Winter 2026

Sherwood Forrest

neighbourhood news



Sherwood Green Park
Sunday, Jan. 25th 1:30 - 3 pm

SFRA

Sherwood Forrest Residents Association

A quarterly newsletter issued by the Sherwood Forrest Residents Association

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Welcome to 2026 Sherwood Forrest!

by Cara Cross, SFRA President

As we start this new year, I'm encouraged by the strong and unified finish to 2025 by our community raising a record amount in support of Food Banks of Mississauga. Our annual **Holiday Food Drive raised an outstanding $2,787.70 and collected 660 lbs of food**. The generous spirit of our neighbourhood continues into 2026 as the winter weather calls on us all to help out others and keep our walkways free of ice.

This year, residents can look forward to the SFRA continuing our favourite annual events and some new activities that our team has been working on. We kick off our year with our **Family Skate in Sherwood Green Park on Sunday, January 25th from 1:30 to 3:00 pm**. This is one of our most popular events and is only possible thanks to our dedicated skating rink volunteers who selflessly build, groom and monitor the ice throughout the season. Even if you don't skate, come out and share a hot chocolate and a treat with neighbours enjoying the community spirit.

In February we are highlighting **a new event focusing on adults and teens/ tweens – with an evening at Golf On**. Watch for the notice to get your tickets at a low subsidized price to enjoy games and party bites on **Tuesday, February 24th starting at 7:00 pm**. March will bring more event announcements including everyone's favourite Easter Egg Hunt in Dean Henderson Park at the beginning of April. The SFRA is looking for new ideas to celebrate Earth Day to add to our neighbourhood cleanup, since the city has been doing a great job at keeping our parks clean. Please let us know if you have ideas!

SFRA is always happy to receive feedback and ideas from our members. Your low **annual membership fee of $30** keeps our community programs running strong and vibrant. We are also happy to receive updates from the clubs and projects in our area. We hear regularly from the Sherwood Forrest Book Club, the Greener Homes Project, Silver Striders Walking Program and our partners at UTM and Mississauga Arts Council, and we are happy to send along their news and events.

We are also continuing this year with our **Neighbourhood Ambassador program**. This program is aimed at helping the SFRA events thrive and continue to be successful and relevant to our residents, with a very minimal time commitment. If you can help, please contact one of our committee members or email sherwoodforrestra@gmail.com.

Information on all our neighbourhood events are available at www.sfra.ca, the Sherwood Forrest Facebook page and in our Neighbourhood News email blasts. If you are not on our mailing list, send a request with your email address, name and street address to sherwoodforrestra@gmail.com. Thank you and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2026!



Join us on Facebook and visit the SFRA website for news about our neighbourhood.

www.sfra.ca

What's Shakin' in the hood?

New Recycling Provider

Starting January 1st, an organization called Circular Materials will manage our bi-weekly recycling. If all goes well, not too much is supposed to change. Our recycling schedule and bin stay the same. However, you can now recycle:

- Black plastic containers
- Hot and cold beverage cups (coffee cups)
- Ice cream tubs and frozen juice containers
- Deodorant and toothpaste tubes



BUT starting March 1st:

- All recyclables must be placed LOOSE in the bin
- Recyclables left outside the bin will NOT be picked up

Peel Region will still collect garbage, organics and yard waste. If you have any recycling bin and collection issues, contact Green For Life (the contractor hired by Circular Materials) at **peelrecycling@gflenv.com** or call **1-877-268-4351**. For more information, visit **circularmaterials.ca/peelregion.**

Abacot Hill Update

On December 11th, there was a Committee of Adjustment Meeting regarding a few minor variances on proposed setbacks and the building of two model homes, along with an accessory washroom building and parking lot. The application was approved.

According to Argo, the "earthworks" phase of the project is completed. The next stage of work on site will be servicing. This will be starting in a couple of months and take until June, at which time the site will be paved. The two model homes will be constructed concurrently to the servicing and those will take approximately 6-7 months to complete once started. The two models and associated parking will be located centrally to the plan, in between Robinette Way and Tetbury Terrace.

