, 2008, representatives from Ratepayer and Residents' Associations throughout Mississauga met for the inaugural meeting of MIRANET. The name "MIRANET" was coined from Mississauga Residents' Association Network. This new organization has been conceived and designed by representatives of 20 ratepayer groups from all over the city who have been exploring the concept since March 2008. This initial collaboration has resulted in the development of a network that relies on distributed leadership via subcommittees established to address issues of city wide concern and importance.

The intention of MIRANET is to work in a positive and constructive manner with the city and other levels of government (regional, provincial and federal) and to promote the interests of Mississauga citizens.

With a vision that "Every citizen has the opportunity to be informed and engaged in civic matters that affect them". MIRANET has been established to:

- Forge effective working relationships with various levels of government
- Share information with residents' associations, citizens, and governments
- Foster and encourage the development of forums for community engagement (e.g. support the establishment of new residents' associations)
- Share and benchmark best practices

Membership is open to all residents' associations formally registered with the city. MIRANET will operate through a Steering Committee composed of a representative from each participating residents' association.

MIRANET is non-partisan and does not endorse any specific candidate seeking public office, nor any political party. When there is consensus among the member groups on a significant issue, MIRANET may decide to endorse and promote a specific position.

A galvanizing issue that precipitated the development of MIRANET relates to the rapidly looming problem of Mississauga infrastructure funding. You will have noticed that a 1% infrastructure tax levy has been added to the city portion of your property tax bill. A subcommittee of MIRANET was instrumental in reducing a proposed 5% levy to 1%. The 1% covers about 2 million dollars of an estimated 12 million

dollar annual shortfall averaged over the next 20 years to, to build and re-build Mississauga's infrastructure. We contend that more progressive sources of revenue must be sought or devised to fund infrastructure. There may be a need to develop a "Mississauga Act" as Toronto has a "Toronto Act". The subject of infrastructure funding is currently an ongoing issue for a MIRANET sub committee.

Credit Valley Conservation Stakeholders Pollution Prevention Workshop, April 2008

This free interactive workshop focused on pollution prevention opportunities and the pilot technical assistance program for industrial, commercial, and institutional properties in the Cooksville Creek and Sheridan Creek Watersheds. The session provided information on:

- Understanding the benefits of pollution prevention (P2) that lead to reduced business risks, reduced costs and reduced regulatory exposure.
 - P2 Planning provisions incorporated in Peel's Sewer Use-by Laws.
 - An overview on how to integrate P2 into your everyday business activities.
 - How leading edge companies are incorporating P2 in their business agenda and shaping consumption patterns through supply chain management.

In today's marketplace, businesses large and small alike are increasingly under pressure to perform against a triple bottom-line - integrating economic, environmental, and social needs and expectations. Now, local businesses have the opportunity to discover more ways to help protect the environment, while saving money.

Who attended? Stakeholder members from across Sheridan and Cooksville Creek Watersheds including those from industry, government, schools, hospitals, and other institutions. Participants left this workshop motivated with new ideas, and a means to take action to help protect our watersheds.

Membership - Why Join

Becoming a member is the best way to show your support and lend strength to our association. Membership fees are the only source of revenue and are used to offset the costs of the annual meeting, newsletters, BBQ & welcoming material. A cash reserve is maintained to cover legal costs if required to protect our residential interests.

If we missed you when we delivered this newsletter, please take a minute to become a member and drop off your cheque to your nearest director. Thanks.

Directors 2008 - 2009

Your newsletter was delivered by the director circled below. Please call with questions or comments or email us at mwrwa@rogers.com or visit our website at www.meadowwoodratepayers.com

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Your current membership status: Member Non-Member

MWRRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please deliver or mail your completed application together with your membership fee to the director circled above or directly to our Treasurer, Don Harrington.

For your convenience and to reduce administration, you now have the option of joining for a two-year period. Thanks for your support.

April 2008 - April 2009 \$10 fee enclosed

April 2008 - April 2010 \$20 fee enclosed

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Comments: _____

WHAT'S ON AT THE BRADLEY & BENARES MUSEUMS

*Clarkson Village Historic Walking Tour
October 25th, 2008 at 2 PM*

*Historic Halloween Fun
at Benares Historic House
October 6th, 2008 1 pm to 4 pm*

*Haunted Mississauga at Benares Historic House
October 29th, 2008 7pm to 9 pm*

*Illustrated Lecture: 'Lest We Forget'
The Clarkson Homefront during World War I
and World War II
November 6th, 2008 at 7 pm*

*Illustrated Lecture: 'Footprints in Time'
Researching the Harris Family of Benares
November 20th, 2008 at 7 pm.*

*Clarkson Village Historic Walking Tour
November 29th, 2008 at 2 PM*

*Christmas Evening Tours at Bradley Museum
of Benares Historic House
December 3rd, 10th and 17th - 7 pm to 9 pm*

*On the Verandah Christmas Concert
at Benares
December 5th, 2008 at 7:30 pm*

*Illustrated Lecture: 'Stories from
South of the QEW'
December 11th, 2008 at 7 pm*

*Home for the Holidays at the
Museums of Mississauga
December 14th from 1 pm to 4 pm*

For more information on locations and registration,
call 905-615-4860 or go to www.museumsofmississauga.com

More Green Things We Can Do

Besides ideas currently listed on our website, director Xavier Mesrobian, has offered some information on a project he is working on. Here is a short summary. Check it out.

Top three things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint and lower your operating costs.

1. Be aware of what you use and how you use it. For instance, your average kitchen pot light costs you \$1.90/ per month to use; replacing it with the right solution could save you \$1.10/month.
2. For the average family of 3, water heating represents your second largest single monthly expense. Replacing it with the right solution could save you between 30%-70%.
3. Before you replace your furnace or air conditioner, have a Heat Loss and Load Calculation done on your home. It is an investment that could save you thousands on your purchase and more importantly, maintain a healthy interior air quality.

To learn more about your home and how to reduce your environmental footprint go to www.6cinc.com.

Focus Group Bus Tour of the Sheridan Creek Watershed, July 2008

On July 29, 2008, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) invited members of the public from the Sheridan Creek watershed to participate in a unique focus group bus tour of the watershed. The initiative is part of the watershed characterization report being prepared by CVC in partnership with the City of Mississauga, Town of Oakville and the Region of Peel. The purpose of the tour was to educate participants about various aspects of the watershed and to obtain feedback on issues about environmental conditions. The tour started at the Clarkson Community Centre and included residential, commercial, industrial, road and utility corridors, Rattray Marsh, Lake Ontario, and community parks and schools areas within the Sheridan Creek Watershed. Phil James of Credit Valley Conservation hosted the tour and Susan Hall of Lura Consulting facilitated.

The results from this and the Cooksville Creek focus group tour will be used as input into the watershed characterization report. Once the report is completed, members of the public will be invited to comment on it and on any future actions for safeguarding the Sheridan and Cooksville Creek watersheds.