#### April 2025

#### Hazel Heights Community News

#### Issue 5

## HHRA Board Members

President
Ruchi Ambike

Vice-President

Cort Fowler

Treasurer
Sue Andrews

Secretary
Ramila Mudarth

Members at Large
Brian Coulson
Rushmi Hasham
Jason Liu
Gordana Maric
Lori Malkiewicz
Peter McCallion

Don't Forget to Renew your HHRA Membership!

To renew your annual membership (\$25) please send an etransfer (with your address in the memo line) to:

HazelHeights.ra@gmail.com

Please refer your neighbours to our website if they are interested in joining the HHRA

https://www.hazelheights.ca/

#### **WELCOME TO SPRING 2025!**

#### President's Message

Happy Spring everyone! Following our Annual General Meeting, as HHRA moves into our third year, we look forward to more events and opportunities to connect with our neighbours.

Attending events is a great way to meet and socialize and chat with us! If you have attended any HHRA events, you know that we do try to talk to everyone present and enjoy mingling with our community. It is also a great way to interact with local officials and share your concerns with them.

Our next event is coming up! We are very excited about being awarded the 2025 Small Project Matching Grant and planning is in the works for Saturday June 21st (see below). We are actively seeking volunteers to join our planning committee. If you are interested, please email us at <a href="mailto:hazelheights.ra@gmail.com">hazelheights.ra@gmail.com</a>. We hope to see you all there! Please remember that you can always reach out to us via email or on the HHRA Member Chat (if you're not yet on the chat, send us an email so we can send you the link).

Ruchi Ambike HHRA President



## Celebrate Spring at our Fun-Filled Spring-A-Palooza!

Join us at Brown's Heights Park (1600 Bristol Rd W, Mississauga) for an exciting time of adventure with a photo scavenger hunt, sweet prizes, free ice cream, and more! It's the perfect way to enjoy the sunshine and connect with neighbors.

Registration is coming soon!



Don't miss out...spring into the season with us!

## **HHRA Updates**

# Highlights - 3rd Annual HHRA AGM March 25, 2025

Thank you to all the HHRA Members who attended and participated in our Annual General Meeting (AGM). HHRA presented an overview of the year highlighting its communications to members, budget, community events, collaboration with city officials and the Peel Police as well as next steps for the year ahead. Congratulations to:

- Sue Andrews who was approved as our Treasurer,
- Lori Malkiewicz and Peter McCallion for their nominations and approvals as our new members of the HHRA Board!





A special thank you to our volunteers (Roel & Liem) and speakers for making this an especially engaging AGM session. See below for a list of speakers and any sharable information that was presented:

- Overview of HHRA Activities and Community Events - Ruchi Ambike, President
- HHRA Financial Statement Jan 1 Dec 31, 2024
   Sue Andrews, Treasurer
- Hazel Heights Crime Statistics & Update Peel Regional Police - Acting Inspector Paul Dhillon, Constable Melanie Kelly, Sergeant Michael Bishop
- Safe City Mississauga Program Update from Melodie Downey
- Our Space Brown's Heights Proposal
   Sandi Boulos & Mahima Patel
- HHRA Members Private Security Ideas & Proposal - Jeff Hasham & Ravi Nair
- Ward 6 Update Councillor Joe Horneck



# HHRA Updates cont...

### HHRA Supports Food Banks Mississauga!

In November of 2024, the City of Mississauga declared food insecurity as an emergency and reported that one in thirteen residents reach out to Food Banks for support! Recently, 11 members of our community participated in a heartwarming and impactful volunteering experience at the Food Banks Mississauga. Surrounded by rows of donated goods, the team joined forces to sort everyday necessities that would ultimately find their way to families and individuals in need.





Foodbanks team's friendly staff provided clear guidelines and assisted with sorting process while providing a positive and relaxing atmosphere. HHRA "Hunger Warriors "sorted 4860 pounds of goods, which translates to an equal number of meals for people in need.

Our time at Food Banks Mississauga wasn't just about giving back, it was also an opportunity to reflect on gratitude and the importance of compassion, community, and taking care of each other. This experience left everyone with a great sense of accomplishment, purpose and recognition that small efforts can make a big difference.

A special thanks to

those who have generously donated to our **campaign** goal of raising \$1000 for



goal of raising \$1000 for Food Banks Mississauga.

To date, we have raised \$500 and invite you to visit our *HHRA website* where you can still make a

donation. Stay tuned as we plan future dates for HHRA members to volunteer at the food bank!



# City of Mississauga Updates

#### City of Mississauga Announces Its Top Priorities

Looking ahead to the future and to recent political events, the city announced the following priorities:

- building more affordable housing
- Investing in local and rapid transit
- Tackling climate change and its effects, like flooding
- Ensuring Mississauga remains an affordable place to live
- Supporting and working with local governments to combat the effects of tariffs and ensure economic success



To learn more about the city's priorities, visit their website 2025 Mississauga Matters Campaign.

