

Clair Hills Connection

The Clair Hills Connection is a semiannual newsletter dedicated to informing residents about upcoming events, community initiatives, and ways to get involved.



Clair Hills

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Clair Hills Community association is committed to creating a clean, safe, welcoming, and connected community.

Volume 2, Issue 1

April 10, 2013

Happy spring from the CHCA

A growing neighbourhood means lots of changes and opportunities for input. Let's hear from you!

Dear residents,

The calendar says spring and yet, while I write this, Old Man Winter seems to be hanging around a little while longer. Hopefully by the time you read this, spring has actually sprung.

Since I wrote to you last fall, there have been more changes to our neighbourhood and surrounding area. The Boardwalk continues to be developed, with more stores and restaurants opening all the time. We have new retirement communities, and two new parks that have been

added to our community as well.

The CHCA also continues to evolve, including ongoing improvements to our website, our commitment to a social media presence and our commitment to gathering your feedback through the use of surveys and other interactive forums. This is your community and your community association. We want to hear from you. Please take the time to participate in our surveys, be part of our social media and plan to attend our meetings and events.

The upcoming St. Moritz Park consultation on **April 23, 2013**, is a very important opportunity for your voice to be heard. Your opinion mat-

ters and can shape how the park area is enhanced. To learn more and RSVP please read the article on page 3 of this newsletter. And don't forget about our **Annual General Meeting on May 14, 2013**.

Finally, on behalf of the entire community, I would like to continue to thank all volunteers of the CHCA, our community partners, the City of Waterloo and our generous sponsors and advertisers. Without their tireless efforts and generous contributions and support, we could not continue to serve this community. Thank you all!

Best regards,

John Sweeny
President

president@clair-hills.ca

Help keep Clair Hills beautiful and clean

Annual Spring Clean Up

When: Saturday, April 20th
Time: 10:00 am and 2:00 pm

Meeting Place: Corner of Columbia Street West and Lucerne Street (by the pond)

Community volunteers will be at the meeting place at both 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. so you can pick up your supply kit (gloves, garbage bags and t-shirt), register for some exciting door prizes and participate in the Clair Hills Spring Clean-Up! A great opportunity to re-connect with your neighbours, to get outside with your family, and for



student volunteers to complete some meaningful community service hours.

Let's clean up our parks, trails, and streets... Together we can make Clair Hills shine!

Rain delays will be communi-

cated via the website at www.clair-hills.ca, [@ClairHills](https://twitter.com/ClairHills) and email.

If you have any questions, please contact Jamie at events@clair-hills.ca or visit www.clair-hills.ca for more information.



The St. Moritz Park public consultation is April 23rd. Learn more on page 3.

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Attention Moms & Dads of Clair Hills

- * Do you have little ones aged 0-6 years?
- * Are you interested in meeting other parents in your neighbourhood?
- * Do you want your kids to make new friends?
- * Are you looking to get out with other parents for some adult conversation?
- * Do you want to learn more about kid friendly events in your community?



If you are interested, please email parents@clair-hills.ca to be added to the Parents of Clair Hills distribution list. Please also complete our Parents group survey by May 6, 2013 so we can get an idea of demographics and interest in the group. You can find a link to it directly on our website or use this link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ParentsofClairHills_Apr13

We are launching a group for Clair Hills parents with kids ages 0-6 years to unite those looking to meet other parents and kids in our neighbourhood, plan play dates, share advice and learn about family-friendly events in the community.



Celebrated every **April 22**, Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide.

More than 6 million Canadians join 1 billion people in over 170 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. Nearly every school child in Canada takes part in an Earth Day activity.

Environmental challenges abound as our daily actions pollute and degrade the fragile environment that humans and wildlife depend on to survive.

To learn more about Earth Day and how you can help, visit www.earthday.ca

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." ~ Marjorie Moore

TD Canada Trust

Open Sundays

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

We're open 7 days a week at this location.



320 The Boardwalk
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Monday to Wednesday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday & Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Banking can be this comfortable



Public park consultation April 23rd

Residents are invited to a public consultation that will help guide the final developments of St. Moritz Park

The CHCA executive and volunteers continue our work with the City of Waterloo and Ward 2 Councillor, Karen Scian, on the next phase of the St Moritz Park. For those of you following the progress, we finished the fall with a final grading including seeding of the soccer area and planting/landscaping of the edges of the park. The paths throughout the park were constructed and asphalt laid down making great areas for walking, running, roller blading and long boarding. Winter season included many Clair Hills residents enjoying our latest park addition with X-country skiing, tobogganing, dog walking, etc.

