



## **Regal Heights Residents' Association Spring Report**

*The RHRA was unable to hold its Spring public meeting this year because of pandemic restrictions. In its place, we present the following Spring Report, outlining our activities and how you can get involved.*

### **Introduction**

For more than four decades, the Regal Heights Residents' Association has served the neighbourhood of Regal Heights. We operate in an area from St. Clair West to Davenport and Dufferin to Winona.

We organize a lot of activities, but all are driven by one simple idea: The more that people are involved in and care about their neighbourhood, the greater the sense of community and the more enjoyable life is for all of us.

Everyone involved in the RHRA is a volunteer, from the executive members who meet each month to discuss plans and organize events, to the people who help us make those events happen.

But the RHRA is more than an event organizer. Over the years our neighbourhood has been improved in a variety of ways by initiatives led by the RHRA. We regularly keep in touch with our elected representative at the federal, provincial and city level. We also act as an important source of information, whether it's publicizing initiatives around the community, or tracking local construction projects as they make their way through the approval process.

**If you'd like to get involved, we can always use some extra help. If you're not already on our mailing list, just go to [www.regalheights.ca](http://www.regalheights.ca) and sign up for free. Then watch your email for volunteering opportunities. It doesn't have to be a big commitment. Do as much or as little as you like. Volunteering not only helps out the neighbourhood; you'll get a sense of satisfaction that's hard to match.**

### **Event highlights**

The COVID pandemic has greatly reduced the number of events we've been able to hold. But we've managed to keep active and to plan for better days. Here are a few highlights:

*Canada Day:* Since we can't safely hold a parade this July 1, we are asking neighbours to decorate the front of their homes with flags, banners or anything else red and white. Volunteers will take pictures of your creations and put them on the website.

*Maple Syrup:* For the third Spring in a row, we produced our own maple syrup by tapping trees in the neighbourhood. This year was the biggest yet, with about 15 volunteers collecting and boiling down sap from nine trees. The project was featured on CBC TV News. Each volunteer received a bottle of syrup. We'll give out the rest to some lucky volunteers who help us out during the year.

*Cleanup Day:* We couldn't carry out this annual event as a group this year, but we encouraged neighbours to pick up trash on their own. Many responded and the neighbourhood looks better for it.

*COVID outreach:* We have set up the Regal Heights COVID-19 Help group on Facebook. It connects volunteers with people who need help with things like shopping if they can't get out during the pandemic. See [facebook.com/groups/592789477984497](https://facebook.com/groups/592789477984497)

*Virtual garden show:* We are repeating last year's successful event this Spring. Show off your garden by emailing two or three photos to [rhra@regalheights.ca](mailto:rhra@regalheights.ca) We'll put them on the website. As photos come in, you can take the virtual tour at [regalheights.ca/gardens2021](https://regalheights.ca/gardens2021)

*Pumpkin Carving:* This may well be the first in-person event we hold once pandemic restrictions ease. Watch your email this October for updates.

*Carol Sing:* Last Christmas during COVID restrictions, in lieu of the Carol Sing we posted stories read aloud online: "The Gift of the Magi " and "Zladeh the Goat." Chances are very good that we will be able to get together for one of our oldest and best-loved events this December. What a wonderful way to end a difficult couple of years!

### **Communications**

Peter Norman handles communications for the RHRA. He sends out frequent email updates to our membership and maintains the association website. The website, [regalheights.ca](https://regalheights.ca), is constantly updated. It includes news about RHRA events, agendas and minutes of monthly meetings and an events calendar. There are plenty of posts about neighbourhood lore and history as well as detailed information about development projects in the neighbourhood. You can find information regarding Committee of Adjustment hearings for local developments on the COA Tracker ([bit.ly/RH-COA](https://bit.ly/RH-COA))

There are currently more than 450 email addresses in the database, close to 400 Facebook members, more than 450 Twitter followers and close to 200 Instagram followers associated with the RHRA. In addition, roughly 450 neighbours use the NextDoor Regal Heights app.

Households reached through current communications do not necessarily represent the dynamic and diverse community of Regal Heights, which is about 1,700 households strong. So, the association will continue to find effective ways to connect with everyone.

### **Police Community Partnership**

For close to 15 years, Rosa Cordiano has been an RHRA representative at meetings of the Police Community Partnership for Division 13 (PCP13) and many meetings of the Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC). She reports back to the association with insights and details not easily interpreted via any publication.

PCP13 meetings pre-COVID were held monthly at St. Clare School Cafeteria. For over 30 years, Joanne Dileo has led this committee which allows residents in Division 13 a safe and open venue to voice to their concerns about policing issues in their immediate neighbourhoods. Regularly in attendance are Community Relations Officers, Traffic Officers, a city councillor representative and sometimes provincial representatives, as well as community group representatives.

