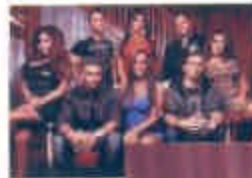


~ RIPPLES FROM THE CREEK ~

Spring 2011, a little fun for everyone



CHECK OUT RIPPLES FROM THE CREEK ONLINE AT:

[www. neilsoncreek.com](http://www.neilsoncreek.com)

Dear Members:

It is that time of year to make the property shiny. We need to clean up our front and back of the house as well as common grounds. There are lots of ways to get involved and clean up to make our homes look the best they can and so we are proud.

Pick up garbage and leaves around the front and back of your home. Don't forget to pick up garbage around the playgrounds and on the street and in the parks.

This is where we live. We need to be proud. Shine the windows and doors of your home also. Clean up the front of your house.

Children will be outside playing nice that the weather is getting good. Drive slow. Children aren't watching so you need to.

When I was looking at the streets, I am surprised that some people let their kids hit the garage door with balls and pucks. Remember, you are responsible to pay for the damage. The inspection committee are doing thorough inspections as the members clearly said we wanted at a gm. We have documented proof of the condition of the homes and there will be no question about who is responsible for what. We need to take good care of our homes, along with the Co-op.

In the 15 years I have lived here, every time I have put in a work order, it was taken care of in a professional and quick way. If you need a work order, call it in to the office and they will take care of it.

I look forward to seeing everyone at clean up but really hope there is nothing left to do except have coffee and donuts.

Winsome Smith

Winsome Smith
President

March 2011

Dear Members of Neilson Creek,

As your Treasurer, it is my place to advise you, of the upcoming changes, that will be taking place as our final mortgage payment is made. On **June 1, 2016** the Neilson Creek will make the final payment of our mortgage. On this date the following things will take place:

- **any future subsidy payments from CMHC will cease.**
- our Operating Agreement with CMHC ceases.
- there will be no further government safety net.
- we will still remain a co-op, still not-for-profit, still elect a board and approve rules and policies.

The one item that concerns me the most is; not receiving any further subsidy funds to assist members of the co-op. Originally, subsidy was to aid those in need until they could become self sufficient again. But it has become a permanent crutch to some in the co-op and I worry what is going to happen to them and the co-op once the subsidy money runs out.

At present, we have 27 families on assistance using approximately \$10,000.00 per month in subsidy. Once, we go through our Subsidy Surplus funds and this will not take long to go through. Probably less than two and a half years, so it is important for us to think ahead.

The Board is planning ahead and looking for ways to make the Subsidy Surplus Funds last longer. Board may have to make changes to the By-laws making qualifications for subsidy more stringent, upping the ratio portion to make the funds last longer (instead of 25% say 33% of your income) or possibly limiting the amount of time on subsidy and using the funds for seniors and those that are unable to work at all. Charging members paying full housing charges extra to put money towards assisting others in need. These are all tough decisions to make and will be discussed over the next while as we make plans.

We all have to plan ahead for the day when our subsidy funds cease to exist.

Sincerely,

Donna Fralick

Dear Members:

The Finance Committee meet regularly to discuss and approve subsidies, offer financial input and assist in the collection of arrears.

It is becoming more and more difficult to collect arrears from a few members. We need you to pay in full and on time, just as the By-laws state.

Just the financial facts for March and things to think about from the Finance Committee.

- 18 households were late or NSF for March;
- 14 households of the above 18 late/NSF have been late one or more times in the past 6 months. Several of those households are regularly late
- 3 households have not paid March housing charge and have not contacted the office or the Finance Committee and this is the 16th of March;
- there are about 15 long time members who have never been late; *****
- 25 families on subsidy.

There is the occasion when a housing charge must be paid late due to unforeseen or emergency circumstances. Making your payment late almost every month however, is not acceptable. We are told that Neilson Creek is more lenient than most Co-ops. We regularly have people post date their cheque and when we deposit it on the new date, it is returned NSF or Stop Payment. It is sometimes very difficult to collect arrears from members. Remember, everyone (at this time) who qualifies for subsidy gets subsidy.

There are still 24 households that have not paid for the garbage bin that was invoiced in December. All of those households have received 4 notices.

Often we are asked if those who are regularly late are on welfare. Absolutely not.

We do our best to accommodate any member who falls onto tough times but to be late almost every month is not acceptable. To not pay at all is also not acceptable, no matter where you live.

Should we increase the \$20 late charge so it increases with every time you are late? Should we take the advice of our lawyers and be firmer with members who are late and go for eviction? Should we build extra money (from you and me who pay on time) in the budget for those who don't pay? It's too bad that some are not making their housing charge the priority. It should be - right after food for your kids.

JudyBrennan & The Finance Committee

FROM THE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE;

MAY 14,2011

SPRING CLEAN-UP ON SATURDAY,RAIN DATE SUNDAY MAY 15.

LEAVES PUT IN PAPER BAGS SUPPLIED BY OFFICE,FOR CITY PICK-UP.

LITTER PUT IN PLASTIC BAGS FOR CITY PICK-UP.TAGS SUPPLIED BY OFFICE.

TRY TO KEEP DUMPING OF YARD WASTE IN THE FORESTS TO A MINIMUM.

THERE IS ALWAYS MIXED GARBAGE,AND OUR KIDS PLAY THERE.

MAY 20,2011

FURNITURE/WASTE BIN WILL BE HERE AGAIN AT THE BOTTOM OF 235.

PLEASE NO HOUSE WASTE THAT WOULD BE PUT OUT FOR REGULAR PICK-UP.

METAL AND APPLIANCES SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE,AND RECYCLABLES SHOULD NOT BE PUT IN THE BIN.

