



TYLER ON THE RIGHT WITH LUCY (ST. BERNARD)

Dog Tales

Leash-Free Mississauga
(LFM) Newsletter

OCTOBER 2014

Annual General Meeting

This year Leash-Free Mississauga's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5 November 2014 from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 pm at the Mississauga Valley Community Centre, Program 2 Room, 1275 Mississauga Valley Blvd. (Burnhamthorpe & Central Parkway)

The Board of LFM consists of at least five members, each elected to a 2-year term. Board members are elected on a bi-annual basis, and this year two positions are open for election. Nominations and questions can be sent to: Leashfreemississauga@gmail.com

Thanks to City Staff

A very big thank-you to all the personnel from the City of Mississauga Parks and Forestry, who support the leash free zones in so many ways; ploughing the snow from our parking lots, collecting the garbage, providing us with wood chips for our paths and so many other kind services.

We would especially like to thank Hazel McColl, the City Liaison for Leash-Free Mississauga, and all the other staff who work with her.



Thank you to Purina for their continued sponsorship of Leash-Free Mississauga. For the 9th year, Purina has donated \$5000!



Canada's Healthy Choice For Pets

Thank you to Global Pet Foods for their continued support of our Calendar, Events and donation of biodegradable poop bags.



Leash-Free Mississauga 2015 Calendar

The LFM calendar will be available for sale starting on the Halloween weekend, October 31. This year we have managed to squeeze in 285 photos of our best and most loyal friends, and by doing that, hopefully we'll have lots more sales. The Calendar is one of our main sources of income, by which we hope to replenish some of the \$40,000 LFM spent on fencing at Lakeside and Parkway Belt in 2013.

They will be available for sale at all of our parks, through your Park Reps and also through the Global pet food stores. Cost is only \$10.

Report from the board

October 15 2014

It has been a challenging year for Leash-Free Mississauga. We dealt with a number of political and administrative issues. The City is in the process of revising the Parks By-laws. Of particular interest to us were changes to opening hours, children in LF zones, and limits on the number of dogs people could bring into the zone. LFM members were invited to attend public hearings and sent a survey. The board also consulted with City staff at LFM board meetings and an additional meeting at the request of the City. The City initially planned to go forward with their recommendations in June 2014. However, they decided to delay this until the beginning of 2015 after the municipal elections.

Work is continuing on a new LFM website that should give us a more up to date forum for information and communication.

To streamline our membership process we decided to move to a common renewal date. All memberships paid between now and the end of 2014 will run until Dec 31 2015. So you get a bit of a bargain by renewing early. This will make it easier for people to know when they are due to renew and allow us to keep track of the number of members we have.

We filled vacancies on the board by welcoming new acting board members Richard Bramwell, Gayle Laws, Marc LeBlanc, and Leslie Jamieson. Elections of Zone Representatives were scheduled for Garnetwood (Oct 27) and Etobicoke Valley (Oct 25).

Jack Clarke was responsible the 2015 Calendar. Calendars should

be ready for sale by October 31. We encourage everyone to buy calendars to hang on their wall and give out to friends for the holiday season.

Position	Incumbent	Term Ends
President	Vacant Not Elected	
Vice President	Vacant Not Elected	
Secretary	Barbara Hanson	AGM 2015
Treasurer	Debra Buckler	AGM 2015
Director at Large	Marc LeBlanc (Acting)	
Director at Large	Gayle Laws (Acting)	
Director at Large	Michael Wood	AGM 2014
Director at Large	Anne McGivern	AGM 2015
Etobicoke Valley Rep	Election Sept 25/14	Sep-17
Garnetwood Rep	Leslie Jamieson	Sep-16
Jack Darling Rep	Barbara Hanson (Acting)	Sep-15
Lakeside Rep	Jack Clarke	Oct-15
Parkway Rep	Vacant	
Quineppenon Rep	Richard Bramwell (Acting)	
Totoredaca Rep	Dave Carty	Sep-15

There will be 4 board positions open for election at the AGM. Two members have already agreed to stand for election. Please think about standing yourself and/or encourage other members to stand. Nominations can be made from the floor at the AGM or sent in advance to info@leashfreemississauga.com by November 3, 2014.