During her time attending these meetings, Rosa says she has learned:

- To live in a safe neighbourhood, engagement makes the difference. We are all the eyes and ears of our own community.
- Residents can go online to report crimes involving non-personal injury, such as auto damage, bike/porch theft and gang associated graffiti. This enables better statistic and incident mapping.
- You can learn the latest about crime in the area by subscribing to the “Crime Point Bulletins”
- In this community, police officers walk our streets for five-year terms, to become familiar trusted faces, especially among shop keepers along the St. Clair corridor. Services are available to help shop owners safeguard their shops from potential break and enters.
- Video cameras are increasingly becoming an evidence tool to identify violators.
- Conviction is a short-term solution. Repeat offenders are an ongoing issue that requires the city and communities to understand and help the offender become a proud member of this same society they call home; our neighbour.

### *The Community Police Liaison Committees (CPLC)*

Each CPLC is a very formal compared to PCP13. It is made up of community volunteers and police service representatives from the local division's geographic area. Their mandate is to work together in identifying, prioritizing and problem-solving local policing issues. They do this by being proactive in community relations, crime prevention, education, mobilization, and communications initiatives, and acting as a resource to the police and the community

All of the 17 police divisions throughout the City of Toronto, including Traffic Services, have a CPLC to provide advice and assistance to the local unit commander.

Below are other community groups that residents can be involved with:

#### *Community Consultative Committees (CCC)*

These committees are meant to serve specific communities, such as Aboriginal, Black and Muslim residents, on a citywide basis. These committees serve as voices on wider policing issues such as training, recruiting, Professional Standards and community mobilization.

#### *Chief's Youth Advisory Committee (CYAC)*

The Chief's Community Advisory Council (CAC) and the Chief's Youth Advisory Committee (CYAC) exist to provide a voice for various community representatives, from business to social agencies and spanning the various diverse communities as well as youth on a wide variety of issues.

#### **Street Beautification and Gardening**

One of the things that makes Regal Heights so attractive is the public gardens we maintain throughout the neighbourhood. These include:

- 22 barrel planters positioned along a half-dozen streets including Regal Road, Rosemount Ave and Winona Ave,
- the boulevard gardens along Rosemount Ave., Springmount Ave. and Mount Royale Ave., and
- Daffodil Hill, just south of Regal Road School

Most years, the RHRA organizes neighbourhood cleanup and garden maintenance days to clean up litter left over from the winter and to refresh the community gardens both in the spring and in the autumn. Everyone is invited to come join the fun and share in the personal pride as the gardens bloom. In spring 2021, the cleanup day was suspended and community volunteers were invited to independently take an hour and clean up deadfall from the gardens or along the sidewalks or streets.

Like to get involved but don't know what to do? Send an email to [rhra@regalheights.ca](mailto:rhra@regalheights.ca) and the garden coordinator will get back to you. The plan for this summer is to coordinate activities by email so that gardening volunteers can work safely while still having someone (correctly distanced) to answer questions.

#### *Daffodil Hill*

We had a successful Fall planting of hundreds more daffodils into empty spaces on the hill along the south edge of Regal Road School. The spring display was very impressive. We will continue to plant many more bulbs in the fall, concentrating on filling in on blank areas. In the near future we will take steps to thin out some trees that are crowding out some native black walnut and cherry trees. This will allow for a healthy environment for these trees to develop.

#### **Community Welcome Project**

With the Welcome Package, Harry Lay and Beth Marcilio have been able to contact newcomers and let them know of the many activities taking place in the neighbourhood. When we hear of

someone who has recently moved here, we offer them a package of information that includes letters and flyers from our library, our elected representatives, local merchants and from our schools.

Most important, we offer news about our association and its activities. This is a great way to inform new residents about Regal Heights and we encourage all residents to let us know when new neighbours have arrived.

### **Finances**

There is no membership fee to join the RHRA; we support the organization through occasional online fundraising. We also accept donations on the website, [regalheights.ca](http://regalheights.ca).

Due to Covid 19 there has not been as much activity as normal over the last year and therefore we have spent less. We spent approximately \$130 for the Maple Syrup supplies this year and added \$80 to our Operating Fund through donations from RHRA members.

#### *Finances as of May 2021:*

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Operating Fund.   | 5774.26           |
| Heritage Fund.    | 276.00            |
| Street Sale Fund. | 192.00            |
| Petty Cash.       | 18.35             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>\$6,260.61</b> |

Report prepared by **John Keating, Chair, Regal Heights Residents' Association**  
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