IDEAL ITEMS FOR THE BIN INCLUDE;WASTE LUMBER.GLASS PANES OR MIRRORS, NON-METAL FURNITURE.ETC.IF YOU'RE NOT SURE ASK.WE DON'T WANT TO EMPTY THE BIN TO AVOID A RESTRICTION FEE.

PLEASE KEEP KIDS AWAY FROM THE BIN,IT'S NOT A PLAY STRUCTURE.THE BIN WILL BE MONITORED REGULARLY,BUT NOT ALWAYS.IF YOUR CHILD IS HURT, WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE?

PLEASE REMEMBER TO UNCOVER YOU'RE A/C UNITS,AND KEEP PLANTS AND DEBRIS CLEAR.

IF YOU HAVE RODENTS PLEASE INFORM THE OFFICE AND WE WILL DEAL WITH THEM.DON'T THINK THAT THEY WILL GO AWAY.THEY HAVE TO BE REMOVED.

LASTLY,PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF THE BAIT STATIONS ON THE PROPERTY,BY KEEPING THE KIDS AWAY FROM THEM.LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY'RE THERE TO KILL RATS,AND THEY'RE NOT TOYS.

REMEMBER TO SUBMIT INSPECTION WORK ORDERS TO THE OFFICE.OR THEY WQMT GET DONE.

AND FINALLY,! HEAR THAT THE NODDLE/PERSAUD TEAM IS AIMING FOR BEST GARDEN AGAIN THIS YEAR.NOW IS THE TIME TO GIVE THEM A RUN FOR THE CUP.AND GET STARTED.IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A SEED/PLANT EXCHANGE THIS YEAR,CONTACT THE OFFICE.

HAPPY SPRING.NO MORE SNOW.

Dear Neighbours:

The Participation Committee has been meeting frequently over the last few months, trying to make sure we have accurate, up-to-date information on everyone's interest list and current participation. We thank you for your patience during our re-organization.

We're very pleased to see how many members are actively participating! We would especially like to thank our newer members, who have made sure to get out there and contribute to our wonderful community.

We are facing three major, recurring problems:

First, we need each committee to remember to hand in their sign-in sheets, please! These sheets are our best way to keep track of who is participating, and which committees could use more help.

Second, we ask - no, we beg! - those members who are participating in a hands-on role to keep handing in those Hands-On Tracking sheets. You hands-on people really deserve recognition, because you're out there on your own time, showing initiative and making this a better place for all of us, every day. We hate sending out letters to wonderful, active members, simply because we don't have any record of your contributions.

Finally, we're having a problem that many of the members that are not actively participating are **chronic** offenders. There are a small handful of households who simply refuse to pull their weight. We can send out letters, we can call you up to meet with us; we can try everything in our power to make you participate. What we can't do is make you WANT to participate. Every member knew, before moving in, that this community is only made great by the efforts of each and every member. It's not fair that you get to benefit from everyone **else's** work. Please, ask yourself: are you really doing your fair share?

Overall, we're very happy with the level of participation that we're seeing. Please keep up the great work! And remember, there are always hands-on jobs that need doing; just call the office if you're looking for ideas.

Thanks,
The Participation Committee

Member Satisfaction Survey

Dear members:

All housing co-ops exist first and foremost to provide a service to their members. Our shared purpose is to provide affordable, well-maintained housing in a co-operative community setting.

As service providers, more and more housing co-ops across the country are focusing on their members as customers. Our co-op is committed to providing you, our customers, with the best member service possible.

To help us achieve this goal, CHF Canada has developed a model "customer service" survey that we have adapted for use in our co-op. The Member Satisfaction Survey will help us evaluate our key housing service areas so we can find out what we do well and where we need to improve.

We know that there's more to being a satisfied housing co-op member than the questions covered in this survey. How well our property is kept, how our meetings run, how the board performs... these types of questions are important too. But in this survey, we want to focus on how you our members rate the quality of housing services you are getting from the co-op.

We are asking you to take the time to complete the survey so that we can work together to ensure that our members are satisfied and that our co-op communities are what they should be. Your answers will remain anonymous and confidential.

We will compile all your feedback and report back to you on what we learned through this survey.

In order to properly complete the survey, you should:

- answer all questions
- leave your name off the survey - all information is anonymous

We really want to make Neilson Creek the very best co-op we can make it.
Thanks.

Yours co-operatively,



Deborah DiSalle
Co-ordinator

Member Satisfaction Survey

How long has your household lived at Neilson Creek?

Less than 1 year 1 - 2 years 3 - 5 years 6-10 years 10 + years

Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is very dissatisfied and 5 is very satisfied, please respond to the questions below. If a particular item does not apply, please circle n/a.

1. Building and property conditions

	Very dissatisfied	Neutral	Very satisfied			
a) common grass areas	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
b) play areas	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
c) visitor parking areas	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
d) laundry room	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Take everything into consideration and rate your level of satisfaction of the overall condition and upkeep of our co-op	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

2. Unit conditions

	Very dissatisfied	Neutral	Very satisfied			
a) heating system	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
b) noise from surrounding units	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
c) pest issues (mice, ants, etc)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
d) drafts from windows/doors	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
e) flooring (tile & hardwood)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
f) appliances	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
g) carpet on stairs	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
h) exterior	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
i) other	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

Take everything into consideration and rate your level of satisfaction of the overall condition and comfort level of your unit.

	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
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3. Maintenance

	Very dissatisfied		Neutral	Very Satisfied		
a) upkeep of common areas	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
b) response time for repairs	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
c) after hour response to emergencies	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
d) quality of repairs	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
e) eliminating safety hazards	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
f) ease of getting hold of staff	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
g) other	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Taking everything into consideration please rate your overall level of satisfaction with our co-op's general maintenance services.	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

4. Communication

	Very dissatisfied		Neutral	Very Satisfied		
a) responding to housing service inquiries, suggestions or requests	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
b) providing information on a regular basis	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
c) clarity of information	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
d) level of courtesy and professionalism in co-op	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Taking everything into consideration please rate your overall satisfaction with our communications.	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

5. Safety and Security

	Very dissatisfied		Neutral	Very Satisfied		
a) within your co-op unit	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
b) inside our co-op common areas	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
c) outside our co-op common areas	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

6. Miscellaneous

a) compared to other co-op's you have heard about or know of, do you believe you receive good value for your housing charge?

yes

no

b) what do you think we could do to make Neilson Creek better?

