

Respecting Boundaries – Let's Follow the Golden Rule

As we all have lived nearly two years under public health restrictions, following the Golden Rule has never been more important. Treating others how we would like to be treated fosters empathy, compassion and good will toward one another – something we all need from our family, friends, and neighbours these days!

OHHA has received reports that some residents walking their dogs, or out with their toddlers, are not respecting private property. Owners are allowing their dogs to do their business well up into other resident's front yards, and not just on the city-owned boulevard area. Parents are allowing their toddlers to run unsupervised and onto other residents' driveways and front gardens.

Although this may seem, to some, harmless enough, with closer review, it becomes clear that these types of situations pose risks and potential harm. For example:

- unsupervised children are in danger of falling or getting hurt
- unsupervised or off-leash pets are also in danger of getting hurt
- there is a municipal by-law regarding off-leash dogs

We all have varying degrees of how well we manage conflict and stressful situations. Most of us would prefer not to have to experience conflict relating to our own property. Home is our place of sanctuary and where we should all be able to feel safe and secure.

We hope this reminder to respect each other's boundaries will raise awareness and help reduce stress for those who feel impacted by these incidents. Please remember to:

- keep your dogs on their leash
- keep your dogs on the city-owned boulevard when doing their business on another's lawn
- stay close to your toddlers and keep them from wandering onto another resident's property

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.