

Orchard Heights Connections



President's Message

As we head toward the year-end holidays, it's time to reflect on 2023. After a wet spring, our Orchard Heights Homeowners' Association's (OHHA's) **September 9th BBQ** was a great success, with **over 200 neighbours gathering** to visit and enjoy the last days of summer. The **Oct. 29 Halloween parade** was a dress rehearsal for neighbourhood kids preparing for the big night. And our **upcoming Dec. 3 holiday festivities** in Ron Searle Park will bring us together again soon. Kids can bring their wish list letters to drop in Santa's mailbox and everyone can enjoy warm refreshments and the **sounds of the season from the Victorian-costumed McGregor Carollers**. These **events** help keep our **community connected** and remind us of the value and kinship we bring to each other.



Connection opportunities keep us united, and we hope that collaboration and communication like our newsletters will encourage us to work together as a community. We have **many issues facing us**, some with the potential to divide us:

- The threat to single-family dwelling neighbourhoods, as **four-plex units may soon be allowed across Mississauga**
- The Dixie Road overpass project that has created **significantly increased traffic** flow, **speeding** and many large trucks rumbling through our once-safe, quiet, narrow streets
- Unknown cars parked for long periods of time, **car thefts** & break-ins and **home break-ins**.

Crime in Mississauga is increasing, and unfortunately, OH residents are feeling the impact. We urge you to be safe and vigilant and **report any such incidents to our local Peel Regional Police 12 Division's** non-emergency line at 905-453-3311.

OHHA is working with Councillor Dasko to **address these concerns**, which will be discussed at our **February 13 AGM**. All residents recently received a flyer about our **Crime Survey** and we urge you to participate, either online or by hard copy. Please text or call Stacey Reason at 416-875-3421 if you did not receive it. We need to **gauge residents' perceptions of crime in OH**. The **results** will be used to develop **community protection strategies** in collaboration with residents, the City, and SafeCity Mississauga. **Neighbourhood Watch (NW)** will also undergo changes, as we welcome a **new community lead** and **new procedures and strategies**. Likewise SafeCity will help us strengthen NW and host a webinar on safety tips for us.

We've experienced **several disturbing incidents of off-leash and aggressive dogs**, with two reported incidents where **walkers were attacked**. Dogs must be leashed at all times and bylaw infractions and criminal activity must be reported to the City. Call 311 and they will direct your call. **Posting on our NW Facebook group** is important for alerting each other, but is **not a replacement for reporting to the City** to ensure proper enforcement and follow-up.

There are, and should be, **differing opinions about the challenges we face**, and we hope they never strain our community bonds. **Healthy debate is necessary to inform good decisions**, and is **most effective with respect and kindness**.

I'm proud to live in Orchard Heights, and **experienced firsthand neighbours' kindness after my home was invaded** this fall. My family and I feel lucky to be a part of our great community and we thank everyone who offered their support.

I look forward to seeing you at our December 3 holiday event and at our February 13 AGM. Keep reading for more details. **On behalf of the Board, I want to wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and safe holiday season and new year.**

Tonya Elmazi, President, Orchard Heights Homeowners' Association

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Contact Your Board of Directors

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Infrastructure News

Rising Crime in Orchard Heights – According to a 2022 Peel Regional Police annual report, crime is on the rise in Mississauga, with a 32% increase in robberies and an 80% increase in car theft. Neighbours have recently reported break-ins, car thefts and attempted car thefts, and as a result OHHA plans to:

- Survey residents to gather & assess data on the extent of crime in our neighbourhood
- Share survey results and collaborate with residents and Councillor Dasko on strategies we can deploy to better protect our community
- Host a webinar presented by SafeCity on Neighbourhood Watch protection measures
- Work with our neighbours to take action to help keep OH a safe place to live.



Four-Plex Units Allowed in Mississauga – Mayor Bonnie Crombie issued a Mayoral Directive in October to allow residents to build four residential units on low-rise residential lots. www.mississauga.ca/city-of-mississauga-news/news/mississauga-moves-to-permit-four-plexes-city-wide/ She advised this action will ensure Mississauga continues to be eligible for \$120 million in federal funding for housing and community infrastructure. Single-family dwelling communities' zoning will change as a result to help meet provincial housing targets of 1.5 million new homes in the next 10 years. On **Wed November 29, at 6 p.m.** there will be a **public meeting at Mississauga Council Chamber** for City Planning & Development to present its recommendation report on this issue. We urge you to attend and express your views on the proposed changes to the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaws to allow four units on low-rise residential lots. Single family dwelling communities across Mississauga are facing dramatic change as significant intensification and high-density projects take hold of our quiet neighbourhoods.

Dixie Mall Update – The application by Slate Asset Management to develop the northwest portion of Dixie Mall land is still being evaluated by City staff. A public meeting will be held in the new year for community input. Also, the City's Planning and Building Department continues its work conducting a land-use review of the property that will help inform an official plan amendment. Learn more by visiting the City's [Dixie Outlet Mall Policy Review](#).



