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Leash-Free Mississauga

May
2019

Spring Newsletter 2019

By the volunteer Board, LFM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here and with that comes an abundance of dogs enjoying the city's 8 leash-free parks. Visits occur year round but sometimes ice and snow make conditions less than ideal for us humans. Most dogs don't seem to mind the blistery conditions.

Leash-free Mississauga (LFM) is a volunteer organization to maintain the parks and liaison with the city for new parks began in 1995. We rely on membership and volunteers to fund our activities, which includes paying for hydro at some parks, and to plan and fund park enhancements.

To thank our members and supporters, we are giving out nifty sturdy poop bag dispensers which also have a flashlight attached (with ability to change batteries). Membership lists have been

posted on all display boards and each park is planning to host a membership drive to distribute the dispensers to current members and to encourage all park users to join us.



Check the Facebook pages, LFM Instagram and the website to learn the dates and times of these events and come out to get yours. Check your name on the posted membership lists and contact your park rep to get yours

Gayle Laws

President LFM

LEASH-FREE



MISSISSAUGA

Why become a LFM Member?

As a nonprofit volunteer organization, your membership supports our valuable work, by

- Supporting the many volunteers who spend countless hours in maintaining the seven leash-free parks and organizing park clean-ups
- Planning and financing for park enhancements

- Working closely with the City on poop recycling programs and other initiatives

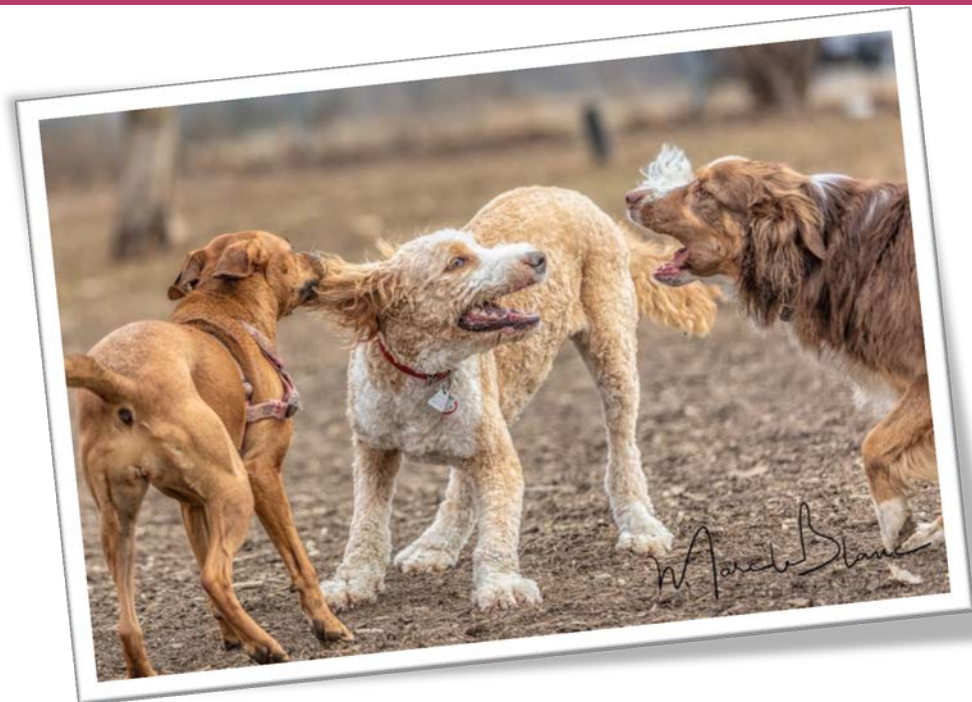
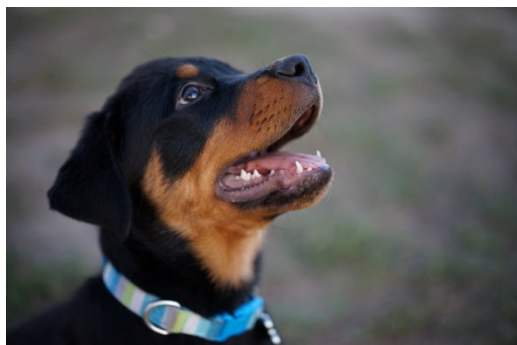
Your membership gives you:

