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**RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by: Joel Duff, President  
[president@riversidepark.ca](mailto:president@riversidepark.ca)



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## Letter from the President

### ***Happy New Year, Riverside Park!***

*What a tough and challenging year 2020 was for all of us!*

*We were all impacted by the pandemic in different ways, but we didn't let that divide us.*

*Our neighbourhood responded to the public health emergency in truly inspiring ways. We looked out for isolated neighbours, shared messages of hope and inspiration, and we found safe and creative ways to celebrate holidays.*

*Through it all, we have made our community **STRONGER** than it was before the pandemic.*

*It's an amazing thing to consider ... and I hope that it is a lesson that we all carry forward into the new year and beyond.*

*For those of us who volunteer for your community association in various ways (big and small), I can tell you that YOUR energy and support lifted us up. Those who expressed appreciation spurred us on. We are proud to share your dedication to a stronger community.*

*We hope to see you online and on the streets as we work together for a brighter future.*

**Joel Duff**  
 President, Riverside Park Community Association

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- The RPCA organized a wide array of safe and virtual events to help residents celebrate the holidays safely ... and to add a little joy to their lives.
- We shared our plans with the Hunt Club Community Association which did it's own variations ... and also to great success.
- Thank you to the many volunteers who contributed to these extraordinary efforts.

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## Bringing Santa to Riverside Park

- As a highlight to the season, the RPCA invited Santa to deliver a special address to read out a "nice list" for Riverside Park children.
- In total, the names of 131 children were submitted by local parents.
- The reading was recorded on Dec. 19 and aired on Facebook on Dec. 23.
- There were a couple of errors (one name left off, another mixed up), but we've since learned to check our list twice ... just like Santa himself.
- Overall, the visit was an overwhelming success! Children were delighted; Santa was a joy to work with; and credit goes to local resident **Sarah Stewart** who set the entire thing up, arranged the recording, and produced a first class video.
- This deserves to be turned into an annual event!
- Video: <https://www.facebook.com/RiversideParkCA/videos/442469236768862>



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## Virtual Holiday Caroling



- The RPCA created a joyful and entertaining "virtual holiday carol," with submissions from a number of families from the Riverside Park and Hunt Club neighbourhoods.
- Singing along to José Feliciano's iconic rendition of Feliz Navidad, the individual submissions were synced into a spirited community choir.
- The entire initiative was spearheaded by **Donna Bueckert** and her family, who collectively produced a slick video that was shared on social media and with local long-term care residents at St. Patrick's Home, Villa Marconi Long Term Care Centre, Billingswood Manor, Landmark Court (Revera), Windsor Park (Revera), and Hunt Club Manor (Revera).
- Many thanks to the HCCA for their collaboration and superior singing talents.
- Video: <https://www.facebook.com/RiversideParkCA/videos/128963042273327>

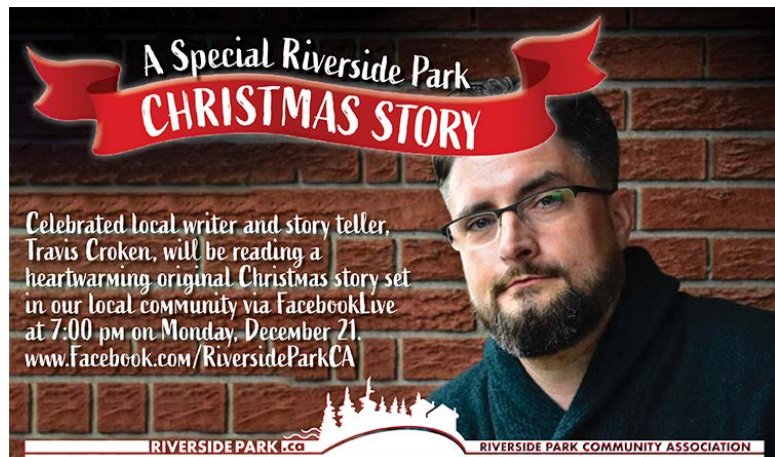
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## "Lost Letters": A Riverside Park Christmas Story