Increased Traffic Continues – OH residents continue reporting significantly higher volumes of non-local traffic and speeding along Rometown, Park Royale, Londonderry, Larchview and connecting streets for quicker access to the eastbound QEW. Residents have contacted GPS apps Waze and Google requesting them not to direct traffic through our community to circumvent construction, yet no changes have occurred. Solutions are needed to ensure our safety well before the project's end in 2026. We've asked Councillor Dasko to identify and implement strategies to reduce the volume and speed of non-local traffic and update us at our February AGM.

Orchard Heights Tennis Association Update

Orchard Heights Tennis Association (OHTA) in Ron Searle Park was founded in 1962, and has been a popular community fixture ever since. The courts, built in the 1950s, are owned by the City of Mississauga. The club is a City-approved community group run by tennis-loving volunteers. Three OH residents served on this year's Board. Tennis is a great way for everyone to participate in a healthy, fun outdoor sport and meet like-minded neighbours.

147 members of all ages – from beginners to experts – joined this year, including families with children, single adults and juniors living in OH and throughout Mississauga. We offer organized doubles play and use an online reservation system for members to book courts between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. We provide tennis lessons from a City-approved instructor when there is sufficient demand and hope to run them again in 2024.

OHTA wants to sincerely thank our neighbours who have supported the Club over the years, and we encourage new members to join us and our Board to help ensure our community tennis club continues to thrive. Stay tuned for our Spring 2024 signup drive at <https://sites.google.com/view/orchardheightstennisassoc> and email our membership director if you have any questions at ohmembers@gmail.com.

Best BBQ Day Ever!

With over 200 people in attendance, our September BBQ delivered a fun-filled day for all. Calypso music set the tone as residents bid on their favourite Silent Auction items and enjoyed yummy food from our BBQ and Bake Sale. Kids with painted faces enjoyed the bouncy castles, games and traditional bike parade, adults competed in our first-ever euchre tournament and families captured memories with a caricature portrait.

This event's success is due to generous donations from our sponsors, donors, residents and volunteers, and the dedicated volunteer work of our fantastic neighbours. **Thank you for helping us make it our best BBQ Day ever!**

SPONSORS



DONORS

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OH Tennis Association	One Health Clubs	Raya Shadursky
Ria Lingo Santaguida	Shelly Begum/ Subway	Stonehooker Brewing Co.
Sweet & Savvi	Tonya Elmazi	Toronto Golf Club
Tracy Sultana		



Sincere thanks to all neighbourhood bakers, donors and helpers who made our Bake Sale a delicious success:

Amy Lyn Gardiner, Alexandra Nogueira, Carolyn Fink, Dianne Zacharczyk, Dimitra Tsanos, Dudley Briggs, Elizabeth Hartyoon, Garry Smith, Jane Millar, Janet Jackson, Jennifer and Emily Figueira, Kathleen Gray, Leanne Miller, Linda Price, Marie Doney, Monica O'Reilly, Sonia Graterol, Suzanne Zacharczyk, Tonya Elmazi, Yvonne Deutschmann.

Halloween Fun



The Halloween Spirit Shines Brightly in Orchard Heights

Halloween Costume Parade – On Oct 28 OH kids had the chance to try out their costumes before the big night. They proudly paraded along the park path to showcase their creations as their family and friends cheered them on. The kids posed for photos to capture memories of the day and enjoyed treats from the piñata.



Pumpkin Walk – On Nov 1st at dusk, neighbours enjoyed a beautiful display of lit pumpkins along the park's pathways. A big thank you to everyone who donated their pumpkins, which were later collected by Wild Meadows Farm, who offered a discount to OH residents on their organic meats.

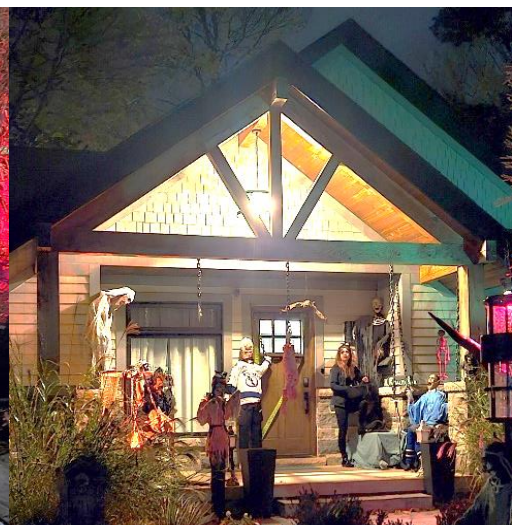


Best Decorated House Contest

This year's winner of our annual Halloween House Decorating Contest was the Kuliszewski Family at 1494 Rometown Drive.

Congratulations and thank you all for your creative, scary, fantastic work!

And a big thank you to Trish Chalmers on Glenwatson for sweetening Halloween night with her candy floss treats!



Coming Soon for the Holidays



Carollers are Coming to Orchard Heights On Sunday, December 3, join us at Ron Searle Park just after sunset. You'll be greeted by the McGregor Carollers dressed in traditional Victorian costumes who'll serenade us with their festive songs of the season.