7. Additional comments: Please include these on the back of this page.

Bed Bugs, Rats, Mice, Flea's, Racoons.....

by Donna McGhee

Any one of these send most of us into a frenzy right. Who really wants to have to deal with any of themnot me. So how can we keep them from becoming a problem in the first place, and how to get rid of them when they do show up. Some blame the City when they stopped allowing use of spraying and allowing use of certain chemicals.

Often these pests occur because we have not been diligent. Rats and mice are looking for food and a warm place to hang out and nest. Is your garage clean, are your garbage bins secure, are they clean...or is a messy left over residue in the bottom. Do you have junk laying around outside, piles of leaves, do you leave your BBQ covered outside all winter, is the grease can still attached...yummy.

Heavy rains and low temperatures can drive rats and mice to seek warm shelter. They will find any crack they can in your home's exterior, or slide under a garage door that is not closed properly. In the house piles of newspapers and unused items are the perfect resting/nesting spot. In the garage, just about any place is safe and comfy, boxes left piled up, old newspapers, old appliances...and the list goes on. In the garage and basement mouse traps around the peremptory out of the reach of pets and small children are a good idea.

Poison should be used only under controlled and extreme circumstances. Neilson Creek has regular pest control maintenance on the property parameter. Traps are baited and yes they are active traps meaning mice and rats are taking the bait.

We recently had all our roofs re done, and already racoons have been seen lurking about, some on the roofs. It's spring and they are looking for a place to move into and have a new family. For those of you who recall a couple of members have had raccoons in the garage or the attic. Once they move in and the new babies come they are difficult to get rid of. One solution DON'T FEED THEM!!! They are rodents, if you feed them you are also attracting rats and mice..... they have noses too and know someone is putting food out. Secure your garbage bins, these pests love Monday night/Tuesday mornings! Take the time to make sure the lids on bins are closed properly.

Fleas can also be a pardon the pun "pesky problem", and pain to get rid of only about 10% of the flea population (mainly the adults) are on your pet. The flea eggs, larvae, pupa, and the few adults that reside in the carpeting, bedding, and living areas make up approximately 90% of the flea population. Neglecting this population of fleas will ensure that the flea problem will continue and worsen over time. If you have pets be responsible, keep them well groomed bathed and brushed. Flea collars or flea meds prescribed by your vet help a lot. Keep your home clean, vacuum carpets and furniture, change your pets bedding frequently. These pests can and do cause great

distress to your pet and to yourself if your family home gets infested. Always consult your Vet if you are unsure what action to take.

One of the biggest problems Toronto has been faced with recently is Bed Bugs !! uuuuggggg! just the thought yuk! Again you have to be very diligent keep the home clean. But these pests can and do (like fleas) attach themselves onto clothing, back packs , all kinds of things. And before you know it you have unwanted visitors.

Some Basic Facts:

Bed bugs are persistent. Eradicating, exterminating or just killing an entire infestation requires persistence.

Bed bugs can hide in extremely small cracks and crevices making it difficult to locate breeding sites.

Bedbugs are rarely seen in daylight. They emerge from their hiding spots at night.

Bed bugs can live a year or longer without food (blood) and thus stay in their hiding places.

Bed bugs can travel long distances and survive in suitcases, clothing, vehicles, aircraft, cruise ships and other modes of transportation.

Bed bug females lay about 300 eggs.

Bed bugs hatch from eggs in 10 days.

http://www.toronto.ca/health/bedbugs/fact_sheets.htm this is an informative site with a lot of info on prevention & treatment.

Take the time to look around you unit inside and out. How can you protect yourself, your family and your neighbors from Pests? It costs money to get rid of them once they've "moved in", how can you prevent them from coming ? Get informed ! Take the time

As always Neiison Creek is here to help if you need advice or assistance, just give the office a call, Deborah & Charlie are a wealth of information.

EARTH DAY

Earth Day promotes environmental awareness and calls for the protection of our planet. It is currently observed in more than 140 countries around the world.

Friday, April 22,2011

Typical ways of observing Earth Day include planting trees, picking up roadside trash, conducting various programs for recycling and conservation, using recyclable containers for snacks and lunches. Some people are encouraged to sign petitions to governments, calling for stronger or immediate action to stop global warming and to reverse environmental destruction. Television stations frequently air programs dealing with environmental issues.



Earth Day 2011 will mark the 41st anniversary of Earth Day.

Celebrate Earth Day Birthday 2011 by recycling, reducing and reusing. Help save the planet by preventing global warming. 2011 Earth Day is the perfect time to make Earth Day resolutions for the following year. Go Green and help save the planet.

Earth Day Resolution Ideas:

- Use vinegar and natural cleaners in your home
- Bike or walk to work
- Switch to canvas grocery bags
- Buy recycled products
- Use cold water and biodegradable laundry soap
- Use energy efficient light bulbs
- Use recycled toilet paper



FUN FACT: The Earth is always moving. It spins or rotates while traveling in a big circle around the Sun. Its orbit or path around the Sun is 583,400,000 miles long. Earth travels along this path at 66,000 mile-per-hour. The Earth rotates at 1,000 miles-per-hour. That is pretty fast!