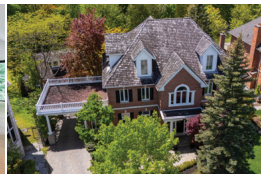
MIRANET News

MIRANET is the network of Ratepayer and Residents' Associations in Mississauga. Given that the City is proposing a 4.39% increase to the budget, which means a 1.61% increase on the City's portion of a residential property tax bill or about $16.66 per $100,000 of assessed home value, here are some sobering highlights from their AGM:

- Bill 60 threatens to privatize water services, prioritizing profit over public accountability.
- Police budgets have surged 82% since 2020, yet crime continues to rise under a system with limited municipal oversight.
- Chronic underfunding has left Peel short by $868M annually, undermining health care, education and social services, with residents facing long wait times and reduced access.


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‘Tis the season for something sweet (but not too sweet!)

by Linda Sanjakdar

Mabrousha

(Grated Cookie Squares)

This is a lovely blend of sweet and hint of sour flavours. It is a common Middle Eastern dessert that is enjoyed with a cup of coffee or tea.

Prep time: 20 minutes

Bake time: 30-35 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup warm butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder

Instructions:

- Cream warm butter and sugar
- Add the eggs and vanilla and mix well
- Mix in the flour and baking powder to create a soft dough
- Put 1/3 of the dough in the freezer for 15 minutes
- Spread 2/3 of the dough in a 3-quart rectangular Pyrex dish and then use a fork to poke holes in it
- Spread a layer of your favourite jam over the dough (I prefer apricot)
- Take the dough from the freezer and grate it evenly on top of the jam layer
- Bake in a preheated 375°F oven for 30-35 minutes.

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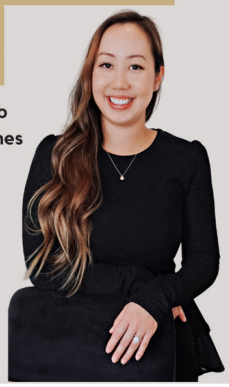
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Smarter Than a Squirrel

by Olive Hanna

Every winter well before the last snow has melted. I start thinking about my garden. In my mind, I see everything in bloom and full of delight. Whenspring arrives, I check the flower beds for telltale cracks in the soil. A sure sign that something is going to change.

In no time at all, green slivers break through the dirt in the front garden announcing the joyous return of my perennials. Daffodil, tulip and hyacinth, including the endearing pink bleeding heart in a few places in the back garden and the one flower my son Martin says he will plant when he has his own house... the power of flowers!

One spring I brought home a beautifully made bird feeder to brighten up my still barren garden. It had three clear plastic cylinders for birdseed and elegant bronze metal perches at each feeding port so that a few birds could happily feed together.

Before selecting a suitable place to hang the feeder, I checked the manufacturer's instructions. I choose a quiet place in the back garden, a good distance from the dinette sliding doors. Then with the chain and hook provided, I hung the feeder with confidence.

To my great delight it was not long before Blue Jay, Cardinal and Nuthatch were regular visitors at the feeder. It soon became the norm that whenever I entered the kitchen, I would automatically cast an admiring glance in the direction of the birdfeeder. The new centre of activity and intrigue in my otherwise quiet and empty garden.

Soon squirrels began to show more than a casual interest in the feeder. It was indeed captivating to watch two or more different squirrels taking turns, jumping from branch to feeder, most of the time with success. The birds seemed happy enough with the spilled seed on the grass, though I was beginning to feel that the squirrels had the advantage. After studying the situation, I decided to Google the question: "How to keep squirrels from my bird feeder?" This exercise provided some good advice.

A Squirrel Baffle was soon purchased and put into play on top of the feeder. Now things began to get serious and the once admiring glances through the window to check the feeder status, took on an air of irritation. One squirrel soon emerged as the quickest and smartest and ultimately my chief opponent. The question I then asked myself was "am I smarter than a squirrel"?

