

Spring 2013

# Settler's Grove News

## **Inside:**

- 2012 Event Summary
- Support from the City of Kitchener
- Welcome to YOUR Community Association
- **2013 Calendar of Events**
- Discover the *rare* Charitable Research Reserve
- Safety & Security
- Eco Solutions to Spring Cleaning
- Get More from Your Association
- Regional Bike Trails on Google Maps
- Your Board Members and Volunteers

## **Here's to You!**

Settler's Grove isn't just any neighbourhood. Settler's Grove is a true community because of the great people who live here. In our community there are the friends who invite the whole family over for dinner or who host girls' night. There are the parents who will pick your children up from the bus stop when

you get stuck in a meeting or take your newborn for a walk when they know you need a little peace and quiet. And there's someone who cleared your driveway after Christmas but you don't know who to thank because it could have been any number of thoughtful neighbours. There is always someone who is more than happy to

pick up your flyers when you're on holidays or who can give you an egg when you are short. There are even neighbours who will jump-start your car in the middle of winter and put up drywall in your basement. For all the residents who make Settler's Grove a great community to be a part of – here's to you!



## Great Turnouts Throughout 2012

Do you have photos from Neighbourhood events? Submit them to [sgca@live.ca](mailto:sgca@live.ca) to share on our webpage.

Throughout 2012, your neighbourhood association brought you many successful events. The year started out with the annual **Family Skating Party** at the Twin Pads. Skaters of all ages and abilities took to the ice to get some exercise, practice their hockey skills, or just catch up with old friends while gliding around the rink.

The **Earth Day Park Clean Up**, sponsored by the City of Kitchener, brought several families to pick up garbage around the Settler's Grove Park. Volunteers were rewarded with t-shirts, water bottles, tin bits

and other prizes donated by the City as well as having a clean park to enjoy throughout the year.

Despite having our first ever rain date, last year's **Community BBQ** was another success which brought over 50 residents to Settler's Grove Park. Thanks to everyone who offered a last-minute helping hand to pull off another great event. Everyone enjoyed the spread of salads and desserts that complimented the hamburgers and hotdogs provided by the neighborhood association.

The year wrapped up with the **Holiday**

**Party** held at the Deer Ridge Golf Club. 150 residents attended the party, and every attending household went home with door prizes donated by local businesses. Special thanks to board member Patrick Lubinski who worked effortlessly to solicit many of those prizes.

In 2013 we look forward to enjoying a few new events. Please see the calendar on page 4.

And remember, any amount of time you have to volunteer for your neighbourhood association is always appreciated and ensures our community events are a success!

*The Settler's Grove Community Association appreciates the support of our local businesses who generously donated door prizes for our holiday party. A complete list of donors is on our website [settlersgrovekitchener.com](http://settlersgrovekitchener.com).*

*Do you own your own business? Settler's Grove wants to support its entrepreneurs. Send us your business name and contact information and we'll post it on our website.*

## Support from the City of Kitchener

The City of Kitchener has shown continued support of our Association. As an official Kitchener Neighbourhood Association, we enjoy the support of the City's Volunteer Resource Coordinator, five free community room

rentals per year, participation in the annual Festival of Neighbourhoods and other perks such as the printing of this newsletter and insurance. To learn more about events and activities that the city offers, go to [www.kitchener.ca](http://www.kitchener.ca).

## Welcome to YOUR Community Association

---

*To learn more about your community association, check out our website: [settlersgrovekitchener.com](http://settlersgrovekitchener.com)*

As a member of the Settler's Grove Community Association, we feel it is important that you know the benefits the Association provides to you.

This Association was created to advance the cultural and social interest of permanent owners and residents, residing on properties in the Settler's Grove Community. The Association dues that are collected from each resident are used to maintain the lawns, plants and

trees along the entrance to Settlers Grove on Deer Ridge Drive, the landscaped island on Master Court, and the entrance to the trails off Deer Ridge Drive and Winifred Street. These dues are also used to allow the Association Board to provide activities designed to promote a sense of community among the residents of Settler's Grove. We are always looking for suggestions regarding community improvements and events you would like to see happen!

Do you have a neighbour who has recently moved into the community? Send us their name and address and we'll get in touch with them regarding the Association.