Facts about Earth:

- Earth's surface area is approximately 196,935,000 square miles
- It is made up of approximately 70% ocean
- Land mass is approximately 30%
- Circumference is 24,901.5 miles
- The lowest point is the Dead Sea at 1,302 feet below sea level
- The highest point is Mount Everest at 29,028 above sea level
- The Earth's diameter is approximately 8,000 miles
- Water is 3% fresh and 97% salt water

Bird Feeder



What you'll need:

- Empty quart sized cardboard milk carton
- Scissors
- String or cord
- Hole punch or pencil
- Bird seed

How to make it:

1. Have an adult help you cut a hole in the bird feeder — it should be big enough so a bird could come and sit and eat the feed, but not too big or the carton will become unstable. (See photo.)
2. Have an adult help you cut a hole using the hole punch in the top of the milk carton and put a string through the hole. Alternatively, you can poke a hole on either side of the flap at the top of the carton by poking a pencil through the top. (See photo.)
3. Tie a knot in the string. (See photo.)
4. Fill the carton with bird seed until it reaches the top of the hole. (See photo.)
5. Hang the cart on a tree branch and watch the birds enjoy their snack! (See photo.)



12th Annual International Migratory Bird Day

May 14

8:00am to 4:00pm

The Toronto Zoo will be hosting its 12th Annual International Migratory Bird Day event. This year's theme is "Go Wild, Go Birding!" with the aim of introducing new participants to birds and bird conservation in wild places.



African Penguins - New for 2011

Opening May 21

What's white and black and coming back? Come to the Toronto Zoo to see the ocean birds that are built to swim, dive and fly through the sea - the *endangered African penguins!*



Sharks at Stingray Bay - A Touching Experience*

**Back by Popular Demand!
NOW WITH BONNETHEAD SHARKS!**

May 21 to October 10

Only the Toronto Zoo offers up interaction and fun with the live exhibit, Sharks at Stingray Bay- A Touching Experience

*Admission fee applies. Children 3 and under are free. Applicable to members.



7th Annual Great Strides™ Walk

May 29

Registration 8:30am to 12:00pm

Event Activities run until 2:00pm

Join Cystic Fibrosis Canada at the Toronto Zoo for a day of family fun while taking Great Strides™ to cure cystic fibrosis. Collect a minimum of \$25 in pledges per participant, and receive entrance to the Toronto Zoo, a map, walk activities, a FREE lunch, and access to "Shrek - Stompin' the Swamp!" program.

Events at the Toronto Zoo



EARTH HOUR 2011

March 26

In support of taking action on climate change, Toronto Zoo will turn off all non-essential lights from 8:30pm to 9:30pm. We hope you will do the same!



Spring Rattlesnake Workshop

April 9

10:00am to 2:30pm.

Administrative Boardroom

Each year the Toronto Zoo hosts rattlesnake workshops for the people who share habitat with rattlesnakes near their homes and cottages, and where they work and play.



Teachers' Day

April 17

CALLING ALL TEACHERS! Show your current Ontario College of Teachers card or a Teachers Federation Card, along with a photo I.D., at the admission gates located at the main entrance to receive free admission for yourself and one guest.



Party for the Planet!

Celebrate an Eco-Friendly Easter

April 22 (Good Friday) to April 25 (Easter Monday)

10:00am to 4:00pm

Are you on the hunt for an Eco Easter? Then come and hop along the Zoo's "Eco-trail" and celebrate Earth Day® this Easter Weekend!



Adopt-A-Pond's 12th Annual Spring Toad Festival

April 30 and May 1

10:00am to 4:00pm. Americas Wetlands

Celebrate the arrival of spring by experiencing the frenzied courtship of American toads!



Mother's Day

May 8

Why not bring Mom for a day at the Zoo and meet some of our WILD Moms including Ngozi (gorilla), Polly (olive baboon) and Mya (cheetah)? There's lots to see and do with Mom at the Zoo!

Waterfront Blues

Starts: June 3, 2011

Ends: June 5, 2011

Free Admission

Established as the only genuine Blues festival in Metro Toronto.

Taking place June 3-5 at Woodbine Park, a beautiful and spacious venue tailor made for festival events.

The venue is accessible by public transit, offers and restaurants - - Featuring premium talent with a presentation of the full spectrum of Blues via a carefully selected array of Canadian and International artists.

Highland Creek Heritage Festival

Date: June 18, 2011

Time: 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM

Price: Free

An all day family oriented celebration of our heritage! Includes a parade, crafters market, children's activities and street entertainment.

Woofstock-The dog lover's festival

St. Lawrence Market

Sat, June 11, From: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM,

Sun., June 12, From: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Woofstock is a large outdoor festival designed for dogs and the people who love them. The event has entertainment, contests and a consumer showcase. Vendors offer up the latest in canine fashions, furnishings, products and food, and contests unleash the best mutts in every size, breed and pedigree.

Price: Free

Luminato

June 10-19, 2011: Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity

Price: Varies by activity

The Luminato festival aims to make the world of art and creativity available to Torontonians in an affordable manner, so while some of the events are ticketed, many at the various participating venues are free.

Luminato includes art, theatre, film, dance, music and literary events. Local, regional and international artists, playwrights and filmmakers showcase their talents to the city throughout the ten day event.

Strawberry Festival at St. Lawrence Market

Date: June 18, 2011

Time: 09:00 AM to 01:00 PM

Price: Free

It's our annual Strawberry Festival at St. Lawrence Market.

Come and sample delicious strawberries and treats.

TD Toronto Jazz Festival

June 24-July 3: Presented by TD Canada Trust

Various locations in the GTA

Price: various prices for different performances

The TD Toronto Jazz Festival, celebrating its 25th anniversary, runs from June 24 - July 2, 2011. Get ready to kick off summer as the city's largest music festival presents free concerts and workshops, late night jam sessions and some of the biggest names in jazz. It is a musical celebration like no other!

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

Easter Weekend at Laser Quest!!

Starts: April 22, 2011

Ends: April 25, 2011

Triple Play Special ALL WEEKEND LONG!!!!