I could feel my obsession mounting in the days that followed. Especially first thing in the morning when looking out the dinette sliding doors, at the feeder. Not "The Bird Feeder" or even "My Bird Feeder," it had become "The Squirrel Feeder." How could I have let this happen? I was sure the olive oil I carefully rubbed all over the top of the baffle would have got that exasperating squirrel slipping and sliding all over the place, but no! What to do!?! What to do?!? This time a Google search was not going to do it. The only solution that made any sense was to move the bird feeder.

After a bit of head scratching, I pulled the barbecue from the side of the house and positioned it under a metal gazebo close to the dinette. "What a great spot," I thought as feelings of confidence rose within me. With both hands I lifted the feeder and placed it on top of the barbecue. Using the right length of rope, I hung the feeder just out of the squirrels' reach, regardless of which way they tried to jump on to it. I knew victory was mine even before the work to re-hang the source of great stress was complete. I was thrilled, I was amazed, I was so impressed with myself and no one around to tell, just how smart I was. That would have to wait. There it was, the feeder, a thing of beauty, richly shining in the cold streams of sunlight. All I had to do, once the barbecue was returned to its place, was wait and watch from inside my warm house.





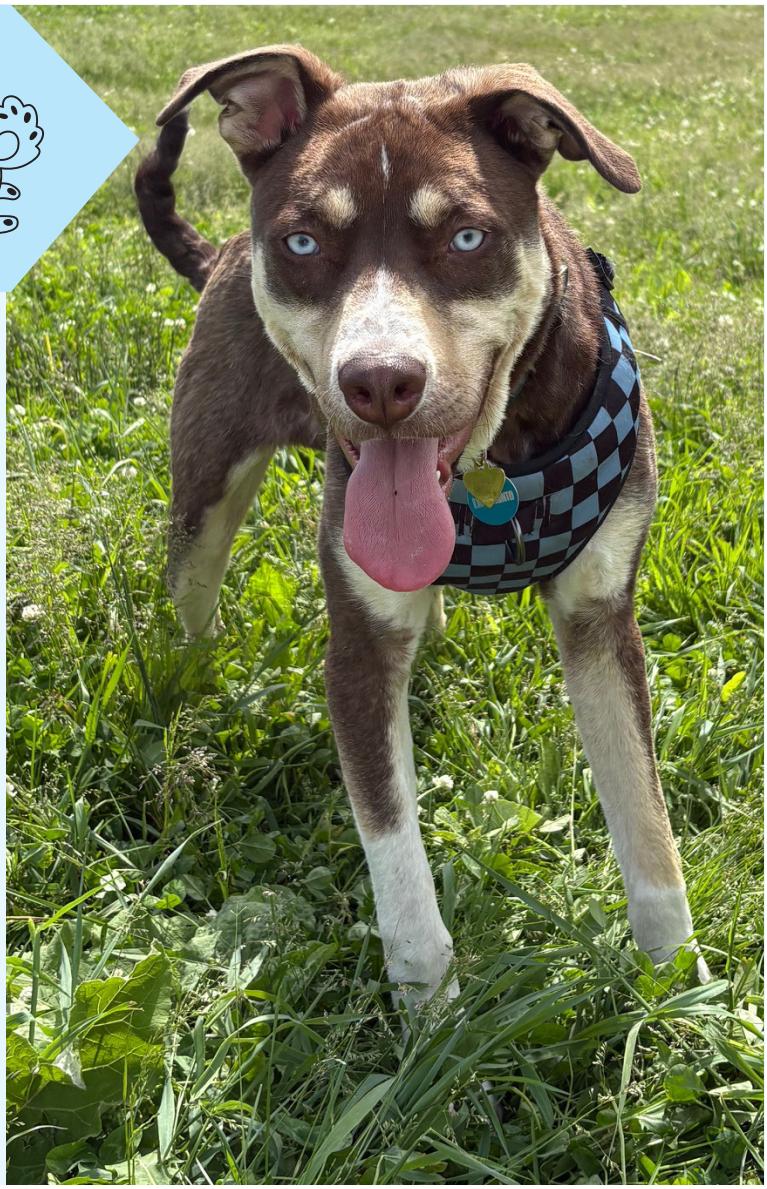
Soon an acrobatic display began between Blue Jays and Starlings, hastily feeding as they jostled for spots at the feeding ports. Then Cardinal and Nuthatch arrived, flying away only after eating as much seed as they spilled. I felt blessed to be able to watch these colourful birds up close from the comfort of my home.