To learn more about the association and to get involved, please attend the 2013 General Meeting on Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Sportsworld Crossing Twin Pads Community Room at 7pm. We hope to see you there!



*Settler's Grove Community Association Board and Social Committee Members welcome guests at the holiday party.*



## Mark Your Calendars for 2013's Social Events



**Family Skating Event** – This year our association held two family skating events at the Twin Pads; one for family day and one for March break. If you enjoyed having the second skating event, please let us know! Watch for our e-mail and posters on the mail boxes for the 2014 date.

**Earth Day Clean Up** – This winter we endured several large winter storms. The snow and strong winds means our shared spaces could use a little spring cleaning. Pitch in at this year's park clean up, which will be held at the Settler's Grove Park on **Saturday April 27th at 10:00am**. Gloves, bags and Tim Horton's treats will be provided by the City of Kitchener. High School Students – don't miss out on getting a couple of well earned volunteer hours!

**Annual General Meeting** – Learn more about our community association at this year's general meeting. It will be held in the community room at the Sportsworld Twin Pads, **Wednesday May 15th at 7:00pm**.

**Summer BBQ** – Kick off your summer holidays and celebrate Canada Day with our annual BBQ. It will be held **Sunday June 30th at noon**. Join us in the Settler's Grove Park for hamburgers and hotdogs, provided by the neighbourhood association. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. And don't forget your lawn chair, soccer balls, badminton racquets, Frisbees and especially your Canadian colours! Please bring a non-perishable food item to support our local food bank.

**Take a hike with rare** – Community member and **rare** volunteer Jessica Jordao has organized a private guided hike of the **rare** Charitable Research Reserve, located just around the corner on Blair Road. The reserve features 5 km of hiking trails, trees more than 240 years old, bald eagles, limestone cliffs, and much more. Grab your hiking boots and come to our guided hike and tour on **Saturday September 7th at 1:00pm** and don't forget your camera! Further details will follow by email and on our webpage closer to the date. Read more about this incredible nature reserve on page 5.

**Children's Halloween Party** – Calling all ghosts and goblins – join us on **Saturday October 26th** for all sorts of tricks and treats. The party will be **from 2 to 4pm** in the Sportsworld Crossing Twin Pads community room. Watch for notices on the mailboxes and emails with more details in October.

**Winter Holiday Party** – The highlight of the year is the winter holiday party held at Deer Ridge Golf Club. The hall has been booked for **Thursday December 5th from 7:00 to 10:30pm**. Come for the appetizers, drink tickets and fantastic door prizes donated by local businesses and stay for the great company. Please bring a non-perishable food item to support our local food bank.

---

*Don't miss out on these events – ensure the association has your email address so you will receive event reminders and other community news. Email your name and address to [sgca@live.ca](mailto:sgca@live.ca) to be added to the distribution list.*



## Discover the *rare* Charitable Research Reserve

*Are you planning to move this year? Please leave a copy of this newsletter for the new owners of your home so that they can learn more about their association and get to know their new neighbours.*

The *rare* Charitable Research Reserve is a magnificent environmental jewel, located 5 minutes from Settler's Grove on Blair Road. The Reserve is over 900 acres (larger than Central Park in New York) and is owned and stewarded by *rare*, an environmental charity, on behalf of the public.

The property has incredible environmental features including a five kilometer trail along the Grand River where you can view trees more than 240 years old, bald eagles that roost during the winter months, limestone cliffs, and so much more. The history of the property is culturally significant as well; artifacts recovered date back more than 10,500 years to the earliest pioneer settlers in Waterloo Region!



For the community, there are four free-access walking trails, community gardens, nature programs and a real focus on environmental education for children. To learn more about this local treasure, go to [www.rare.org](http://www.rare.org) or come to our guided hike and tour on Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

*Photo by Peter Kelly*

## Safety and Security

We are very fortunate to live in a safe community. Despite this, during 2012, there were a few incidents reported to the Police which include several thefts from vehicles, motor vehicle collisions and reports of suspicious activity. You can help prevent crimes from happening by reducing the opportunity for them to take place. Always lock your car doors and do not leave valuables in your vehicle - including GPS devices, cell phone chargers, tools or shopping bags. Not storing an automatic garage door opener in your vehicle will also prevent access to your garage and home.

