

# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special

## Rosewood –The Early Days

By Jim Walker

(Reprinted from RTA newsletter, September 2000\*)

We moved to Rosewood in mid-March 1975. We looked around and determined that we were the fifth family in the new neighbourhood.

For those of you who may recall 1975, winter had been over for all intent and purposes since the beginning of March. It was cold but all the snow was gone. The city had declared winter over on March 31<sup>st</sup>, which is normal for Toronto, and had put away all the snow clearing equipment.

What a shock when we awoke on Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup> to find a snow storm like we hadn't seen in years, as bad or worse than we had in January 1999. With the snow equipment all put away for summer, it took some time to mobilize a snow clearing operation. Since Rosewood was under construction and all the roads were unassumed, we were not entitled to snow clearing services by the Town. I got stuck on Alexmuir near Bushmills, trying to go to work. One of my new neighbours gave me a push and he was rewarded with a drive to work. The subdivision was in chaos. Cars were stuck everywhere. People kept coming in to look at the model homes on Alexmuir and at the bottom of Carolbreen. Many of them got stuck as well.

After numerous calls to the Town of Scarborough, we finally got proper snow removal service on the following Sunday. The plow was about to leave when I urged the driver to clear Carolbreen that had been overlooked. Since our move on to Alexmuir Blvd., a single family had moved in at the top of Carolbreen. A huge snow bank at the end of Carolbreen hid the existence of the street from the snowplow operator. He turned the plough and backed up to the curb opposite Carolbreen Square. He made a run at the snow bank and was stopped cold with no effect on the wall of snow. He backed up again but backed up onto the empty house lot opposite Carolbreen. This time he was a little more successful. The wall budged. Several rammings later he broke through. The street got cleared and the family, who could only walk from their house, was mobile again.

Well, the weather quickly warmed up and the snow disappeared almost as fast as it had come. The Avenue Home lots on the west side of Alexmuir Blvd. between Edgeway Gate and South Shields Blvd. suddenly had intense construction activity. The concrete formers came in, set up their slabs and concrete pouring for the basements began. Next, the lumber arrived and teams of framing carpenters took over the scene. In no time, the holes that had been there since the fall began to give the appearance of a house, one by one up the street. The first of these new homes was occupied in mid-June, just seven short weeks after the concrete basement pouring began.

Finch Avenue back then was a two lane rural-like road over to Kennedy Rd. Woodside Mall did not exist. It was built a couple of years later. Did you know that Alexmuir Blvd was supposed to be named Chartland Blvd North to line up with Chartland Blvd South? The land developer for our subdivision, Consolidated Building, did not want to have the main street of Rosewood named Chartland Blvd North *because Monarch, a different land developer, had proposed the name*. For those of you who may not know, Alexmuir Blvd. was named after Alexander Muir an early Scarborough resident and schoolteacher. He is also noted for writing the song Maple Leaf Forever.

My wife and I bid farewell to Rosewood after more than 25 years in the community. The children have grown up and are living their own lives. Our needs have changed. The community has matured and its homeowners have changed over the years. Thanks to the efforts of the Rosewood Taxpayers' Association, who have worked hard to keep Rosewood "A Community That Cares". Where many subdivisions became just a collection of houses, Rosewood has actively tried to develop and maintain a community lifestyle. If you want to keep Rosewood "The Community That Cares" then you need to help make it happen. Give a little of your time to help the community and your neighbours and you will be surprised by what you get out of the experience.