Garnetwood Park

Rep: Leslie Jamieson

As 2014 moves into its 4th quarter, the leaves are changing in the ravine surrounding Garnetwood Leash free Park. This is the time of year that makes Garnetwood a truly special park, as its natural tree-lined landscape provide a breathtaking play-place for dogs and owners alike!

In early October, Garnetwood has had some minor improvements in the way of gate repair and the promise of a new bulletin board coming soon. 2015 will bring some exciting initiatives. The new park representative, Leslie Jamieson, will be working with the Leash-free Mississauga board on ways to improve membership at Garnetwood. Membership has been down at Garnetwood in recent years, but we hope that with continued communication, focus on safety and park improvements (e.g. park water drainage & reintroduction of the annual holiday party), we can entice more folks to become LFM members.

While autumn is a gorgeous time to visit – remember, Garnetwood is open all year long! The pine trees on the west park provides some shelter from the winds – so bundle up and come join us for a fun time!

We have also started a new Facebook page to share updates and park photos. <https://www.facebook.com/GarnetwoodDogPark>

Jack Darling Park

Rep: Barbara Hanson

It's been a very busy year for Jack Darling. We began by dealing with extreme weather conditions from the ice storm, record cold, and high snowfall that often made the footing treacherous and hindered operation of the gates. In the spring Global Pet Foods – Port Credit and Suzanne Godin organized an Easter Egg hunt and membership drive that was a great success. The front end of JD was opened in late June only to close shortly after to address new drainage problems within the toboggan area. In September I met with the City to discuss several matters. The City is addressing drainage issues at the south end by the woods, lighting it the north end, mowing the front end for better visibility after park, and making the major path surfaces dog friendly. We now have 7 entrance gates that will need regular monitoring and adjustment. Many of the trees that were planted in the Zone during the renovations were infected with Black Knot - a disease that harms and kills trees. The Zone was closed for a week so that the infected trees could be replaced and the drainage problems at the front fixed. So there are still things to be worked out. But it's a beautiful

facility and we thank the City and Region for bringing this project to fruition.

I have been heartened by the number of members who have pitched in and helped with improving and maintaining the Zone this year. Jim Bentley organized a poop pick up day in the spring that led to removing a mountain of poop that was missed during the heavy winter. Handy members and users have adjusted the new bulletin board so that it is functioning well. There has been almost no posting of inappropriate notices (commercial advertising etc.) since Suzanne Godin set up the locked LFM business side and the open back side for members to post. Members are using the open side to keep people informed of relevant issues and as an informal lost and found.

Members answered the call to "Burr Busting" by recognizing and removing Burdock plants from the Zone. This made for more pleasant late summer and fall. The BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag) program has been a big success. I hope people will continue to bring their own bags plus any extras they have and place them in the holders at the gates or the box under the bulletin board. With the help of members we have installed new prototype bag holders that should be stronger and longer lasting than the ones we have been using. A Halloween Party is being organized for November 1, 10:30-12:30 with the support of Global Pet Foods - Port Credit. I hope everyone will come out to events, join or renew membership, buy our 2015 calendars, and continue contributing to keeping the Jack Darling Leash Free Zone safe, friendly, and pleasant for everyone.

Lakeside Park

Rep: Jack Clarke

Lakeside Park is flourishing! It receives many positive comments from members and non-members alike. People really seem to love the place.

This time last year the new fencing was installed, and since then we have seen the arrival of some picnic benches and also a new notice board, constructed largely with the help of Clarkson Secondary school, which has saved LFM considerable money.

This time last year we had around 150 members, now we are up to approximately 225. With a few membership drives we hope to increase the membership to around 300 by this time next year.

All in all, things are going well. We have a few minor drainage problems in Winter, which are being addressed, and one Major drainage problem on the east side of the park, that being our biggest area of concern. Members are now asking how we can install some lighting for winter evening walkers.

A word of thanks to Jeff Cunningham, our Park Maintenance Supervisor, who always makes himself and his staff available for the stuff that needs to be done such as supplying and spreading mulch, to keep our paths dry during the wet season, and throughout the rest of the year.

Parkway Belt

Update by: Jack Clarke

Parkway Belt was one of the recipients of a new fence last year, Lakeside Park being the other. The fencing and gates had been in

a pretty bad way. In the very near future they will also have a new notice board, which will be in common with the one installed at Lakeside Park, and important for keeping members updated on the goings on at LFM. At this time Parkway is without a Rep., but we hope to have that resolved very soon, so we can solve the water run-off problem at the gate. Thank you for being patient.