Price: 3 games for only \$20/person

For more information phone: 416-285-1333 **Address:** 1980 Eglinton Avenue East, Warden and Eglinton

Suaarbush Maple Svrup Festival

Kortright Centre For Conservation and Bruce's Mill Conservation Area

Mar 05 2011 - Apr 10 2011

Price: General: \$9, \$6.50 for kids, seniors, students. Children under 4: free

The Maple Syrup Festival at Kortright Centre for Conservation and Bruce's Mill Conservation Area features demonstrations, wagon rides, kids entertainment, family-friendly crafts, maple syrup samples and pancake breakfast.

Kortright is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., everyday during the festival.

Bruce's Mill is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday to Sunday.

One Of A Kind Spring Show & Sale

Direct Energy Centre

Mar 30 2011 •Apr 03 2011

Price; General \$12, Online \$10, Students & Seniors; \$6.50

This popular event features hundreds of vendors selling clothing, jewellery, home accessories and more, plus on-site artisans create unique items while spectators look on.

Artisans at the Distillery

Starts: May 21, 2011

Ends: May 23, 2011

Time: 11:00 AM to 06:00 PM

Price: Free

Outdoor Craft Show set throughout the Distillery District. Includes Artisans from across Ontario and Quebec. Original, funky, traditional and all handmade art and crafts by Canadian artisans. Live music, great food and a wonderful atmosphere to experience.

12th Annual Doors Open Toronto

Starts: May 28, 2011

Ends: May 29, 2011

Time: 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM

Price: Free

Doors Open Toronto, one of the city's most popular events, is a free authentic urban adventure that celebrates Toronto's architectural excellence, from urban to suburban, from blockhouses to bank towers. 2011's theme is photography. Doors will be open at up to 150 venues citywide, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Check www.toronto.ca/doorsopen for specific hours at each venue. Free admission.

Egg Cup Ships



What you'll need:

- 3 cardboard egg cups
- Brown acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush
- 1/4 cup modeling clay or play dough
- 6 toothpicks
- 1 sheet white paper
- Scissors
- White craft glue

How to make it;

1. Paint the egg cups inside and out with brown paint. Set aside to dry.
2. Cut sails from white paper. You will need 6 large sails (1.5" x 1") and 18 small sails (.5" x .75").
3. Set aside three of the toothpicks for the large sails. Break or cut the other three toothpicks in half, giving you 6 halves.
4. Put a line of glue through the middle of one of the small sails. Place the cut or broken end of one of the toothpick halves onto the glue line.
5. Roll it in the glue to cover both sides, then place another sail on top, sandwiching the two sails together. Flatten the sails together with your fingers and set aside to dry.
6. Repeat step number 5 with each toothpick half and 2 small sails (each).
7. Following the guide in step number 5, make the larger sails. For each large sail you will need a toothpick, 2 small sails and 2 large sails. Glue the small sail to the end of the full toothpick, and then glue the larger sail beneath it, leaving a small gap between the top and bottom sail. Set aside to dry.
8. Roll a small amount of clay in your palm, enough to line the bottom of the egg cup. Place in the egg cup and flatten to cover bottom.
9. Insert open end of large sail into the middle of the clay. Insert two small sails, one on either side of the large sail, into the clay

When is Easter in Canada?

Easter in Canada is celebrated at the same time and in much the same way as it is in other Western countries, like the U.S. In 2011, Good Friday falls on April 22, Easter Sunday is April 24 and Easter Monday is April 25. Easter Sunday is the Sunday immediately following the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox. It can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

How is Easter in Canada Celebrated?

Most everything is closed Easter Sunday; it's a popular day for attending church, getting together for a big family meal, and staging an Easter egg hunt.

The Toronto Beaches Lions Annual Easter Parade

The Toronto Beaches Lions Annual Easter Parade has grown to be a popular event, with about 50,000 people crowding this chic neighbourhood once known as the Beaches and now officially known as the Beach.

Parade Date & Time:

The 2011 Toronto Beaches Lions Annual Easter Parade will be held **Sunday, April 24, 2011** from **2 pm to 4pm**

Parade Route:

The Toronto Beaches Lions Annual Easter Parade begins at Neville Park and proceeds west along Queen Street to Woodbine Avenue.



CREATURES FROM THE CREEK



This is ***Hercules***.

Hercules loves fine foods, serenading the people he loves and hanging out in his bird bath.

He is very attentive and loves to sing to you whenever you walk in the room.

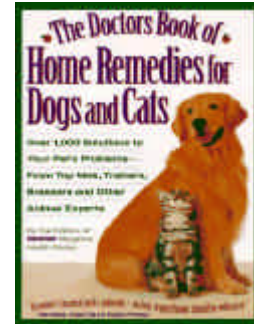
Hercules especially loves performing duets with Xena.
He whistles and she barks!

If you would like your "creature" featured in the next newsletter, send us a picture of your pet and be sure to tell us all about your loved one.

Send your picture to: neilsoncreeknews@hotmail.com

PET HOME REMEDIES

Many problems, illnesses, and conditions can be treated at home. However, some things require a veterinarian's assessment and treatment, sometimes immediately. Check to see that the condition you want to treat isn't an emergency before administering home care.



Emergency Situations Requiring Immediate Veterinary Care

Difficulty breathing: noisy respiration, blue tongue, gasping for breath

Bleeding that does not stop from any part of the body. Apply pressure with a clean cloth and go!

Bloated or distended abdomen or swollen or painful abdomen with or without vomiting

Inability to urinate or move bowels but continues to try or has bloody stool or urine or painful defecation or urination

Heatstroke: heavy panting, extreme weakness, body temperature about 104 degrees

Inability to deliver puppies or kittens, labor contractions for longer than one hour or more than 15 minutes of labor with the fetus or membrane showing.