- Bi-annual newsletters
- Voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting
- Access to Board meeting minutes via the website
- Park specific updates such as park closures to save you an unnecessary trip
- A voice to the City to enhance existing parks and promote more leash-free parks
- Honour the memory of your dog on the Dog Memorial when that sad time comes
- Support to the dog community in Mississauga

Flip Give Promotion

Want to shop and support LFM at the same time? How you ask? It's easy...

1. Go to flipgive.com and download the app FlipGive
2. Click "Teams"
3. Click "Search a Team" and enter "Leash Free Mississauga" and enter code GWHDY9
4. Click "Shop Online".
5. Search your favourite stores (Costco, Hudson's Bay, Amazon.ca, Indigo, Costco, Walmart, Gap, American Eagle, Ardene, Starbucks, Old Navy, Nike, Foot Locker, Under Armour and many more) or search by store category. You can also purchase ECards as gifts.



Companies will donate a percentage of your purchase to Leash-free Mississauga and all funds raised will purchase enhancements for the parks. If you have questions emails fundraising@leashfreemississauga.ca

LFM Board Members are Needed

The following positions are vacant and need dedicated volunteers to step up to support the parks for our dogs:

- Etobicoke Valley Park Rep
- Quenippenon Park Rep
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Director Membership and Communications
- Website: Volunteers who are experienced with WordPress to assist with upgrades to our website.

Each Park Representative needs volunteers to help out, arrange for park clean-ups, keep the display boards up to date, post on Face Book accounts and interact with park users. Email your interest to

President@leashfreemississauga.ca

Designated areas for small dogs (under 25 lbs)

Jack Darling and Toto each have fenced areas for small dogs who are more comfortable in a smaller area and interacting with dogs their own size. Small dogs are welcome at all parks of course.

Jack Darling Small Dog Park:

Spring has finally arrived! Come play, chase, wrestle or quietly wander around with 10 to 30 other similarly sized dogs. All dogs under 25 lbs are very welcome (usually greeted by several excited puppies). The grass is growing fast and thanks to the wood chips spread by all our volunteers, even on rainy days our little park is usually not too muddy.

Our busiest times are usually mid-afternoon and early evening. Finding a parking spot over the weekends can be challenging. Remember that there's a second parking lot on the east side of the main park. The parking enforcement bylaw officers regularly patrol our parking areas and illegally parked vehicles are ticketed.

Interested in volunteering? We need a Twitter and an Instagram expert to regular update our Small Dog park accounts. With more volunteers, we can start organizing more fun events at our park.

Please think twice about using the park at night. Currently we have no lighting although we have asked the City to investigate the cost to add lighting. The number of coyote sighting here is increasing!

Play safe and please pick up anyone's poop.

Submitted by Steve Dombey, JD
Small Dog Park Lead

LFM Board Meetings: All Welcome

Mississauga Valley Community Centre 7 to 9 pm
1st Wednesday of each month,
Program Room 2 (except July and August)

Upcoming Events

Jack Darling Membership Drive
Saturday May 4 from 8 am to 4 pm

Check

www.leashfreemississauga.ca
calendar to view the dates of other park membership drives.

Keep in Touch

Each park has its own Facebook page, so sign up for alerts to learn about the latest news, from grass cutting to other reasons for park closures. We encourage you to post pictures, and be in contact with your park reps.

As well, check out our website for new content and the calendar of events. We want to connect with local dog rescues and co-host and promote events.

How can you help?

Can I donate to my park?

Absolutely. Donations are accepted via the website and you can identify which park you wish your donation to be targeted.

POOP AND SCOOP!