Our last step is a public consultation meeting to confirm the feedback from our online survey done last year, as well as hosting a final input session for you, the residents of Clair Hills. The meeting will be held at **the Clair Hills Retirement Community on Tuesday April**



23rd at 7:00pm. Please RSVP on our website www.clair-hills.ca and sign up for our e-newsletter for updates. We look forward to your attendance and feedback!

Thomas Bryll
Director, Government Affairs
government.affairs@clair-hills.ca

2013 Fall Fun Fest Event Team—Volunteers Needed



For the past few years, the Clair Hills Community Association has hosted a FREE Fall Fun Fest to give our neighbourhood residents a chance to get together and have little fun. Last September, approximately 350 people joined us at Edna Staebler Public School for an exciting afternoon of games, good food, a great visit from the Waterloo Fire Department, face painting, tarot card readings and more!

Planning will begin soon for the 2013 Fall Fun Fest and if you have some time to spare, we'd love to have you join the event planning team! Team members will need to attend a few planning meetings and help contact suppliers, gather door prizes, accept sponsor donations, and help get things ready for the big event.

Please contact Jamie at events@clair-hills.ca if you are interested in helping to get this party started! All are welcome.

Board of Directors & Volunteers

The Clair Hills Community Association is comprised of a Board of Directors and local volunteers. This group of dedicated residents meet regularly to coordinate events, liaise with government and city officials, and bring important information to the community.

Board of Directors:

John Sweeny, President
Jeff Dooley, Treasurer
Caitlin Smith, Communications
Craig Smith, Social Media
Scott Dougall, Business Affairs
Thomas Bryll, Government Affairs

Volunteers:

Shelly Reed, Webmaster
Jamie Harland, Events Coordinator
Teresa Martin, Advertising Coordinator
Diana Clipsham, Parents Group Coordinator
Rob Wallace, General Volunteer

The association would like to extend a very BIG thank you to all its volunteers for their time and commitment.

If you would like to volunteer, join our mailing list or attend one of our next meetings, please email communications@clair-hills.ca

UPCOMING CHCA EVENTS:

- **Spring Clean Up:** Sat. April 20th
- **Parks Consultation:** Tues. April 23rd
- **AGM:** Tues. May 14th
- **Yard Sale:** Sat. June 1st
- **Monthly Meeting:** Tues. June 11th
- **Fall Fun Fest:** September 2013

If you would like to recommend a community event, please email events@clair-hills.ca

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Follow [@ClairHills](https://twitter.com/ClairHills) for that latest updates via Twitter, and join our Facebook page.



The Faces of Clair Hills

Recognize your neighbours? These smiling faces were photographed at the 2012 Fall Fun Fest—A free event hosted by the CHCA. The 2013 Fall Fun Fest will be held this September.



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Upcycling 101: Make your home beautiful with what you have and keep items out of the landfill

Ever wish you could breathe new life into your old stuff? Is your budget restricting you from buying new items for your space?

Upcycling is a creative way to infuse our spaces with unique pieces, while at the same time, keeping all of these items out of the landfill. It reduces waste and improves the efficiency of resource use.

Our mothers and grandmothers have been upcycling out of necessity for years. They had to use what they already owned. Patching holes in clothing, reupholstering furniture. They did it all. Now we feel the necessity to be kind to our planet when we eliminate waste. By adding a little creativity and imagination to these items, we can use them in other ways, breathing new life into them.

The definition of upcycling goes something like this. The practice of creating a useable product from waste or unwanted items, or adapting an existing product in some way to add value.

Upcycling is a phenomena I'm passionate about. All it takes is a little imagination to

see a piece of furniture or a cool accessory for what it could be. Places where I score my most awesome items are the curbside, thrift shops and things that people give away. Personally, before I retrieve an item, I make sure that I have a specific vision or an idea for that piece. There are some pieces that I just can't imagine working with, so I let those ones go. There will always be someone else out there who can see it for what it's worth!

