



# **ROSEWOOD TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION**

RTA ♦ P.O. Box 27087 ♦ 4190 Finch Ave. E. ♦ Scarborough ♦ ON M1S 4T7 ♦ Tel 416 292 6270 ♦ [rosewoodpayers@hotmail.com](mailto:rosewoodpayers@hotmail.com)

## **Fall 2011**

### **Message from the President**

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

I want to acknowledge the wonderful work of our Association's founder, Valerie Plunkett, who passed away in April 2011. Valerie and her executive members served Rosewood with dedication.

I thank the community of Rosewood for welcoming me as the Association's new president. I also thank the executive of the Rosewood Taxpayers' Association (RTA) for staying the course while I familiarize myself with the duties and responsibilities as President.

Earlier in the summer our community was subjected to very inappropriate graffiti, mostly in Alexmuir Park. Several residents and the RTA voiced our concerns to the city and the police. I want to acknowledge the roles of our city councillor, the city's Parks and Rec Department and the police in responding promptly.

I bring your attention to the bench in the bus shelter at Brimley and Alexmuir. It is the result of a proposal by the RTA to the city, which received prompt action from our city councillor.

Finally, I encourage YOU to come to the next General Meeting (details on right). If you haven't already, you will have the opportunity to renew your RTA membership.

I look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Courtney Fisher  
(416) 292-6270, (647) 385 1256  
[rosewoodpayers@hotmail.com](mailto:rosewoodpayers@hotmail.com)

**Rosewood Community Clean-Up**  
**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

### **Tribute to Valerie Plunkett Founder and former President of RTA**



As President, Valerie demonstrated tireless leadership within the Rosewood community. Whether it was educating residents on city by-laws that affect them and their properties or advocating for traffic calming strategies; whether it was establishing a community newsletter or pulling together spring and fall general meetings; whether it was donating to our local schools and to a neighbourhood soccer club; whether it was organizing our Community Clean-Up Day, establishing community beautification projects, helping to secure guest speakers for general meetings, or arranging for the removal of hazardous hornets' nests, Valerie was tireless in her pursuits, tenacious in her attitude, and committed to her goals.

As President, Valerie established strong, meaningful, and effective relationships with individuals and institutions. Through these connections and friendships she was able to lobby for the interests of Rosewood in particular and Scarborough in general. It seemed she knew all the key players at 42nd Division, City Hall, Queens Park, and Ottawa.

Valerie will truly be missed by the residents of Rosewood, who benefitted from her keen and committed leadership.

### **Next General Meeting Wednesday, September 28, 2011**

Alexmuir Junior Public School, Library  
7:00 p.m. Refreshments, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Meeting

#### **Guest speaker on Dementia**

Dementia affects significant numbers of elderly persons. Speaker: Mr. K.C. Chan, Program Manager, Wellness Centre, Dept. of Psychiatry, Mount Sinai Hospital, with Connie Yip, nurse practitioner in the mental health field.

## Message from Councillor Chin Lee

Dear Rosewood Neighbour:

First, my sincere condolences to the community on the recent passing of long serving RTA president, Valerie Plunkett. At the April 13, 2011 meeting of City Council I had the honour of presenting a motion honouring Valerie, her passion for our community and Scarborough, and the outstanding work she did for the Rosewood Community. See the motion at: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/rm/bgrd/bacgroundfile-37552.pdf>. She will be missed.

At the request of members of Rosewood, I have asked our Parks Division to consider naming a local park or play field in Valerie's memory. One suggestion is to rename Alexmuir Park. However, this park is named after Alexander Muir who wrote "Maple Leaf Forever", so it might be difficult to convince the majority of City Councillors to agree. If anyone has other suggestions, please let me know. I will keep the community updated on my progress in this matter.

**Councillor Chin Lee**

Ward 41 – Scarborough-Rouge River  
(416) 392-1375, councillor\_lee@toronto.ca

## Message from Rathika Sitsabaiesan, M.P.

Dear Neighbour,

Thank you for electing me to represent Scarborough-Rouge River. It is my honour and privilege to serve you in Parliament.

When the new Parliamentary session began, the Government introduced the 2011 Budget. It presented more of the same - tax breaks for big corporations and polluters. The people I've spoken with want good jobs, better health care and reliable pensions.

While disappointed with the budget's lack of help for families, I welcomed the decision to re-instate the eco-energy retrofit program. Also, the Throne Speech announced that Rouge Park, our hidden treasure, will be designated an Urban National Park.

In the recent session, my colleagues and I introduced a motion to increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement and re-introduced the Climate Change Accountability Act. As the Post-Secondary Education Critic, I proudly introduced the Post Secondary Education Bill to ensure access to higher-quality education by all Canadians.

I look forward to meeting more of you in due course. Please contact my office to share your ideas, views on issues and for any assistance with federal matters.

Sincerely,



M.P., Scarborough-Rouge River

## Rosewood Taxpayers' Association Executive Members 2011–2012

President: Courtney Fisher (416) 292-6270; 647 385 1256  
Vice President Membership: Barbara Jones  
Vice President Operations: John Skears  
Membership Coordinator: Betty McNeil  
Treasurer: Lotte Kozlowski  
Assistant Treasurer: Joseph Hizel  
Public Relations Director: Michelle Gillette  
Entertainment Coordinator: Horace Atkinson  
Secretary: Sandra Mills-Fisher

## Report from Bas Balkissoon, MPP

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

I hope you had a great summer!

On July 25, 2011, the Ontario Government introduced the new photo card. It will provide government-issued identification to more than 1.5 million Ontarians who are 16 years of age and over and do not hold a driver's licence. The Ontario photo card will make it easier for non-drivers to perform everyday transactions such as cashing a cheque, opening a new bank account, obtaining a credit card, boarding a domestic flight, returning merchandise to a store, obtaining hotel accommodations and renting a home video.

The photo card costs \$35.00 and is valid for a five-year period. It is purple and looks very similar to a driver's licence. However; the top right hand corner is clipped.



Like the driver's licence, the photo card has the same security features to help prevent fraud and identity theft. For fraud prevention, an individual cannot hold a driver's licence and a photo card at the same time.

The photo card cannot be used like the Enhanced Driver's Licence to enter the U.S. by land or water.

For full details on how to get one: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/driver/photo-card.shtml>.

I wish you good health and hope that the rest of 2011 brings you success. If you have any issues or concerns regarding provincial services, please do not hesitate to contact my constituency office at 416-297-5040.

Sincerely,



Bas Balkissoon  
MPP, Scarborough-Rouge River