- The RPCA's own **Travis Croken** wrote a wonderful and heartwarming original Christmas story, situated right in our neighbourhood.
- He delivered a dramatic reading of "Lost Letters" live on Facebook on December 21 and attracted more than 1.2K views.
- Video: <https://www.facebook.com/RiversideParkCA/videos/787516488528139>



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## NIGHTLY STORY TIME WITH SANTA'S ELVES

- The talented children of local resident **Sarah Stewart** treated neighbourhood children to nightly holiday stories in the lead-up to Santa's virtual visit.
- Collectively, the girls attracted 1,738 views.
- Many thanks to our spirited elves: **Dahlia, Rosalie, Violet and Lily Reid.**
- Check our Facebook page for the video recordings.



**DAHLIA** **ROSALIE** **VIOLET** **LILY**

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## Local Children Spreading Joy to Isolated Seniors



- Led by the **Kate Cathrae**, the RPCA spearheaded an initiative that saw the students of Holy Cross Elementary School and Fielding Drive Public School produce wonderful Christmas cards for the residents at St. Patrick's Home.
- In total, over 300 handmade cards were delivered to isolated seniors just in time for Christmas.
- Many thanks go to Councillor **Riley Brockington** and his staff for their assistance in contacting each establishment, and thanks go to **Jennifer Grant** at Holy Cross, **Jennifer Lisowski** at Fielding Drive, and St. Pat's Manager of Recreation and Volunteers, **Kathy Thompson**.
- With special appreciation to Kate's children **Ruby & Jimmy Misner** for being the bearers of good tidings.

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## COMMUNITY UPDATES



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## Celebrating Original Home-Owners



- The RPCA started a campaign to celebrate local residents who have lived in Riverside Park for more than 50 years!
- Friends or family members are invited to email a photo and short bio of beloved neighbours to:  
[Communications@riversidepark.ca](mailto:Communications@riversidepark.ca)
- Profiles should include residents' names and address, the year they moved in, a short statement or quote about their lives, what they like most about their neighbourhood, or what changes have been most notable over their residency.
- Profiles will be shared on social media, the RPCA website and in our monthly email newsletters.

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## Re-Opening Soon! Hog's Back Waterfall Bridge

- Parks Canada has announced a postponement of the re-opening date of the Hog's Back Waterfall Bridge from December 31, 2020 to approximately January 17, 2021.
- Despite unexpected product delays on the much-needed double-bridge reconstruction, the project has kept very close to the original schedule.
- We are looking forward to being restored access to Colonel By and Prince of Wales.



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## Construction Commenced on the Mooney's Bay Childcare Centre



- Much anticipated construction began on December 7 for the Mooney's Bay Early Learning and Childcare Centre at 2826 Springland Dr.
- After some Covid-related delays, these 88 new licensed spots for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers are expected to become available in August 2021.
- Click to join the waitlist: <https://onehsn.com/Ottawa>
- **NOTICE:** There will be a short, 2-day road closure of Springland Dr in both directions between Flannery Dr and Walton Crt on **January 13 and 14, between 9:30am and 3pm** for the connection to the water main, sanitary, and storm drains. Access will be maintained for adjacent dwellings and emergency vehicles.


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# CAUTIOUS COEXISTENCE WITH URBAN COYOTES



- Colder weather and food scarcity draws urban coyotes closer to our homes.
- In recent weeks, local residents and outdoor enthusiasts have encountered coyotes along the Hydro Corridor, and around Flannery Park, Sawmill Creek and the McCarthy Wood.
- No aggressive behaviour has been reported, but the animals have appeared very comfortable near humans.
- Residents are reminded to be aware of our natural neighbours.
- Please be vigilant, keep pets on leash, never feed wildlife, and make lots of noise on your walks!

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## Questions?

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