Fall 2024 Newsletter

Orchard Heights Connections

Orchard Heights Homeowners' Association

President's Message



Hello Orchard Heights residents. We've had a busy year organizing and running well-attended community events and we're excited to see such a high level of community engagement and connection. I am proud to report that two OHHA board members, Janet Jackson and I, were nominated for the Ward 1 Community Excellence award and I'm honoured that I was selected as the recipient. We are proud of the work the OHHA board does to enrich our community.

At this time, I am making a special plea to every one of you to consider joining our board or at least volunteering to help organize and run one event in 2025. Board membership is shrinking and as I write this, nearly every current member has serious health and/or significant family challenges that are pulling us away from serving our board and community.

My fellow board members and I remain committed to continue strengthening our sense of community and advocating on issues that impact the quality of life in Orchard Heights. We need your help to ensure this continues. We are all busy, but the more who step up the less work individually. I urge you to join us in actively serving the OHHA in 2025.

Tonya Elmazi, President, Orchard Heights Homeowners' Association

Your 2024 OHHA Board of Directors

Tonya Elmazi, President
Janet Jackson, Vice-President
David Blakey, Secretary
Zein Lavji, Treasurer
Raya Shadursky
Stacey Reason
Afsaneh Dhalla

Contact Your Board of Directors

Email **orchard.heights.ha@gmail.com** Phone **416-937-0697** Website **orchardheights.ca**

Online AGM Update

We are planning to hold an online 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Tuesday February 11, 2025**. Attendees will hear reports on Board activities, and 2025 OHHA members will vote to approve the financial statements, last year's minutes, and the slate of members standing for election to the 2025 Board of Directors. We ask you to please read the draft minutes before the meeting at www.orchardheights.ca.

Our bylaws require a quorum of 25 members in attendance to vote on these important items, so please plan to join us. Residents will be sent a formal AGM Notice at least 2 weeks before February 11 as well as information on where to view relevant material required to cast a vote at the meeting. This is your opportunity to get informed about our activities, use of membership funds and to engage with our political leaders on issues impacting our community.

We need more volunteers and sincerely ask you to join us in actively supporting our neighbourhood.

Development and Infrastructure News



Dixie Mall Policy Review – Sept 17 Community Meeting Update

On September 17 OHHA board members attended the Dixie Mall Policy Review meeting. At that meeting City staff presented key changes in their proposed draft official plan policies for the Dixie Mall site. Available on the Dixie Outlet Mall Policy Review website is the report on "What We Heard", the presentation slides and a video recording.

The application to develop a portion of the Dixie Mall site by Slate Asset Management is still in the review process. We will keep you updated when new information is available.

MTO QEW Improvements

We are all eagerly anticipating the end of the QEW interchange project and the disruption it has caused our community. Below is a summary of work we should expect to see in 2025 and 2026 as outlined on their website https://www.qewdixie.com/.

Year 4 – 2025

- Reconstruct the median of the QEW throughout contract limits
- Culvert replacements
- Overhead highway sign installation
- Landscaping
- Highway paving

Year 5 – 2026

- Construction of remaining portion of highway noise barrier at Park Royal Boulevard
- Final construction of the Dixie Southbound to QEW Eastbound on-ramp
- Final QEW surface course paving

Ogden Pedestrian Bridge Update

The bridge was to have been completed in 2024; however, there have been delays, and to complicate the issue further, there was a vehicle incident in June that may have compromised the integrity of the bridge being constructed. The provincial MTO engineering inspections took place in August.

If you want to contact the administration team regarding this project, call 905-247-8730 or email qewdixie@ghd.com

Stay Connected with Our Community Bulletin Board

Our Bulletin Board in Ron Searle Park will keep you connected and informed about upcoming events and resources. It's where you'll find helpful information on how to get involved, connect with neighbours and discover local services and support.



Our goal is to ensure that everyone living in Orchard Heights knows how to:

- Become an OHHA member
- Volunteer, join the OHHA Board, join our Youth Club, or start a new community group
- Follow Facebook pages for Neighbourhood Watch, OHHA updates, and residents' posts
- Advertise in our Newsletter or on our website
- Share an inspiring community story
- Learn about resident-recommended service providers.

Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Update

from our Neighbourhood Watch Lead Elaine Adamson



It's great to see neighbours working together to keep Orchard Heights safe, and we encourage you to keep up your efforts. Please join us at https://www.facebook.com/groups/OrchardHeightsNW/

Over the last few months our NW Facebook page has been busy. We've seen reports on:

- door to door pushy sales people in our area
- concerns of suspicious people
- video footage of vehicles lurking during the early hours
- alerts to police activity on our streets
- video footage of vehicle theft and tracking on other streets, and even a suspected criminal running through backyards with police in pursuit.

In addition, we've been posting about other criminal activity that's close to home. Awareness is key for each of us to do what we can to prevent crime, and so is education. Note the above questions to consider if you see something unusual around you.

Over the past few months, we've posted tips on general personal safety and how to prevent different scams, including how to avoid Grandparent scams, vehicle and bicycle theft and how to safely use social media. The more we learn from each other, the better we can protect ourselves, our families and our neighbours from becoming victims of crime.

We should all be proud of our community's actions in raising concerns and communicating with one another. Our Facebook page has provided some fast responses which is why we encourage every home to use it. To date we have 423 members and we're growing and managing to keep potential scammers out.