Kids can bring their Christmas wish list letters to Santa and place them in his mailbox. Neighbours will enjoy warm refreshments while the carollers help get us in the holiday spirit. After the park performance, we can join them as they walk the streets and invite residents to follow and sing along to favourite holiday classics. Details will come soon, so please watch for the flyer. You don't want to miss what should be a wonderful event for everyone.



Best Decorated House Contest It's time to unpack your outdoor lights and decorations and begin planning your festive design. Neighbours look forward to enjoying all the beautifully decorated homes, and OHHA board members will be out in late December to enjoy the show and pick a winner for the 2023 OHHA Best Decorated House contest.

The winning house will be announced on December 28 and the decorators will receive a \$50 gift card and boasting rights as the 2023 winner! Please help us boost everyone's holiday spirit and showcase your creativity.



Christmas Tree Ornaments - We have 22 silver and 12 gold OH Christmas tree ornaments for sale. The cost is \$10 each or \$18 for two.

You can place an order by emailing orchard.heights.ha@gmail.com or calling 416-937-0697. We'd be happy to deliver them to your home.

What a great way to commemorate Christmas in Orchard Heights.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our last AGM was held on June 16, 2022. Attendees heard about Orchard Heights Homeowners' Association's 2021 activities and finances. **Our next AGM will start at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13 at the Star Academy on Cormack Crescent** and we very much hope you will attend. If you need a ride, we'll be happy to arrange a drive for you, so please don't let that stop you from joining us.

We had advised in our Spring Newsletter that we would hold an abbreviated online meeting in September and a full, in-person AGM in early February. Due to the wet June forcing us to reschedule the OHHA BBQ to September 9, there was insufficient time for us to prepare for an online September AGM.

As also noted in our Spring Newsletter, because our financial reporting period is on a calendar-year basis, the best time to hold AGMs is in February to allow us to fully report on the finances and activities of the previous year. This will be the go-forward plan for all future AGMs beginning with February 13, 2024. **At this meeting we will report on both the 2022 and 2023 financials and activities.**

An in-person meeting is long overdue, and we look forward to sharing information and exchanging ideas with all Orchard Heights residents. We hope to offer online access to the meeting as well. Government representatives will be invited to update us on issues impacting our community. We will invite guest speakers from MTO to update us on the Dixie Overpass project and SafeCity to help us boost our Neighbourhood Watch efforts to keep us all as safe as possible.

The OHHA is looking for community-focused, enthusiastic residents to join our Board. If you have an interest in Orchard Heights, can commit to attending monthly board meetings and participating in committees, we'd love to hear from you! Please email Tonya Elmazi at ohhapres@gmail.com or call 416-937-0697 to learn more.

Stay tuned for our official AGM notice in the new year. Please note that per our bylaws, all residents are welcome to attend the meeting, and only paid-up OHHA members may vote.

Look What's New in Ron Searle Park

Revitalization of the Tanaka Garden

Longtime resident George Tanaka planned and planted a beautiful Japanese garden adjacent to the new chess/checkers tables near the Rometown entrance to Ron Searle Park. Over the years it has become overgrown, and its origins forgotten by many.

We are pleased to announce that the garden has been refurbished. Trees have been pruned, perennials planted, mulch laid – and new grass and a plaque dedicated to George Tanaka will come in the spring.

We owe a big thanks to Councillor Dasko and City Parks staff for bringing our garden and treasured memories back to life!



Time to Join or Renew Your OHHA Membership

OHHA's mission is to monitor, protect and improve the value and quality of life in our community

Please help support our mission and neighbourhood by **joining or renewing your OHHA membership for calendar 2024**. Annual membership fees are \$25 per household, \$15 for households with adults 65 years+, and help fund events like our annual summer BBQ and other community events, newsletters and our website, <https://orchardheights.ca/%0d>

Payment methods:

- Send a secure e-transfer to ohhatreasury@gmail.com and include your name, email and street addresses in the comments section of your e-transfer.
- Drop off a cheque or cash at 1527 Rometown, that's on the north side between Park Royale & Park Ridge across from the Canada Post mailbox, and include your name, street address and email address, if you have one.
- Call 416-937-0697 and a board member will be happy to drop by your home to deliver and collect your membership form and fee.



If you need more information or have questions, please contact us at orchard.heights.ha@gmail.com or 416-937-0697.

We look forward to welcoming you as an OHHA member and hope you'll provide your email address to continue receiving our newsletters and emails to stay connected to all that's going on in our wonderful community.

Newsletter Distribution: We Need Your Help

In 2022, we moved from paper to an online format to reduce costs associated with printing and distributing our community newsletters. This means that a monitored email address is necessary to ensure you receive our communications.

If you know someone who's not receiving our newsletters, it could be because we don't have their email address, or it's going into their spam or junk folder or being blocked by their security settings.

Please ask them to email us at orchard.heights.ha@gmail.com or call 416-937-0697 and we'll help them get connected.

Advertising Opportunities

Calling all Orchard Heights residents who own or operate a business! Would you like to advertise your services in upcoming newsletters?

We'd love to help promote local businesses, especially for those who live in our neighbourhood.

Please email orchard.heights.ha@gmail.com or call 905-274-2946 to book your advertising space in our next community newsletter.