Please continue to keep an eye out for your neighbours and report all crimes or suspicious activities, no matter how large or small, to the police. For more information about occurrences reported to the police, go to: <http://www.wrps.on.ca/i-maps>. If you see a crime in progress or suspicious activity, call 911 immediately.

## Eco Solutions to Spring Cleaning

Somehow after the windows are washed and the patio furniture has been taken out of storage, there still remains all that “stuff” that doesn’t seem to have any place to go. It doesn’t belong in the garbage, either because it’s toxic or someone else could use it, but where do you take it? Here are some local resources to help you clean out your home without filling our local landfills.

**Electronic Waste:** Electronics such as ink cartridges, tvs, or ipods cannot be placed at the curbside for garbage collection. By taking advantage of some closer services you can support various charities. Recycleyourelectronics.ca lists both “drop off events” that are raising money for an organization or charity and also businesses that collect e-waste year-round.

The Working Centre is a great place to have your old computer equipment re-used. The program provides hands-on training and experience for people learning to build, repair and maintain computers and their work benefits community members who cannot afford a new computer. For more information about the program, go to [theworkingcentre.org](http://theworkingcentre.org).

### Home Improvement

**Materials:** Habitat for Humanity does great work in

our city by helping low-income families build and own their own homes. By donating your new and used renovation materials, you support this great charity and you may be eligible for a tax credit. Habitat for Humanity’s “ReStores” accept a wide variety of items such as appliances, cabinetry, insulation, hardware, tools, doors and even patio furniture. Their volunteer salvage crew can even come to your home and remove kitchen cupboards and other gently used renovation materials for you! Go to [habitatwaterlooregion.on.ca](http://habitatwaterlooregion.on.ca) for details.

Both the Cambridge and Waterloo landfill locations accept drywall for recycling. Regular tipping fees will be incurred. Old or leftover household paints can be dropped off at the Home Depot for recycling or safe disposal.

### Textiles and other Household

**Items:** No doubt you have noticed the bins in parking lots around town where you can drop off your old clothes and other household items. Did you know that not all of those bins are tied to a charity? With a little research, you can ensure that those who benefit from your generosity live right here in KW. Two well established organizations are Goodwill, which creates work and skill development opportunities for

people facing barriers to employment, and the Salvation Army Thrift Stores, which helps to fund numerous social programs. Both organizations accept clothing, small working appliances, toys, giftware and more. The nearest donation centres are on Gateway Park Drive and Weber Street East.

### Hazardous Materials:

Ensure hazardous materials such as antifreeze or motor oil containers, batteries, pressurized containers, etc do not end up in our landfills or waterways by taking advantage of the Orange Drop program. Both the Cambridge and Waterloo landfills are official Orange Drop collection sites. Information about the program and what materials are accepted can be found at [makethedrop.ca](http://makethedrop.ca).

### Other:

Did you know that last year over 9 metric tonnes of bikes were reused and diverted from our landfills? You can bring your old **bicycles** to the Waterloo landfill site, Gate 2, and it will be rebuilt and given back to our community. Burnt-out **compact fluorescent light-bulbs** and **batteries** can be recycled at Home Depot.