#### City of Mississauga Passes its New Official Plan 2051

The city has passed its new official development plan that will allow as many as 370,000 new housing units to be built across Mississauga by 2051. The new plan will allow for the building of taller towers around existing or proposed transportation routes, more semi-detached homes and small-scale retail businesses or outlets in local neighbourhoods. These changes were highlighted in a recent article in <u>Mississauga News</u>, which included a concern expressed by the Mississauga Residents' Association Network (MIRANET) that "the new plan was stripping protections for mature residential neighbourhoods."

# Seniors can now Register for Free Fitness Programs!

Beginning on April 1st, seniors who are 65+ will be eligible for free fitness memberships at any community center in the city. So why not take advantage of this new program to keep fit and healthy!



## Art & Culture Program in the City



The City of Mississauga website also includes an <u>Art and Culture</u> site that highlights a variety of seasonal and local events to visit and enjoy during the winter season.

Check out <u>Mississauga – A Cultural Canvas</u> for upcoming events, things to do, local sporting events and venues, etc.

# Getting Ready for Spring Season

## Are You Looking for Some Gardening Tips?

Spring season is upon us and many residents are looking forward to getting into gardening again. If you are not sure where to start or just want some gardening tips, consider attending one of these *gardening events* in the new few weeks.



#### Box Tree Moth - An Invasive Pest that Targets Boxwood Shrubs

If you have boxwood plants and shrubs in your yard or neighbourhood, there's an invasive pest you need



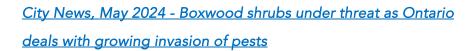
to be on the lookout for this spring. The *Box Tree Moth* (Cydalima perspectalis), is an invasive pest that primarily targets boxwood shrubs, causing significant damage and potential death if left unchecked.

Ongoing monitoring of your shrubs is vital in order to identify and control the spread of this pest! It is recommended that you get up close, separate the leaves and check the stems. The moth caterpillars tend to look like twigs and can move throughout the shrub to eat away at it.

Other signs the moth is present also include feces on the shrub, a webbing inside it, and a discolouring of the leaves.

The following articles provide some suggested tips on how to protect your boxwood plants from this invasive pest.

CBC News, May 2024 - The box tree moth could wreak havoc on your shrubs. Here's what you need to know





# Make 2025 Your Year Cyber Safe!

"In 2024, Canadians experienced a significant increase in fraud losses, with victims losing over \$638 million .... with 108,878 reports, including at least 34,621 victims"

Source: Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC)



Scams are deceptive schemes used to get people to hand over money or give financial or personal information. They can take various forms, including online, phone, and inperson interactions. *Phishing*, for example, is a common online scam that targets consumers by sending them an email that appears to be from a well-known source.

Scammers often exploit trust, urgency, fear or greed and may pretend to be from a family member, your bank, charities, utility or insurance companies, familiar retail companies like amazon, CRA, police, etc. <u>Credit Canada</u> provides an extensive list of current and common scams that you need to watch out for so you are not taken advantage of from scammers. Also, take a moment to read the <u>Insauga News</u> article - <u>14 Biggest Scams that hit Ontario in 2024.</u>



Here are some suggested prevention tips for avoiding scams or frauds including tips from the Ontario Government Identify a Fraud & Scam Site.

- Ignore emails from unknown senders and block the sender from sending additional suspicious emails,
- If you receive a message from an unknown sender, don't open any attachments or follow any links to third-party websites,
- Look for the secure symbol. Legitimate websites that ask you to enter confidential information are generally encrypted to protect your details. You can identify secure websites by either:
  - o 'https:' rather than 'http:' at the start of the internet address
  - o a closed padlock or unbroken key icon at the bottom right corner of your browser window
- Be aware of scam red flags such as bad grammar or spelling in messages, high pressure tactics and offers that are "too good to be true,"
- Avoid large upfront payments,
- Never provide your personal, credit card or online account details if you receive a call claiming to be from your bank or any other organization. Instead, ask for their name and contact number and check with the organization in question before calling back.

If something doesn't seem right, report it to the *Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre* and any other suspicious behaviour to the police.

## Seniors Navigation Portal for Health Services

The Mississauga Ontario Health Team has developed a digital portal for seniors to seamlessly access a number of local health care services. Some of the services include adult day programs, daily life supports, caregiver assistance and much more. The digital tool will help older adults and care-givers connect to these services in a "one stop digital system", enabling them to book appointments and



gather important health information. While the first phase of the Navigation Portal is focused on older adults, there are plans to extend the service to support community members in palliative care, and those with mental health needs and addictions.

Click here for more information.

# Sponsors Make a Difference!



We welcome members who own or operate local businesses & organizations to support our local community events and to advertise in newsletters and HHRA website.

Your sponsorship will enable you to:

- reach over 557 homes in the Hazel Heights neighbourhood,
- support a growing and active residents association focused on working with local officials, community organizations and businesses to improve the quality of community life,
- participate in future sponsorship opportunities such as community events and print/digital newsletters.

For more information, please contact us at: <u>hazelheights.ra@gmail.com</u>



**Bristol Dental Clinic** 



A Strong Voice for our Community