The most common way I change most pieces is to paint them. Spray paint, or wall paint both work, depending on the item. If the piece needs to have paint applied with a brush, and if the new colour will be a very different colour than what's already on it, I first use a couple of coats of Bullseye 123 primer. Then a couple of coats of the new paint go on, and it looks brand new.

The types of items that have worked out beautifully for
...Continued on page 6



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Clair Hills Connection Advertising

Learn how you can connect with our community by advertising your local business in the pages of the next edition of the Clair Hills Connection.

The Clair Hills Connection offers advertising opportunities for local businesses. With competitive rates and a distribution of approximately 1,500 homes in the Clair Hills community, it is an affordable way to connect with customers.

Our newsletter is hand delivered twice annually in Fall and Spring by volunteers of the CHCA. Our door-to-door approach ensures it reaches all our residents.

If you are interested in advertising in future issues of the Clair Hills Connection, please email advertising@clair-hills.ca or visit our website www.clair-hills.ca for more information.

Our next issue of Clair Hills Connection will be published in **September 2013**.

**Celebrating
 5 years
 in the community.**

We're proud to be part of the Clair Hills community and your choice for financial solutions. We look forward to seeing you soon.

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...Continued from page 5

me, and are fairly simple projects to complete, are:

Dining room chairs:

You just have to pop off the old fabric covered seat, add new fabric, securing with a staple gun, paint the wood frame of the chair, and it's done!

Large wood-framed mirrors:

These require carefully removing of the mirror, painting the back and front of the frame and then securing the mirror back inside.

Upholstered wooden stools:

Paint is applied to the wood portions, the upholstered parts are taken apart, and new fabric is adhered with staples. Put it all back together again and you have a beautifully upcycled piece!

Picture frames that need a face-life are easy to paint in a more trendy colour for the room they will be placed in.

If you're interested, stay posted on Lee Valley's website (leevalley.com - Waterloo store) for upcycling seminars that I'll be teaching in spring 2013 and fall 2013.



In my business I work with a lot of do-it-yourself-ers. These informed people want to be hands-on as much as possible with their projects. They often need a design professional such as myself, who has the expertise and training to pull a look together for them. Professional know-how, combined with the personal style of clients, is a winning combination.

Sandy Cucci is a Certified Interior Decorator, who lives in Waterloo, and is the owner of Your Beautiful Home. Website: www.yourbeautifulhome.ca



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How to care for our trees and park areas

Just a couple cans of water twice a week can help our trees grow and thrive

The City of Waterloo maintains over 30,000 trees on public streets as well as all the trees in parks. And every year, staff plant and mulch 300-500 additional trees within the City.

During dry spells, newly planted trees are susceptible to drying out even with the protective mulch barrier. Although the City has recently initiated a watering bag program, there are still many more trees that could use a helping hand during the summer months. A couple of cans of water (20 gallons) twice a week during dry conditions is very inexpensive (less than 4 dollars for 2 months) and will go a long way in helping Waterloo's trees grow.

All trees on public property are protected under our Tree By-law. This means that no one is to cut, damage, remove, or attach anything to a public tree. If you have a concern about a tree, please call, and an arborist will be there to address your concern.

Parks and Natural Areas

Living near a park or natural area is both a pleasure and a privilege, and with it comes responsibility. In order for all residents to enjoy the area equally, here are some things

to consider:

Children

Please help to encourage children to respect and care for their park by asking them to stay on the trails, observe wildlife and their homes from a distance, and be careful not to damage the native vegetation and trees.

Encroachments

When encroachments (using public land as an extension of ones own property) or illegal access (accessing parkland with equipment without proper permits) occur, it affects neighbors, communities, maintenance operations, tax payers, and the ecology and wildlife that depend on natural processes to continue.

Encroachment and illegal access negatively impacts natural areas by smothering native vegetation, introduces non-native species, compacts soils, causes erosion, causes potential for fire, and is extremely unsightly.

To read the rest of this article, please visit www.clair-hills.ca and click on our Environment Blog link, and for more information visit www.waterloo.ca or use the contact information below:

Phone: 519-886-2310, Fax: 519-886-5788

Email: environment@waterloo.ca

TTY: 519-786-3941



The Clair Hills Community Association works in partnership with the City of Waterloo and is a proud recipient of the City of Waterloo's Neighbourhood Matching Fund for 2012.





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