Quineppen Meadows Park

Rep: Richard Bramwell

Half of Q Park has been closed for some time, while the neighboring water reservoir and pumping station was upgraded. Q's main problem is fencing. Improvements and issues this year are:

New patio stones on gravel at the parking lot entrance, make for a sorely needed, cleaner, drier entry point. It might be useful to prevent the winter ice pockets that form at the gates, by resetting some tiles to make a small (4") rise up to the bottom of the gate and then down the other side. The gates would also have to be raised.

The North half of Q is now re-fenced, except for a length using standard farm fence plus chicken wire along the parking lot area.

The outside gates at the North end were all installed much too high above ground. That has been corrected.

The North half needs more grass encouragement, which would be facilitated if an accessible water valve was installed. The City have agreed to this, but it has not been implemented. The valve would allow a hose to be run into that area for summer sprinkling.

The fence along the ravine needs upgrading. It is presently only farm fence plus chicken wire.

The north and south fences of the South half of Q need to be raised. There are various solutions that could be implemented, but the City of Mississauga may stipulate a solution.

Totoredaca Park

Rep: Dave Carty

Toto had a good year. We have had many compliments on the state of things. We have done a good deal of cleanup and maintenance. The rock garden was renovated. A new culvert was put in the woods. Brush has been cleared. Trees have been straightened. Hoses have been repaired several times. Etc. etc.

We have increased our membership. Many more people are using Toto these days. A large number come from outside Mississauga. Our location, size, and good maintenance are attracting them. From what they tell us, word of mouth does the trick.

We had a fundraiser in June. Mayor Hazel McCallion and Councillor Pat Saito were in attendance. A good time was had by all. The mayor and councillor were pleased with the park.

We had a young art student, Erica Rippon (14), paint a beautiful abstract mural on two sides of our steel container. It has been admired by all of us. Erica plans to do the other sides next year.

I appointed Antonella Hollett as assistant park rep a few weeks ago. She has been a big help. Antonella also renewed our first aid kit. We are very grateful for this, as our old one was outdated.

We had our annual Hallowe'en party on October 26th. Counsellor Pat Saito was in attendance and helped us with judging. We also collected donations for Edenwood Food Bank.

We will have a Christmas do again in December. I suspect Santa will pay another visit.

We lost three of our beloved old timers this year. R.I.P. To Vegas, Willow, and Drooper.

We are seeing a large number of puppies these days. It is great to see them all. As the old ones leave us the youngsters come along.

Looks like summer has finally left us. Hopefully we will have a milder winter with no ice storms this time around.

We lost a number of trees, mainly to the ash borer. We had considerable amount of damage and loss due to the ice storm as well.

I would like to thank the city crews and contractors for their help. Thanks to Amber Griffin and Hazel McColl for their help and advice.

Thank you to our volunteers as well.

Thanks to Marc LeBlanc for creating a new website for our park. <http://totoredaca.ca>

We have also started a new Facebook page to share updates and park photos. <https://www.facebook.com/totoredaca.ca>

Dog Licenses

The City of Mississauga requires each dog to be in possession of their very own special 'bling' - a dog licence with tag! Even dogs who are micro-chipped must have a license.

Licensing is quick and easy - by phone by mail, on-line, or in person.

Mississauga Animal Services
735 Central Parkway West
Mississauga, Ontario,
L5C 4H4

(905-826-5858)

See link below for on-line information.

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/animalservices>

Leash-Free Mississauga wants YOU!

LFM is a non-profit corporation, run solely by volunteers. It organizes and maintains 7 leash free parks across Mississauga. All costs associated with operating the parks, including Grass Cutting, Fence Mending & Clean Up are covered by Annual Membership Fees, Donations and Volunteer Fundraising Efforts.

Support your local leash free park for only \$15.00 - 1 dog; \$20.00 - 2 or more dogs, per year. Choose your way to become a New Member or Renew your Membership;

Pick up a Membership Form at the park or Sign up or Renew online with credit card or PayPal at <http://www.leashfreemississauga.ca>

Membership brings a host of benefits to help sustain our valuable spaces and keep you informed on Leash-Free Mississauga news and events. The City looks to membership numbers to determine support levels for existing parks and needs for future parks.