Loss of balance or consciousness or seizure, including: tremors, coma, staggering, convulsions, sudden blindness, tilting of the head, biting at imaginary objects, sudden changes in disposition such as unusual withdrawal or out-of-character aggressiveness

Pain, severe or continuous

Major trauma, injury, or shock from falls, vehicle accidents, wounds, cuts, broken bones. Signs to look for: weakness, collapse, shallow breathing, rapid heartbeat, bewildered appearance, dilated pupils

Ingested poison. Bring the container of the product or a list of ingredients if you have it

Penetrating wounds anywhere on the body, but especially in the chest or abdomen

Vomiting or diarrhea with blood or violent episodes

Lameness and cannot bear any weight on the leg

Over-The-Counter Medications You Can Give To Your Pet			
Medicine	Notes	Dosage	How Often
Buffered Aspirin	For dogs only. Pain relief, anti-inflammatory.	1 tablet per 60 Lbs.	2 times per day
Baby Aspirin	For dogs only. Pain relief, anti-inflammatory.	1 tablet per 15 Lbs.	2 times per day
Benedryl®	Treat allergies, itching, reaction to insect stings, etc.	1 mg. per 1 Lb.	2 times per day
Dramamine®	Not for animals with glaucoma or bladder problems. Reduce car sickness.	3-25 Lb. pet -12.5 mg. 26-50 Lb. pet - 25 mg. 51 Lb. + pet - 50 mg.	Give at least 1 hour prior to travel, no more than once a day
Pepto-Bismol®	For dogs only. Relieve vomiting or stomach gas, diarrhea.	1 tsp. per 20 Lbs.	Every 6 hours
Hydrogen Peroxide 3%	To induce vomiting after accidental ingestion of a poison.	1 Tbls. per 10 Lbs.	Up to 3 times, 10 minute intervals, until vomiting occurs
Mineral Oil	Eliminate constipation.	Dogs: up to 4 Tbls. Cats: up to 2 Tbls.	Daily, as needed
Acetaminophen, Tylenol®, Ibuprofen, Motrin®, Nuprin®, Alieve®	Never give to animals.		

Anemia: Feeding your pet foods high in iron and B vitamins will help this problem. A serving of liver once a day is sufficient: cats - 1 ounce, small dogs - 2 ounces, medium dogs - 3 ounces, and large dogs - 4 ounces.

Animals In Heat: Your pet's amorous actions and not-so-lovely serenades are really demands for attention, so give them more than usual. The strong smell Vicks® ointment may help keep roaming males away: rub a little in the fur of the tail on females and above the nose on males. Keep the windows closed; a cat can smell romance a mile away, while a dog's range is about three miles.

Arthritis: For overweight pets, losing weight will help lighten the load on those achy joints. A 20 minute walk several times a day can reduce the progression of arthritis. If it's cold outside, let them sleep inside. Make sure they are provided with soft bedding to reduce discomfort. Moist heat applied for 20 minutes twice a day can be a great comfort.

Asthma: Keep pets with asthma trim - overweight animals have a harder time breathing. Dry air irritates the airway, so using a humidifier helps. If you, the owner, smokes, stop! Keep them indoors during pollen season. For cats, use a dust-free kitty litter.

Bad Breath: A foul odor coming from your pet's mouth is a sign of plaque. Prevent this by brushing your pet's teeth, feeding them a cooked oxtail or raw carrots, don't feed them canned food or table scraps, and get them a rope to play with. Your vet can also thoroughly clean your pet's teeth.

Broken Bones: Immobilize your pet while holding him still and place him on a board, car floor mat, or a folded blanket. Do not attempt to bandage or splint broken limbs as you can cause more damage. Take your pet to the vet immediately.

Car Sickness: Most animals travel best on an empty stomach, so pick up their food 6-8 hours before travel. However, some pets prefer to have a small amount of food in their stomachs. See what works best for your animal. Other ways to reduce sickness includes letting them sit in the front seat, allowing them to look out the windows, and cracking the windows to allow fresh air to flow inside the vehicle.

Cat in a Tree: Cats will more than likely come down on their own. Leave them alone to make their way down. Give them an entire day to do so. Tempt them with their favorite strong-smelling food. If the cat is injured, wearing a leash that could choke them, or hasn't come down in a day, you need to climb up and get them, whether up the tree itself, or with a ladder. Grab them by the skin on the back of the neck and make your first attempt at reaching them a good one - they may flee further up the tree. The Humane Society may be able to assist you if you are not able to reach the cat yourself.

Choking: Open your pet's mouth to see if you can visualize the object and remove it. If you are unsuccessful, take your pet to the vet immediately. If your pet is not breathing and you can't find what's obstructing the air passage, try the Heimlich maneuver: Hold your pet against you and clasp your hand around his upper abdomen OR place your pet on their side, on the floor and put one of your hands on top of the other so that the bottom hand is just below the rib cage. Push or lift upward to dislodge the object.

Diarrhea: Ensure your pet is drinking enough fluids. In addition to their water bowl, a bowl of Gatorade® will further help. Stop feeding for 24 hours from the onset of the diarrhea. When your pet is ready to eat again, try 2 parts cooked white rice mixed with 1 part boiled hamburger or skinless white meat chicken, feeding small amounts every 4 hours for 2 days. Slowly introduce their regular food back into the diet.

Ear Mites: You can temporarily treat the ear mites by soaking a cotton ball with mineral oil and swabbing the ear canal. Then, seek the assistance of your veterinarian for treatment with Ivermectin.

Fever: Normal temperatures of cats and dogs ranges from 100.5 and 102.5 degrees. Sooth away the heat with a cool compress on their belly or a 10 minute cool bath. Ensure they are drinking enough water. Consult your vet, as fever can mean serious illness.