\* See [rosewood2.wordpress.com](http://rosewood2.wordpress.com) for original

# Scarborough Rosewood Food Drive Report

**Scarborough Rosewood Food Drive (SRFD)** thanks the community of Rosewood and other Scarborough residents for their generous contributions to the 2013 Drive. We also extend our appreciation to the growing number of volunteers. SRFD thanks: Rita Assaad, Orlandson Asturiano, Ron Beale (Brimwood condos), Dominic Capotorto, Tina Chen, Leann Cheng, Renka Cheng, Cherie Fang, Sean Fisher, Lisa Harriott, Anita He, Rui Huang, Ashifa, Mo and Shakeel Jivraj, Sornnujah Kathirgamanathan, Saifoo Lau, Chin Lee (City Councillor), Katie Li, Sandra Mills, Ming (Brimwood resident), Tom Mitrovski, Alura Moores and John Ngo and Baby Broderick, Dana Moores, Ishraq Quayyum, Roger Seegobin, Rathika Sitsabaesan (M.P.), Divya Soni, Linda Tremethick, Chenny Wu, Joy Xiao, Kellvea Yang, Angel Yang, Shirley Yip, Joanne Zhou and Rebecca Zhong.



Volunteers led by Renka Cheng (center) distribute Notification Flyers on Wednesdays informing residents that food items will be picked up the following Saturday and Sunday.



Volunteers (L to R) Sandra Mills, Shakeel Jivraj, Ashifa Jivraj, Orlandson Asturiano and Ishraq Quayyum work the Sorting, Packing, Recycling and Composting Depot

**the mirror  
scarborough**

## Thursday, November 7, 2013 Rosewood food drive collects thousands of donations

A food drive in north Scarborough's Rosewood neighbourhood collected nearly 3,000 non-perishable items door-to-door last month... The effort was renamed the Scarborough Rosewood Food Drive because in its second year, it expanded outside Rosewood to cover three groups of condominium townhouses on Brimwood Boulevard.... The association reported the number of volunteers helping out with the food drive...has doubled from last year and that it is already seeking responsible students and reliable adults to join the drive in 2014.



Driver courier, Dominic Capotorto (left), picks up items from door-to-door canvassers Orlandson Asturiano (center) and Ishraq Quayyum (right) to drop off at the Sorting, Packing, Recycling and Composting Depot



Scarborough Rosewood Food Drive volunteers Anita He (left), Katie Li and Sornnujah Kathirgamanathan join Scarborough Rouge River MP Rathika Sitsabaiesan (second from right) collecting food donations

City Councillor for Ward 41, Chin Lee (center) joins Scarborough Rosewood Food Drive volunteers (L to R) Ishraq Quayyum, Orlandson Asturiano, Dominic Capotorto, Joanne Zhou, Joy Xiao and Rui Huang



Enthusiastic volunteers get ready to go door-to-door and collect donations from Rosewood's generous and caring residents

November 12, 2013

**From:** Agincourt Community Services Association

**To:** Scarborough Rosewood Food Drive

Thank you so very much for your wonderful donation of food—2,977 items and 30 lbs. of candy—to the Agincourt Community Services Association. Your support enables us to provide hope and encouragement to the many individuals and families in our Scarborough community who are struggling to maintain an acceptable standard of life and to become self-supporting. During the season of Thanksgiving it is essentially important to show our fellow members of humanity that we are sharing with them. No matter what the season is, at ACSA we constantly see the same needs and requirements for food.... Again, thank you for your gift and for the help you provide in making it possible for us to continue our work. We are grateful for your partnership.... Thanks to the 23 or more volunteers who helped make [the] food drive such a success!

**Eric Cheung**, Operations Manager, Agincourt Community Services Association



SRFD volunteers (L to R) Divya Soni, Sornnujah Kathirgamanathan, Shakeel Jivraj and Ishraq Quayyum visit a resident's home to collect food donations

Scarborough Rosewood Food Drive volunteer, Orlandson Asturiano, makes a pick up from a generous Rosewood resident



Scarborough Rosewood Food Drive, proving that you are never too young to get involved and make a difference. Back row (L to R) Ishraq Quayyum, Sornnujah Kathirgamanathan, Anita He, Divya Soni, Katie Li, Sandra Mills, Alura Moores, Orlandson Asturiano and Shirley Yip. Kneeling in front is John Ngo and looking on is one of the Drive's youngest volunteers, Baby Broderick