Every park has an LFM representative who needs help to attract new members, run fund raising events and generally keep park operations running smoothly. Get to know the representative in your park and please help out.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Earlier in 2014 the LFM board voted on a Code of Conduct for our parks. Watch for the following to be posted on a bulletin board near you.

Promote safety, peaceful enjoyment and treat all users kindly and with respect.

Watch and control your dog(s) at all times and take immediate action to stop your dog(s) from injuring, bullying, or threatening.

Any dog who is aggressive, contagious, younger than 4 months, lacks its vaccinations, or is in heat should not be in the zone.

People should not run, cycle, skateboard, cook, or hold private events in the zone.

Alcohol and food are not allowed in the Zone.

Hazardous items such as weapons, laser toys, choke or spiked collars, balls smaller than 2.5" diameter (standard tennis ball), glass containers are not allowed in the Zone.

Do not give any treats, food, drink, or toys to any dog without permission of its owner.

Do not involve any dog in any activity without the owner's permission.

Do not grab, pick up, or discipline a dog without the owner's

permission unless you or your dog is in danger.

Do not let your dog dig holes. Fill in any holes he or she digs.

Carry a collar or harness and leash for every dog you bring into the park

Close all gates behind you immediately and leave the gate pen areas quickly with your dog.

Dispose of litter including poop, barf, clumps of animal hair, cups, cigarette butts, and packaging.

Pick up and dispose of POOP!

Bring your own bags for poop/waste pick up. Bring extra bags if you can and put in them in containers for use by people who run out of, or occasionally forget, bags.

Move around as much as possible and don't congregate.

You should be aware that un-neutered dogs may be more aggressive and/or incite aggression in other dogs.

If any dogs are involved in a conflict that results in injuries requiring veterinary care, the owners of those dogs should share the expenses.

All dogs must wear identification information including the owner's name and current contact information.

Our History

Leash Free Zones have been a part of Mississauga's city parks since 1995 when citizens worked with local Councillors to set up a pilot zone. The interest and support of hundreds of Mississauga residents demonstrated both the need for and the feasibility of leash free zones in the City.

The following year the Mayor and Council agreed to make parkland available for dogs to exercise off leash on condition that there would be no additional operating or capital costs to impact the City's budget and that a citizen group would agree to manage day-to-day operations as well as financing of the zones.

Leash-Free Mississauga was officially launched in 1996 with two zones, Jack Darling and Battleford Park (predecessor of Totoredaca Park). Other zones followed over the years with Parkway Belt being the latest to date in May of 2005.

Leash-Free Mississauga now manages seven zones ringing the city.

- Etobicoke Valley, a lovely natural area bordering Etobicoke Creek and fenced to the north
- Garnetwood, a fully chain link fenced zone within a larger public park
- Jack Darling, a 22-acre fully chain link fenced park with terraced pathways
- Lakeside, securely fenced with chain link and right on the lake
- Quennippenon Meadows will soon be restored to its full size
- Parkway Belt, newly fenced with chain link at the end of the Hershey Trail
- Totoredaca, with a woodlot as well as separate spaces for large and small dogs

At the beginning, individual zones set up their own organizing community group/board. Each was responsible for raising the funds to cover the capital costs of set-up as well as day to day operating expenses. The City agreed advance start-up funding for the capital costs with the expectation that the community group would repay. The capacity and interest of each group varied with some having much higher levels of enthusiasm and involvement than others (some zones did not develop a group and relied on the umbrella Leash-Free Mississauga for support).

In September 2009, the City of Mississauga introduced its Community Group Support Program, which requires that all affiliates of the City be incorporated. Benefits to Leash-Free Mississauga and the zones were the formalization of continued City liaison support, special rate for booking community facilities and use/delivery of parks equipment, marketing through City websites and third party general liability insurance. Leash-Free Mississauga incorporated as an Ontario non-Profit Corporation; individual boards for each zone were discontinued.

As a non-profit corporation, Leash-Free Mississauga can raise funds to support the creation and upkeep of the zones. Funds are raised through annual membership fees, personal and corporate donations, in-zone events and other fundraising activities.

Leash-Free
Mississauga

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