



## VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again pumpkin spice season has arrived with much excitement, or chagrin depending on your allegiance, and what a year it has been until now. The Emerald Woods Residents' Association (EWRA) has been working diligently with notable mentions being the relaunch of kids' soccer, managing the Facebook page and website, conducting our monthly meetings with community officials, cleaning up our homes following the derecho, and planning fall activities in order to return to our regularly scheduled events after a long hiatus due to COVID.

We kicked off this spring with soccer. It was really nice to see the kids running around Trappers Park for the first time since pandemic restrictions began lifting. Thank you to all of the parents and participants for coming out to actively participate in the sport; adding a glow of excitement to the community. I would also especially like to thank the volunteers Sylvain, Alex, Joseph, Morgan, and Hailey for dedicating their time to make the program a success, and to all of the people working in the background on planning and keeping parents updated.

With the importance of the website, email, and Facebook to remain connected with the community there are copious efforts behind the scene for their upkeep. I would like to send a shout out to Kim for keeping the contents on the website updated, and the entire Exec team for keeping on top of the emails and managing the Facebook group. Being honest, I am all thumbs using Facebook and happy to let those competent in its operation take the reins! On the topic of electronic communications it behooves me to mention the unending attempts swindlers make to hoodwink whomever they can. No less than once a week we receive a Facebook request from a fake profile making it a challenge to discern legitimate requests from not. Paraphrasing Frank Abagnale, every scam has two red flags: an urgent need for money, and asking for personal information. For the Facebook group it has been via duct cleaners so if you see something sketchy or are receiving unsolicited messages from group members please report this to the Facebook Admins.

Reporting applies to community matters as well, which can be a labyrinth to navigate between the National Capital Commission (NCC), Bylaw, and Emergency Services; each having procedures to abide by to resolve an issue. Unless an obvious Emergency Service (911) situation is occurring, calling 311 is a good place to start and they can direct your call. In meetings with city officials, see the meeting minutes online for more details, the message is similar across branches: they need data to proceed with allocating resources and that data comes from reporting. The more individuals that report an issue, the more likely it is to receive attention. I will not lie that reporting can get discouraging at times as it may seem that nothing is being done, or a report does not receive a file number to be actioned. However still, if you see something, say something, and don't put yourself in harm's way. Make note of details, including partial details, since someone else could report the same incident and with enough information a complete picture such as a licence plate number could be formed. Perseverance and working together as a community to report items of concern is essential to success.

The derecho this spring solidified the importance of community cooperation. The Emerald Woods Park sustained significant damage such that we had to postpone Fun Day for safety. Some trees surviving the storm that did not appear damaged at first glance later revealed broken root systems that were in fact at risk of falling in the slightest breeze, cracked trunks steadily expanding, or trees and branches hung up needed to be cleared. A big thank you to the City and NCC for promptly bringing in arborists to assess the damage and remove trees posing a hazard to life and property. Unfortunately, the resulting work created an enormous mess in the NCC forest west of the community, which remains, before the feller buncher was whisked off to the aid of other areas. An entire article could be written on this alone from our community perspective but during the week where snapped trees littered the neighbourhood like broken matchsticks, examples of kindness were abound. People banded together to clean out affected yards by cutting and hauling the debris to the curb, cooked meals and propane appliances were shared, shower access granted by those with hot water,

freezer space leant by friends with power or generators, and neighbours meeting one another for the first time with the abounding activity... just to scratch the surface. My wife also gave me permission to buy a chainsaw for cleaning up and converting some of the fallen trees from the yard into lumber which was quite exciting! Most importantly, I would like to thank everyone in the community for their outpouring of support in any manner they could, from a smile and more. Though restoration efforts are still ongoing for many, this continued cooperation makes me proud to live here.

Moving forward this fall, the EWRA is planning to bring back more community events and I am looking forward to see you there, especially Fun Day on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to register your household as a EWRA member as this allows us to keep operating and allows you to vote in the Annual General Meetings. I will see you next time!

Cheers,  
Mark Vuotari  
Vice-President EWRA

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**EMERALD WOODS  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
IS ON FACEBOOK!**



Become a member of our closed group to keep informed of what's going on in your neighbourhood, share news or simply chat with your friends and neighbours!

**NEW TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD?**

For lots of great information including important news, phone numbers, events, updates and local businesses that support our community please go to [www.emeraldwoods.ca](http://www.emeraldwoods.ca) or check out our bulletin board located in Emerald Woods Park.

**VOLUNTEERING**

If you are interested in volunteering with the EWRA, please contact us by email at [ewra300@gmail.com](mailto:ewra300@gmail.com). This is a great way for students to earn credit toward their required volunteer hours for school.

**BECOME A MEMBER**

Are you a member of the Emerald Woods Residents' Association? The cost of membership is \$10.00 for a term of two (2) years. It is not mandatory, but membership fees assist with operating costs, events, and allows you to vote in the Annual General Meetings.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- Goretti Pernitzky – President
- Mark Vuotari – Vice-President
- Christine Guptil – Secretary
- Keely Storr – Treasurer
- Kim Tytler – Executive Member
- Christine Lowe – Executive Member

Are you interested in becoming a member, saying hello, volunteering, have a suggestion or concern, or would like to become an Executive Member? Email the EWRA at [ewra300@gmail.com](mailto:ewra300@gmail.com) for more information.

**2022 FALL/WINTER  
EVENTS CALENDAR**

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>FUN DAY IN THE PARK</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, September 25, 2022 Emerald Woods Park 11:00 am to 2:00 pm</b></p> <p>Join us in Emerald Woods Park for a day of fun, food and friends.</p> <p>The EWRA is looking for sponsors, volunteers and entertainer for our event. If you or someone you know is interested, please email the EWRA at <a href="mailto:ewra300@gmail.com">ewra300@gmail.com</a>.</p>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>REGISTRATION: EWRA CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at 3745 Alderwood Street</b></p> <p><b>All participants MUST be registered in advance and a pre-wrapped gift for your child(ren) must be dropped off when you register.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Sawmill Creek Community Centre.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p> <p>Join us for a day of crafts, fun and yummy snacks. We may even have a special visitor from the North Pole stop by for a visit.</p> <p>Note: we are looking for volunteers to help with set up, overseeing our craft stations and post party clean up. Please email the EWRA if you are interested.</p>