

YMVA NEWSLETTER

May 2001
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An Open Letter to Valley Residents.

Dear Valley neighbours,

If you are planning to spray pesticides on your lawn again this year, we hope that you will reconsider. As you are no doubt aware, there is mounting evidence that the so called benefits of pesticides are simply not worth the risks they pose to the health of ourselves and our children.

As a recent Sierra Club publication has pointed out, of the 36 most commonly used lawn pesticides,

- ?? 13 can cause cancer,
- ?? 14 cause birth defects,
- ?? 11 have reproductive effects,
- ?? 21 cause damage to the nervous system,
- ?? 15 injure the kidneys or liver, and
- ?? 30 are sensitizers or irritants.

Children are affected more than adults. Childhood brain cancer, childhood leukemia, and soft tissue sarcomas are associated with homes that use pesticides. According to the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, the risk of developing childhood leukemia is 6.5 times higher for children in homes where pesticides are used. Pesticides may be even more damaging in our neighbourhood, as they are washed into the Don River, and eventually, into our drinking water.

If you still feel you must spray your lawn, please notify your immediate neighbours ahead of time, so we may at least have the opportunity to keep ourselves, our children, our grandchildren, and our pets away from the affected areas.

Neighborhood Activities Spring & Summer 2001

Recent Events:

The Red Door Shelter Recycling

Event: A special thank you from Nell Hardie and The Red Door Community: On behalf of the Woodgreen Red Door Community, we would like to thank the residents of Hoggs Hollow for their contributions during our Kids Recycle Drive. The books, clothing, toys, furniture and financial contributions you made were fantastic! Your generous donations are deeply appreciated and we look forward to furthering the bond between our communities in the future through your continuing support.

Spring Fling Party – The Spring

Fling was a great success! Kids of all ages ran around, playing games and sowing seeds in beautiful, kid made containers. The really big kids enjoyed the spring air, chatting with neighbors they hadn't seen all winter. Many thanks to the organizers Laura LaMarche, Paula Dhillon, Michelle Hopper and Deirdre Cianciotta.

Upcoming Events:

T-Ball – Thursdays 7-8 pm, May 17 to June 28 at Brookfield Park.

Hey! Batter, Batter, Batter! It's T-ball time again at Brookfield Park. So parents, bring those kids out to enjoy the warm weather and run a few bases. The equipment is provided. Only enthusiasm is required.

For more info call – Paul Ciro at 416-487-5822 or Alan Strathdee at 416-544-0943

NAG Luncheon – Thursday, June 21, 12-2 pm, 86 Donwoods Drive

To all of those who have helped out with the valley activities and to all who would like to, please come and join us for a relaxing luncheon complete with great food and company. Share in a glass of wine and enjoy friends new and old. Its potluck, so please let us know if you are bringing an appetizer, salad, main dish or desert.

For more info call – Daphny Strathdee at 416-544-0943

Fall Social – Know a great caterer? Love planning parties? Have a wild idea for this year's theme? If so, let us know because we're looking for a few good people to help plan this year's Fall Social. Contact Jill or Sherry the NAG co-chairs.

Next NAG Meeting – Mid-May

If you would like more information about the NAG, please do not hesitate to call either of us, Jill 416-544-9907 / jillandluigi@sympatico.ca or Sherry 416-485-2492 / sdcosta@home.com