Flatulence: Exercise helps move gas out of the system, so take them for a walk. Stop feeding table scraps and dairy foods and ensure they aren't getting into the trash. Check the soy content of your pet's food; high soy content causes gas. Many yogurts contain digestion-friendly bacteria that can help decrease flatulence. Give 1/4 tsp. plain yogurt to cats and small dogs, 1 tsp. to dogs 15-20 pounds, and 1TbIs. to large dogs. Raise their food dish to eliminate air digested while eating.

Fleas: Though a preventaive such as Advantage®, Frontline® , Revolution®, or K9 Advantix® is the best way to treat and prevent fleas, a diet including Brewer's Yeast and garlic prove to keep them away, as well.

Getting Out Mats: Wet fur is more difficult to unmat, so keep them dry. Starting at the ends of the hairs and working inward, divide the mat in half with your fingers. Then divide the halves into quarters, the quarters into eighths and so on until all the clumps are gone. A light sprinkling of cornstarch makes stubborn mats easier to pull apart. For a particularly tough mat, clip the mat in half with scissors.

Hairballs: First try a hairball lubricant. Sometimes, high-fiber diets accelerate the passage of hairballs. Keep fleas under control to reduce licking. Brush your cat often, then follow with wiping the coat with a moist towel to pick up any loose hairs.

Hot Spots: Dissolve 2 adult aspirins in 1 Tbis. rubbing alcohol. Steep 1 tea bag in 1 cup warm water; discard tea bag. Stir together aspirin mixture and tea; allow to cool. Shave hair around hot spot. Blot prepared mixture over spot with a cotton ball. Follow with over-the-counter cortisone spray or creme. Repeat as necessary.

Insect Bites and Stings: Remove stingers, if present. Dab a mixture of baking soda and water on the spot to help reduce discomfort. Milk of Magnesia and meat tenderizer works in the same way, as well.

Itchy Skin from Allergies: Give your pet a 10 minute cool bath to relieve itching. For further soothing, you may also add colloidal oatmeal (Aveeno®) to the bathwater. For dogs with itchy feet, fill the tub with enough cool water to cover their feet, dissolve a couple cups of Epsom salts in the water, and soak the dog's feet for 5-10 minutes. Be careful not to let them drink the water.

Poisoning: Call your vet immediately and have on hand the substance your pet ingested. If your pet has gotten into pills, antifreeze, or other toxic substances (but not caustic substances) getting him to vomit will help eliminate some of the danger ([click here to learn how](#)). If your pet has ingested something alkaline, such as cleaner or kerosene, don't induce vomiting. Give him about 3 tsp. vinegar or lemon juice diluted in an equal amount of water. If your pet has ingested something acid, maybe from chewing on a battery, give Milk of Magnesia, 1 tsp. per 5 Lbs. of pet.

Puppy Diarrhea/Dogs with Soft Stool: Plain canned pumpkin works well for puppies with diarrhea and adult dogs with soft stool. A few spoonfuls in their food will often stop it right away. The pumpkins adds fiber to the diet, therefore firming up the stools. It often works more completely and more quickly than Kaopectate® if your pet isn't ill from something else.

Reduce Anal Sac Problems: Stop feeding your pet table scraps. The fatty foods soften the stool, making the fluid more likely to build up.

Removing Burrs: Remove burrs in your pet's coat as soon as possible. Allowing their fur to get wet makes it worse, so keep them dry. Most burrs can be removed with your fingers or tweezers. For the more difficult ones, soak the area in vegetable oil to help slide them out.

Seizures: Dogs don't swallow their tongues, so don't put your hand in their mouth. Move furniture out of the way and try to keep the area as dark as possible. Gentle talking and stroking may help to shorten the length of the seizure. If the seizure lasts more than 10 minutes, take your pet to the vet immediately. If this is the first time your pet is having a seizure, take him to the vet for assessment.

Severe Bleeding: Place gauze over the wound and apply direct pressure using your hands for 5 minutes, recheck, and continue applying pressure until bleeding stops or you've reached the vet. Do not use a tourniquet, as they are dangerous. Cold packs over oozing wounds can help reduce swelling and bleeding. Take your pet to the vet immediately.

Skunk Spray: If your pet's eyes are watering, use an eye wash to flush out any irritating spray. Next, wash your pet outside, if possible, using a pet shampoo. Follow with soaking him in tomato juice for 20 minutes. Finish up with a shampooing of a mixture of 1 quart 3% Hydrogen Peroxide, 1/4 cup baking soda, and 1 Tbs. liquid dish soap.

Stop Bleeding from a Nail Trim: When you've cut a nail too short, stop the bleeding by pressing the nail in styptic powder or flour, then tap the powder in.

Urinary Infections: The common human remedy of cranberry, orange, and other citrus juices also work for pets in boosting the acidity of the urine and decreasing the amount of bacteria.

Submitted by Sandi Jones

Mother's Day

What is a Mother to you? The dictionary meaning for Mother is "a female parent, a woman exercising control, influence, or authority like that of a mother, as maternal affection"

I would say that my interpretation of a Mother is someone that is not only the female parent but someone who is backbone and support of the family. Someone who, the children run to when things are good or bad to share their thoughts or feelings. Someone who, kisses "booboo's" and assures their children that everything will be ok. Someone who, is always present at their child's sporting or school events to cheer them on and let them know how great they are and how wonderful a person their children are growing up to be. Mothers are the caregivers, providers and emotional support that children, need to successfully grow; they are the root for most children.

Mother's Day in Canada stems from a European tradition where a specific Sunday was dedicated to honouring mothers and motherhood called "Mothering *Sunday*". It was celebrated throughout various Christian denominations to honour the Virgin Mary and the "mother church". Children were given the day off on this day so they could spend time with their mother or go and pick flowers to bring to the church or to give them to their mothers as gifts.