Please ensure you are always picking up after your dog. We all have to work together to ensure that the parks remain vibrant and clean, please be a responsible dog owner and pick up after your pet



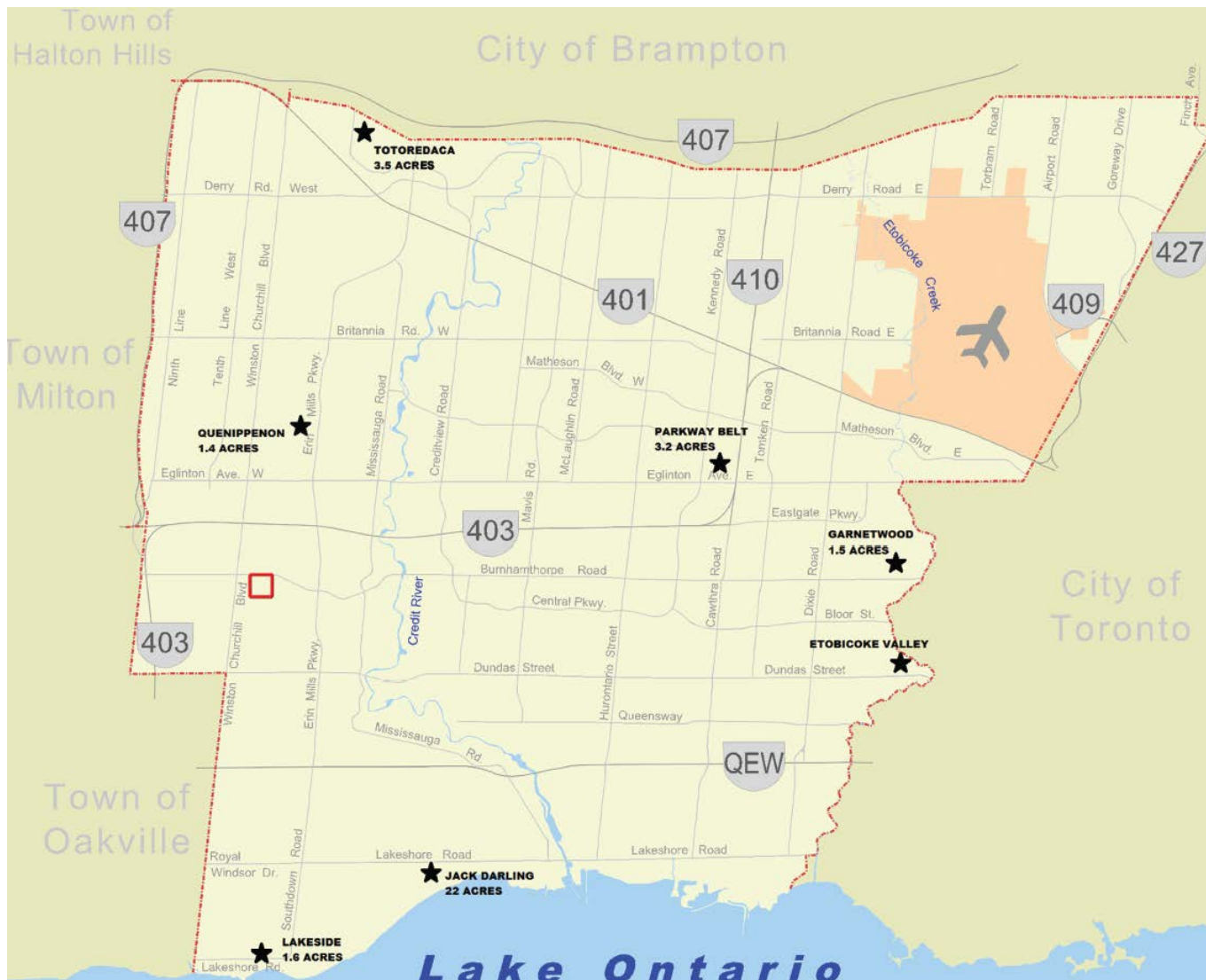
Photography throughout provided by:

Marc LeBlanc @marcleblancphotography

Matthew Long @mattface.longpants



VISIT A PARK NEAR YOU



**MEMBERSHIP SIGN UP
DONATIONS
MEMORIAL & MORE**

www.leashfreemississauga.ca