Since our spring OHHA newsletter, I'm pleased to report that we've seen a decrease in crimes within Orchard Heights. See details at Peel Police Crime Map https://www.peelpolice.ca/en/in-the-community/crime-statistics-and-maps.aspx).

Please note that these numbers only reflect reported incidents, so for most accurate data, we urge everyone to report all neighbourhood crime to Peel Regional Police 12 Division at 905-453-3311.



Reported Crime in OH: June 15 - Nov 9

- 2 Vehicle thefts
- 1 Fraud identity incident

How You Can Help Keep OH Safe

Stay vigilant and alert to suspicious activity, pay attention to your surroundings and call Peel Police's non-emergency line at 905-453-3311 to report anything suspicious.

Sign Up and Join Us at

https://www.facebook.com/groups/OrchardHeightsNW/

Spread the word, get up-to-date information and share real-time information with your neighbours. Let's continue watching each other's backs and keeping Orchard Heights safe.

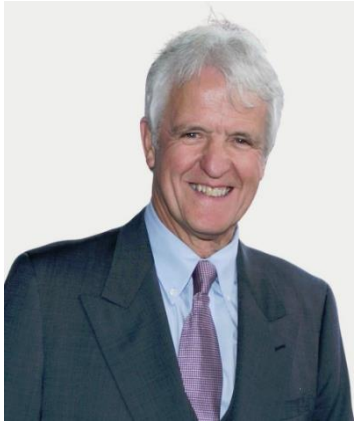
OHHA President Recognized at Ward 1 Community Awards



OHHA Leaders Honoured for Outstanding Community Contributions

OHHA President Tonya Elmazi received the Good Neighbour Award at the Ward 1 Community Excellence celebration in October. Congratulations Tonya, and a special congratulation to Vice-President Janet Jackson for her nomination.

This award honours individuals who enrich our community through acts of kindness, generosity and volunteerism, and it celebrates our board as community leaders dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all Orchard Heights residents. We're grateful for the city's acknowledgment of OHHA's community work under Tonya's leadership.



Councillor Dasko presented a special award honouring Dudley Briggs to his wife Leanne Miller and son Damian. We're sad to report that Dudley passed peacefully at home with Leanne and his family in late September.

Dudley served our community as an engaged resident since 2005, as OHHA president from 2010 to 2014 and continued serving the Board as a strong OH advocate.

He was honoured to receive the first annual OHHA Community Award at our 2023 AGM. We will miss Dudley's presence and his insight, commitment and passion to help make our community the best.



Recognition of OH leaders for their commitment to our community reinforces for all of us just how special it is to live in Orchard Heights. We know the importance of encouraging and recognizing neighbours who go above and beyond to give back to our community.

If you'd like to nominate fellow residents for consideration for future OHHA Community Awards, please call 416-937-0697 or email orchard.heights.ha@gmail.com



Community Events

2024 Halloween Parade in Ron Searle Park a Big Hit!







A fantastic Halloween event haunted Ron Searle Park last month. We had over 50 kids participate in our annual costume parade dressed as ghosts, dinosaurs, spiderman, Yoshi, princesses and many other creative, scary creatures.

This year we conducted a spooky scavenger hunt with nine items to be found in the park: an arm, cat, skeleton hand and ghost, to name a few. The first ten kids who reported finding all the items won a prize and before we knew it, the park came to life with running, boisterous kids searching for the scary items.

The event ended with participants cracking open a pinata and sending everyone home with bags full of candy. Parents, grandparents and kids all had super fun! It's never too early to start planning next year's costumes!

Festive House Decorating Contests

Our best-decorated house contests for both Halloween and the Holiday Season are back.

Congratulations to the Sulpzi Family



Neighbours' creativity and imagination shone brightly this Halloween. There were so many wonderful displays to enjoy! The Sulpzi family on Rometown Drive are the proud winners of this year's contest.

Their side-yard skeleton ensemble offered a perfect balance of scariness and creativity. But what was especially noteworthy was the amazing image of the ghost of Elvis in their window striking his trademark pose.

Get Ready for the Best Decorated House for the Holidays



It's that time of year to break out the holiday decorations and create a display that will be the envy of Orchard Heights.

The most imaginative, immersive display will win their owners a $50 gift certificate and the boasting rights as the best decorated house for the 2024 holiday season!

All neighbours look forward to enjoying your decorations and thank you for your help boosting our festive spirits, especially for those no longer able to participate.

2024 OH Homeowners' Association Membership

Please help support our neighbourhood and join or renew your OHHA membership for calendar 2025.Annual membership fees are $25 per household, $15 per household for adults 65 years+ and help fund events like our annual BBQ and other events in the park, newsletters and our website, www.orchardheights.ca.

Payment methods:



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

If you'd like more information or have questions, contact us at orchard.heights.ha@gmail.com or .

Newsletter Distribution Needs Your Help

Our OHHA newsletters are online only, which means an email address is necessary to ensure receipt of them.

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

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

Advertising Opportunities

Calling Orchard Heights residents who own a business and local business owners. Would you like to advertise your services in upcoming newsletters? We'd love to help you promote your business.

Please email orchard.heights.ha@gmail.com or call 905-274-2946 to book your ad space today.