It was a woman by the name of Anna Jarvis in 1912 that trademarked "second Sunday in May" and "Mother's Day", as well as creating the Mother's Day International Association and is now celebrated *around* the world by many.

No matter where Mother's Day stems from, there is no denying that Mother's Day is one that should not just be celebrated on one specified day but incorporated into your life on a daily basis. Showing your mother love every day and giving her the support and encouragement that she provides you daily would make her very happy I am sure. It would also be cost saving on the designated Mother's day when all she would expect is the traditional flowers ? .



Father's Day

What does being a father consist of? The dictionary meaning for Father is "a male parent, a man, who exercises paternal care over other persons; paternal protector or provider".

A father to me is someone who not only provides for a family but, share the responsibility of parenting with the other parent. Someone who, helps children with their homework, is in attendance at all sporting and school events and meetings. Someone who, makes a child feel protected when they are injured or feeling defeated. Father's are a role model for boys on how to behave and treat women, and their children in the future; they are motivators for a child's future successes.

Father's Day in Canada stems from the early twentieth century to compliment the celebration of Mother's day. The first celebration of Father's Day occurred on July 5, 1908 in Fairmont, West Virginia. This day was organized by a woman named Grace Golden Clayton who was honouring the lives of 210 fathers that had been lost in a mining disaster December 6, 1907. It took many years for Father's Day to become an official holiday but eventually was proclaimed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966 and officially by Law became a permanent national holiday by President Richard Nixon in 1972.

Father's are vital to a child's upbringing; it provides them with a sense of belonging and security. It is a father that passes their name down, to the children and the male children who keep the name going. Father's are the link that provides the children with their roots to their ancestors. Father's although they may not appear to be affection need to be provided with the Love from their family to show them that they are appreciated.

DAFFODILS in April: the fight for Cancer

People who like to garden, know how hardy the daffodil can be. To the Canadian Cancer Society, the daffodil is more than just a flower. It is a symbol of strength and courage, a symbol of life. It says we will fight back. It says Cancer can be beaten.

In March, the Cancer Society expressed their commitment and passion towards the fight against cancer into a spectacular exhibit at the country's largest floral and horticultural event - Canada Blooms.

This year the firm of Miyabi Landscape Design & Construction created the picturesque garden below. The garden was highlighted by various colours of daffodils and the cancer stories of those who stand behind this iconic symbol.



General cancer statistics in 2010

** Statistics obtained from official website: www.cancer.ca

The Canadian Cancer Society has produced the estimated below results for 2010. Actual 2010 statistics have not been released yet and should be available later in 2011.

An estimated 173,800 **new** cases of cancer (excluding about 75,500 non-melanoma skin cancers) and 76,200 deaths will occur in Canada in 2010.

- Approximately 83,900 Canadian women will be diagnosed with cancer and an estimated 36,200 women will die of cancer.
- Approximately 90,000 Canadian men will be diagnosed with cancer and an estimated 40,000 men will die of cancer.
- On average, 3,340 Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer every week.
- On average, 1,470 Canadians will die of cancer every week.

The risk of cancer increases with age: 43% of new cancer cases and 61% of cancer deaths will occur among those who are at least 70 years old. However, cancer can occur at all ages.

- Lung, prostate, breast and colorectal cancer account for 50% of all new cancer cases every year.
- Lung cancer accounts for over a quarter (27%) of all cancer deaths each year.
- Breast cancer accounts for over a quarter (28%) of new cancer cases in women.
- Prostate cancer accounts for over a quarter (27%) of new cancer cases in men.

Probability of developing or dying from cancer

Based on 2009 incidence rates, 40% of Canadian women and 45% of men will develop cancer during their lifetimes.

An estimated 1 out of every 4 Canadians are expected to die from cancer.

Cancer is the leading cause of premature death in Canada: 1,026,600 years of life were lost in 2004 as a result of cancer. This represents 32% of the potential years of life lost resulting from all causes of death.

Prevalence

At the beginning of the year 2005, there were approximately 723,000 cases of cancer that had been diagnosed in the previous 10 years.

Survival

Based on 2002-2004 estimates, 62% of people are expected to survive for 5 years after their cancer diagnosis compared to the general population of the same age and sex. Survival rates differ according to the type of cancer.

Important dates to remember in 2011:

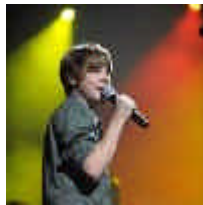
April	Daffodil Month/Daffodil Days
April 10-16	National Volunteer Week
May 31	World No Tobacco Day
June 5	National Cancer Survivors Day
June	National Sun Awareness Week
September	Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
September	Men's Cancer Health Awareness Month
September	Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
October	Breast Cancer Awareness Month
November	November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month
November	Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

We all know how important the fight to cure cancer is. The statistics are shocking'
Show your support. Recognize one of the above dates.
Buy a daffodil, support the fight! We will win this! We have to...

Visit: www.cancer.ca for more information

Entertainment From The Creek

"Bieber Fever", has taken over the world!



Justin Drew Bieber

And why not.. .this 17 year old Canadian is a Pop& R&B Singer/Song writer and an Actor has taken the world by storm. He was born in Stratford, On., on March 1st, 1994. After entering a singing contest in 2006, he started posting videos of himself, singing, on You Tube.

After only 7 months of posting... he had been noticed by his "now" manager, and Usher had signed him to a record deal. Justin's first Album released, My World, went platinum which made him the highest debuting new artist.

Justin is a teen heartthrob; making girls from age pre-teen to there early 20's go crazy. He has even been referred to as the biggest thing since theBeatles.-.Wow!!!

Keep it up Justin.. .you are making Canada PROUD!

It was really nice to see all the kids and adults from our Co-op and from West Hill Hockey play together on the new sports pad.
it was great that Coach Alex and Wade invited everyone play and divided the teams up.
Maggie Delaney