But somehow the mood began to change when the squirrels arrived to try their luck. Each failed attempt by them to reach the feeder made me feel sad. Mine was a predictable and empty victory. What had I done? And why did I do it? These small agile creatures deserved the birdseed as much as the birds. Didn't I know that the birds and squirrels would figure it out for themselves. Well, they did and, in the process, made me feel so small, as I watched the squirrels feeding on the ground. I had achieved my goal, but I did not feel like a winner.... more like a big loser.

We can all change someone else if we persist but is that really what we want? I know that little squirrel taught me a lesson I will not forget. It was not about being smarter it was about being thankful and kind.



K9 CORNER



Hi everyone, my name is Forrest. I am a 1½ year old pitty-husky mix with a beautiful brown coat and baby blues that would melt your heart. I am fun and loving with all the energy in the world and love to gallop, jump and play! My favourite treat is lettuce, but I will eat just about everything with a big smile on my face.

When I'm not destroying every toy I own, I love cuddling up to my mom or my two brothers. My sister/aunt Maggie is starting to warm up to me, which I am more than thrilled about! I can't wait until we can play without her getting mad at me. You might recognize my name around the neighbourhood; I am named after both Forrest Gump and Sherwood Forrest, where my mom grew up.

If you would like your dog or cat featured in a future newsletter, please email: sherwoodforrestra@gmail.com.



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Like It or Not

Like It...

Considerate neighbours who had weddings and large parties this summer and notified their neighbours in advance.

Not...

It's very frustrating as a homeowner with a drain in front of our house to see others not clean the drains in front of their houses. The rain backs up and impacts all of us in the neighbourhood. Odors start. Animals can be sick. Water backs up down the street and increases the risk of flooding. On many of my daily walks, I use a stick to clean them up. It would be much easier if people just cleaned any drains in front of their homes.

Like It...

One of the things that help me get through the cold grey days of winter and (quite literally) brighten up my mood is the beautiful festive lights displayed around the neighbourhood.

Not...

The leaf pickup this year was outsourced to contractors that were very slow, serviced heavier parts of the neighbourhood last and trucks were left polluting/idling for hours.

Have something to share?

Email your Likes or Nots submissions to SherwoodForrestRA@gmail.com



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HALLETT HOMES

Sherwood Forrest is Filling Cupboards

Thank you to everyone who came out to meet friends and neighbours for a chat and to enjoy some treats and holiday cheer around a warm fire pit at the 5th Annual SFRA Festive Food Drive. And a BIG THANKS to everyone who helped **raise $2,787.70 and collect 660 lbs of food to support Food Banks Mississauga**. Your contributions provided vital support to the almost 49,000 neighbours who rely on more than 60 community food programs and food banks.





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SFRA Executive Committee

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Cara Cross	President	437.779.7676	2023sfrapresident@gmail.com
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Launa Crasto	Secretary	647.274.0118	launsk@hotmail.com
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Soni Sharma	Facebook & Events	647.330.7664	soni_sharma@outlook.com

Contact the SFRA and get involved in your neighbourhood.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday, January 25
Sherwood Green Park 1:30-3:00 pm

GOLF ON
EAT. PLAY. GOLF.

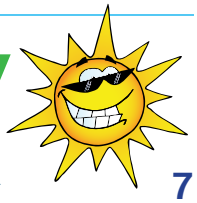
Social Evening

Tuesday, February 24
7:00 pm



Easter Egg Hunt
Sat. April 4
10:30 – 11:30 am
Dean Henderson Park

FUN Day
Saturday, June 20
Sherwood Green Park



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