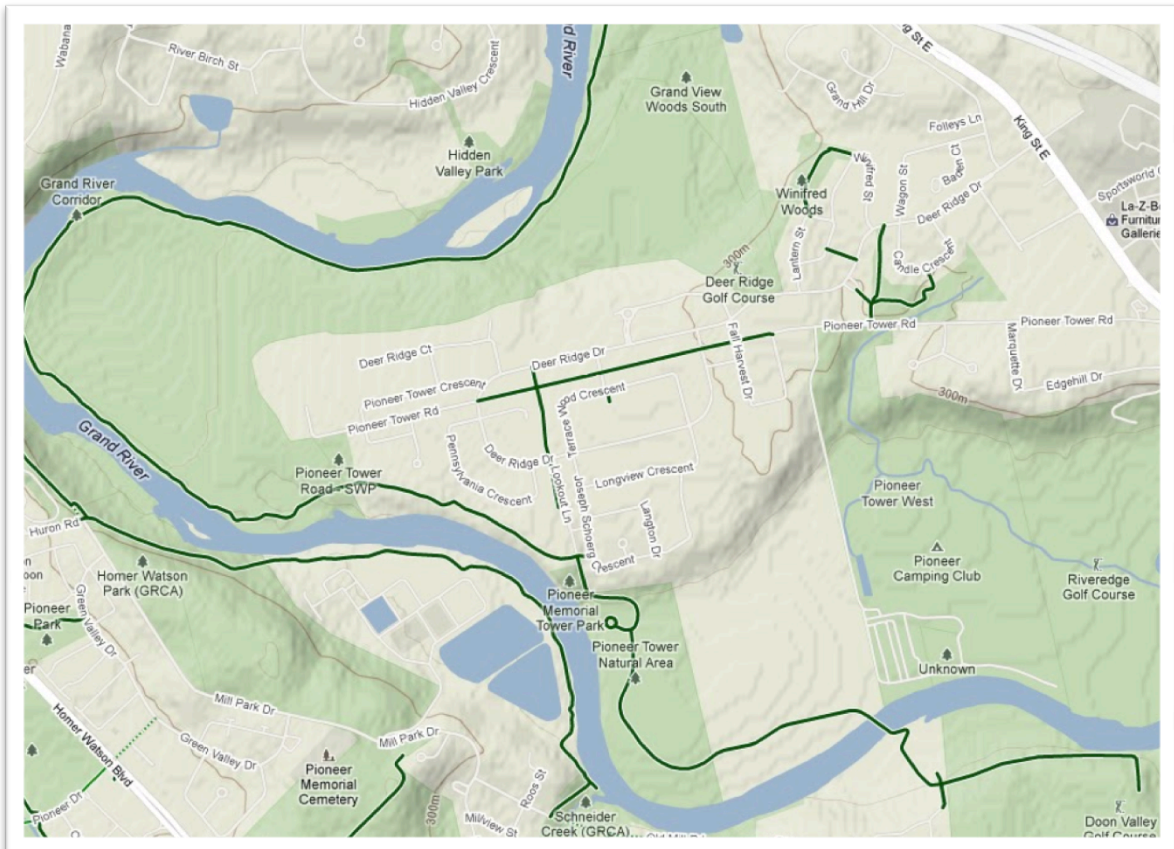
## Get Even More from Your Association

We want to provide you with even more reasons to love living in Settler's Grove and to provide events that will appeal to all residents. By volunteering with the social committee, you can choose to commit as much as or little time as you like. You can help with every event or just one. Do you have an idea for a new event or club such as a book club or euchre night? We can help you get it started! To volunteer, please email [sgca@live.ca](mailto:sgca@live.ca) or join us at our annual general meeting on Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Twin Pads community room.



## Regional Bike Trails Now on Google Maps

Official bike trails throughout the Region of Waterloo are now available on Google Maps. Several kilometers of fantastic trails surrounded by beautiful scenery are just outside your front door! Go to [www.maps.google.ca](http://www.maps.google.ca) and turn on the bicycling option.







*Settler's Grove Community Association residents enjoy conversation and refreshments at the 2012 holiday party. The party was attended by over 100 residents.*

## **Your Board Members**

Did you know that all board and social committee members are volunteers? Board members are responsible for managing the budget, collecting membership fees, organizing landscaping, assisting the social committee, addressing neighbourhood issues and representing the neighbourhood when necessary.

Your 2012/2013 board members were: Robert Wagner, Joe Sutherland, Ivan PejkoVIC, John Mellor, Daniel Diaz and Patrick Lubinski. Board members for the 2013/2014 year will be determined at the General Meeting on Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Twin Pads.

## **Thank You to the Social Committee**

Last year's social events were a success due to the hard work and dedication of the social committee. Thanks to Christine Bettencourt-DaSilva, Lurdes Jordao, Erin Vandahl and Helen Van Osch for setting time aside in your busy lives to plan great events that bring our community together. We would like to offer a warm welcome to our newest social committee member is Jack Jordao. If you have ideas for events that would be enjoyed by our association members, please email us at [sgca@live.ca](mailto:sgca@live.ca) – we'd love to hear from you!