



RARA WINTER/SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

Rathnelly Day 2022 – It's a GO!

With the Province and City of Toronto now lifting most gathering restrictions, we are happy to confirm that planning for Rathnelly Day 2022 is actively underway and we are very excited at the prospect of once again being able to come together with our friends and neighbours and celebrate this special community we call home.

This year's theme is...**the ROARING '20's!**

Seems doubly appropriate given that the 2020's are off to something of a roaring start as well.

Rathnelly Day will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2022, so be sure to save the date. Tickets will be available for purchase online later this spring.

Stay tuned for more information!

Mark your calendar for these additional upcoming Community Events:

Spring Clean Up – Saturday, April 9, 2022 @ 10am

Help us get the neighbourhood clean for spring! We will once again leverage the power of community to clean the Pump Park, laneways, and parkettes in preparation of Earth Day (and the annual Easter Egg Hunt). Meet at Hardy's Corner. Coffee, donuts, and disposable gloves will be provided. Please bring leaf bags, garbage bags, a rake, and an industrious spirit!

Do you have a high school student who needs to log some Community Service hours? We are happy to sign off on volunteer forms for students who participate!

Special thanks to Pym Buitenhuis, RARA Co-President, for coordinating this event!

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 16, 2022 @ 10am

One of our neighbourhood's great traditions continues! Meet at Hardy's Corner and the kids will be released into the Pump Park at 10am sharp to find the hidden eggs. RARA will provide the treats once again this year, but if you would like to volunteer to help stuff plastic eggs or hide eggs in the Pump Park prior to the event, please reach out to Grace McSorley at grace.mcsorley@gmail.com.



And if you have any plastic eggs you'd like to donate to the cause, please feel free to drop them off on the front porch of 169 Cottingham by April 1.

Special thanks to Grace McSorley, Cottingham resident & Street Rep, for coordinating this event!

RARA Annual General Meeting – Wednesday June 8th, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Be sure to mark your calendars and be sure to register to join us for this year's virtual Annual General Meeting. The agenda will include updates on RARA activities over the past year, we'll hear from our elected representatives, and let you know what we have in the works for 2022 - 2023.

This meeting will be hosted via Zoom, so please ensure that you RSVP so that you receive an invitation with link prior to the event.

Community Garden at the Pump House

Do you love eating local produce? Getting to know your neighbours while working towards a common goal? Getting your hands dirty? Being in the great outdoors? If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, then working a plot in the Pump House Community Garden could be for you!

Last summer, Toronto Water graciously gave the community access to the Pump House garden at 40 Rathnelly Ave, next to the High Level Pumping Station. A dozen or so community gardeners planted, weeded, and harvested garden plots. This original crew of gardeners are guaranteed a plot this coming summer. If you are interested in joining them in the Community Garden, and cultivating a plot of your own, please check out the RARA's Community Garden Guidelines posted at www.rathnellyrepublic.com/pump-house-community-garden.

Unfortunately, the number of plots is limited, so it is possible that not everyone will be accommodated. Please contact Luisa Zeni at luisazeni12@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the list of potential gardeners for 2022 and if not this year, then in 2023.

Horticultural Vandalism

Trackman is still out there.

That's the name Rathnelly residents have given to the man who has repeatedly been seen sawing and hacking at the trees and plants on the north side of the CP Rail tracks. When confronted, he has reacted angrily and threatened violence with the saw he was carrying



The same man is now suspected in a series of incidents this winter in the Annex in which saplings and rose bushes were destroyed. He was arrested by police and charged, and his case will go before the courts soon. We are hopeful he gets support as he is clearly unwell. Our thanks are extended to the people of Macpherson who have had to endure this destruction and darkness. In the meantime, RARA will step up its efforts to have a fence installed between the parkette and the tracks and, if we can, we will replant the bank. If you see Trackman, please keep your distance.

Avenue Road Proposed Development

Representatives from RARA met with City of Toronto planning officials to discuss the future of properties on the west side of Avenue Road between Macpherson and McMaster avenues.

RARA understands that seven properties have been optioned for sale to a developer although it is believed that there has been no sale yet.

The city has not received any applications relating to any of the properties.

The bloc of land is zoned for mixed use and under the official plan, buildings of about 10 storeys would be considered.

RARA will be notified as soon as any application for development is submitted, and the office of Councillor Josh Matlow has promised to include us in any discussions.

The city says that any application for re-zoning would take a year, a review of the site plan would take up to 18 months and construction would take about two years.

The city said, as well, that no applications for development have been received for land on the south side of Macpherson from Avenue to Poplar Plains Road. This land is zoned for light industrial, and the city said it interprets to mean that any activities would have to mesh well with the residential areas to the north.

Avenue Road Safety Coalition

Progress continues to be made in making Avenue Road safer and more climate friendly.

The city has hired a consultant to study the feasibility of a revitalized road that would provide wider sidewalks and improve the experience of all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit and private vehicles.

The project includes the 2.1 kilometres between St. Clair Avenue and Bloor Street.



The consultant, Parsons Inc., is also looking at ways of identifying short-term interventions toward that goal of a safer, cleaner road in advance of a major overhaul that currently isn't scheduled for 20 years.

The City of Toronto has also developed a dedicated web page for information about the vision of a transformed thoroughfare that was advanced by the Avenue Road Safety Coalition (ARSC). RARA is a founding member of ARSC.

There is no firm date for when Parsons will issue a report and it's reasonable to think that things will be delayed by the election year since City Council will not meet in the autumn.

But the Avenue Road issue has advanced dramatically since the ARSC was formed five years ago. Both area councillors, Mike Layton and Josh Matlow, are supporters of a rethink of the thoroughfare and the city's Transportation Services department is organizing a series of community consultation this spring to hear from all road users.

For more information, go to the ARSC website: www.avenueroadsafetycoalition.ca

Renew your RARA Membership for 2022

It's time to renew your annual membership. One-year memberships are just \$25 or choose the 2-year membership at \$50. The Rathnelly Area Residents Association annual membership has some great perks: invitation to participate in community events like the Winter Solstice Parade, Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Clean Up, plus paperless delivery of the RARA newsletter to keep you abreast of important things happening in the community like Traffic Safety, Rail Safety, Public Works projects, etc. And RARA members are invited to join the Republic of Rathnelly Facebook community group – a private, moderated site that complements our @rara_tweets Twitter feed and web presence.

Visit www.rathnellyrepublic.com/store to purchase your 2022 membership and while you are there don't forget to check out our website to find out about upcoming events, sign up for the Republic of Rathnelly newsletter, see who your RARA street reps are and learn more about our colourful history.

Think you might already have purchased a multi-year membership? Visit www.rathnellyrepublic.com/member-info for a list of members in good standing for 2022.

Long Live the Republic!