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The Woodland Heights Herald

Helping Make Our Community as Friendly as it is Beautiful



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Help Shape the Future of Woodland Heights

Woodland Heights is fortunate to have a strong and active Community Association. The “WHCA” is part of what makes our neighbourhood a great place to live. Through leadership by its volunteers, our association provides valuable services and opportunities that benefit all residents. This includes group buying programs, social events and activities, advocacy on issues important to our community, and our Annual General Meeting. None of this happens without the support and participation of residents who are willing to contribute some of their time and talents by serving on the Board of Directors.

What is involved?

Serving on the board is an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the community you live in by working with your neighbours. Board members work together to identify priorities, support community initiatives, and ensure the association continues to provide value to residents. Volunteering on the board is rewarding, enjoyable and doesn't require a big time commitment. It offers the chance to develop new skills, share your expertise, contribute to projects that

continued ...

Help Shape the Future continued

matter, and build lasting connections with fellow residents. Whether your background is in business, finance, communications, event planning, project management - or simply a desire to help - your contribution can make a real impact! We even have capacity for one or more 'members at large.' This means you don't have a responsibility for a specific ongoing role, but you attend meetings and may work on a particular project on a temporary basis, as needed.

Who is a good fit?

As our community continues to grow and evolve, we are seeking residents who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors. It's important that we have a balance of both younger, working members as well as retirees in order to best represent our resident demographics. It's especially helpful to welcome newer residents, as they bring fresh insights and ideas. Board positions involve a three-year commitment and provide an excellent opportunity to help guide the association's activities and priorities. Board members meet four times per year and attend the Annual General Meeting. Occasionally there is group email correspondence, if a particular issue comes up between meetings.

How could you help?

It's well known that what makes Woodland Heights "as friendly as it is beautiful" is *the people*. Being on the board is a great way to meet your neighbours, feel engaged with your community, and develop friendships as well as a sense of purpose. We hope you're considering how you can contribute your time and talents to serving on the board, and we'd love to hear from you. Even if you're unsure whether a board position is right for you, we encourage you to reach out and start a conversation. We are also interested in learning about any particular skills, experience, or interests you may be willing to share in support of the community.

It's up to each of us

The continued success of Woodland Heights depends on residents who are willing to get involved. By volunteering a small amount of your time, you can help ensure our neighbourhood remains a vibrant, connected, and welcoming place for everyone.

For more information, to discuss a board position, or to let us know how you would like to contribute, please get in touch with us. We welcome your questions and look forward to hearing from you. Please write to us confidentially at WHCAherald@gmail.com

Save the Date

Here are a couple of upcoming events that you don't want to miss. Please mark them on your calendar and plan to attend:

The Annual Community Party & BBQ: Saturday, October 3rd 4 to 6 PM.

This fun social event brings residents back together after the summer to enjoy good food, and reconnecting with great company. Meet your neighbours, say Hello to WHCA Board Members and hear what's coming up at our October AGM. It's a family friendly, pot luck format and is held in the Sanctuary parking lot on Natures Way.



Annual General Meeting: Oct 17 – 10am to 1pm

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, October 17th 10am to 1pm

This important event provides your opportunity to stay informed about issues affecting our community. The Agenda includes presenting the budget, learning about past results and future planning, and hearing from leadership about prospective changes. Your attendance ensures a quorum for voting on important decisions. This year's AGM will be hosted at the Deerhurst Resort and will feature Guest Speaker, Councillor Monty Clouthier, who is running again for the Brunel Ward.

Note that the date for the upcoming Municipal Election is October 26th. You may find the following helpful for reference to local candidates.

<https://www.huntsville.ca/council-administration/municipal-and-school-board-elections/uncertified-candidates/>



Explore Your Backyard

Woodland community living offers the perfect blend of natural beauty, vibrant neighbourhoods, and relaxed leisure. Surrounded by exceptional restaurants, beautiful resorts, and some of the finest golf courses in Ontario, there's always something to enjoy!

Summer in Muskoka

Summer in Muskoka is filled with cultural experiences, outdoor adventures, and wonderful farmers' markets. We already know there's a market nearly every day of the week, but did you know there's almost a festival every week throughout the summer? It almost seems too good to be true.

Hopefully, you've taken advantage of some of the many local festivals held in July. They've included NyDock Dockfest, Nuit Blanche and the Cottage Country Drag Festival, and many more.





Explore Your Backyard ... continued

August continues the celebration with a variety of festivals and community events with a focus on the arts. The Dockside Festival of the Arts takes place along Gravenhurst's waterfront on August 8–9, while the 37th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival fills Baysville with artists and visitors on August 9–10. The Tall Pines Music & Arts Festival returns on August 22, and throughout the season, the Algonquin Theatre continues to present an outstanding lineup of live performances.

One worthy note to consider is that after 10 wonderful years, the beloved Muskoka Music Festival will hold its farewell celebration on August 22 at the Gravenhurst Opera House. It is sure to be a memorable and heartfelt send-off.

September celebrations continue with Huntsville Harvest Feast on the 12th. The Bracebridge Fall Fair and Horse show is on the 18th–20th, and the Huntsville Fall Fair is on the 25th. Both of these are good fun and worth supporting, with the Huntsville version being on a smaller scale. They are followed with the Autumn Art Market in Bracebridge on the 26th. It's a wonderful month as we celebrate summer leading into our beautiful autumn.

Muskoka's summer festivals showcase the very best of our region. Whether you're seeking adventure, arts and culture, or simply time to relax and reconnect with nature, there's something for everyone. It's all part of what makes Woodland Heights —and Muskoka itself— such an extraordinary place to call home.



Getting to Know You

DISCOVERING OUR NEIGHBOURS

Claudia and Rick Wardell: A Golf and Garden Cottage

If you've ever strolled past the corner of Deerfoot Trail and Birchwood and paused to admire the burst of color there, you have Claudia and Rick Wardell to thank.

The Wardells have called Woodland Heights home for 14 years, having made the move from their cottage on Mary Lake. These days, they split their time between the two places they love most – six months here in Woodland Heights, and six months in Newmarket. It's a rhythm that suits their active lifestyle perfectly: winters mean hitting the ski slopes, while summers are spent on the golf course three times a week.

But it's their quieter, more patient work that has left a lasting mark on our community. For the past five years, Claudia and Rick have volunteered their time to tend the community garden at Deerfoot Trail and Birchwood. What started as a modest patch with just a few annuals has blossomed – quite literally – into a thriving garden filled with a rotating mix of annuals and perennials. Between them, they handle everything: soil care, watering, pruning, and all the unglamorous work that makes a garden flourish.

Their volunteering is the kind of quiet generosity that's easy to walk past without noticing – until you realize how much care and consistency it takes to keep something beautiful growing, season after season, year after year.

Next time you pass that corner, take a moment to enjoy the garden – and maybe give a wave if you spot Claudia or Rick pulling weeds. Woodland Heights is a little more beautiful because of them. Thank you both for sharing your time and talents!



Thank you Volunteers!

You may not realize the extent to which volunteers help keep Woodland Heights vibrant. We thank all of those who do their part looking after the gardens and common areas - we are grateful! Thank you to the WHCA Board and committee members for your contribution and commitment. To learn how you can help out and keep our community strong and vibrant, please get in touch at WHCAherald@gmail.com today. You'll be glad you did!

