

# Roehampton Residence News

## Newsletter #2



December 5, 2020

The Roehampton Residence (808 Mount Pleasant Ave.) is a temporary shelter which was activated by the City of Toronto, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to support physical distancing within shelters in response to COVID-19.

The Roehampton Residence News will be issued regularly in order to provide information and updates to the mid-town community regarding the shelter. The Newsletter is developed by City staff.

## The Newsletter will provide the following:

- Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) Update
- Roehampton Residence Update and News
- Shelter Resident Success Story...together we make a difference
- Community Liaison Committee Update
- School Safety Plan Update, and
- **Spotlight on Welcome Home Baskets by church group**

If you'd like to sign up to receive the Roehampton Residence Newsletters and/or share your questions, comments, and/or feedback with us:

- Send us an email to: [roehampton@toronto.ca](mailto:roehampton@toronto.ca);
- Fill out online feedback form; and
- Read past newsletters, bulletins and other project-related information at: [Toronto.ca/PhysicalDistancingShelters](https://toronto.ca/PhysicalDistancingShelters)

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## 1. Shelter, Support and Housing Administration Update...

**Community Partnerships that make a difference – Toronto Furniture Bank...housing without furniture is not a home.** <https://www.furniturebank.org/about-furniture-bank/#>

The Toronto Furniture Bank was founded in 1998 by the Sisters of St. Joseph. It is a registered charity and a social enterprise which makes available, to previously homeless individuals and families gently used furniture and housewares from donations received by the community and area businesses. The Toronto Furniture Bank works to end furniture poverty.

If you have furniture or housewares that are no longer being used, or you are now downsizing consider a donation to the Toronto Furniture Bank. All that is needed is to go to the above website to fill out the request for furniture pick up...there is a cost for pick up, but a tax receipt is provided for the estimated value of the items donated, it is a win/win.

Without the Toronto Furniture Bank most of the clients who eventually secure housing would be moving into their unit with little to no furnishings.

The Toronto Furniture Bank also works in partnership with Habitat for Humanity / Restore (<https://habitat.ca/>).

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** was movie night at Roehampton, and doing this while maintaining social distancing, but we DID IT! **We would like to thank the Midtown Community Care Team who donated Netflix Vouchers and the movie treats.**

Here is some of the feedback from our residents....this is a 'success story'

“I enjoyed this, I enjoyed it immensely”  
“We had a lot of fun” “I was waiting for movie night all day”



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## 2. Roehampton Residence Update and News

- The November Residence Meeting was cancelled due to the new provincial guidelines and lockdown.
- Residents in all common areas of the shelter are required to wear face masks. In addition, face masks are available to all residents for use indoors and in the community.
- December 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Public Health will hold a flu clinic at Roehampton for the residents
- Plans for the upcoming holiday season have started and we have the following 'in-house' events planned: see attached flyer...it looks like a festive holiday season at Roehampton.
- We would like to thank the Midtown Community Care Team who donated Netflix vouchers for the residents to watch movies over the holiday season...and, books.
- If you wish to donate any holiday decorations and/or gently used winter clothing please feel free to contact us at [Roehampton@toronto.ca](mailto:Roehampton@toronto.ca). We would like to thank the community for the donations we have been receiving....your thoughtfulness and generosity is very much appreciated.

**As it happens**... One evening over dinner Nathan (who is 8 years old) and his family were having a discussion about local shelters. After some time, and on his own initiative with the support of his school (Bannockburn School) and school community he started a shoe and boot drive. His mother shares, 'He's been an empathetic soul since he was a baby!!' On Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> we were fortunate to meet Nathan and accept his donation of shoes and boots for both adults and children. He dropped over 10 bags of shoes and boots! The children's shoes and boots will be donated to a family shelter. **Thank you Nathan**



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## 3. Community Liason Committee Update

### Overview of the CLC and purpose:

The role of the Community Liaison Worker (CLW) is to implement the Neighbourhood Integration Program for shelter operators, which includes managing relationships with community partners, coordination of community engagement programming, and improving client-community relations. The purpose of the Network is to provide a platform to share information and engage in peer

support activities to support the integration of their respective shelters into the surrounding communities. It is also an opportunity for the community and Shelter Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) staff to connect and share concerns, successes and engage in capacity building exercises.

#### Organizations Represented on the CLC:

- Central Eglinton Community Centre
- Church of the Transfiguration
- Eglinton Park Residents' Association
- Eglinton Place Condo Corp – 123 Eglinton Ave E (MTCC 1397)
- Lawrence Park Community Church
- Lytton Park Residents' Organization
- Manor Road United Church
- Midtown Community Alliance
- Midtown Community Care Team
- Midtown Safety Group
- Midtown's Tiny Tots
- Midtowners
- Mount Pleasant Village BIA
- Newly Formed Group (yet to be named)
- Norther Secondary School Parent Council
- Republic Residents' Association
- St. Monica Catholic School
- South Eglinton Ratepayers' and Residents' Association
- SPRINT Senior Care
- The Living Room Church
- TSCC 1433 Board of Directors
- TSCC 1987 – 900 Mt Pleasant

#### CLC focus for the upcoming year:

- ✚ Continued Community Engagement
- ✚ Continued Support around Community Safety
- ✚ Housing Opportunities for Residents
- ✚ Further Developing onsite supports for Residents
- ✚ In the midst of covid the Development of Social Recreational opportunities for residents, and to include life skills

**CLC met on November 18<sup>th</sup>, and there next meeting is scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>.**

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## 4. School Safety Plan Update

A School Safety Plan was developed by Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, Roehampton Residence staff, Toronto Police in partnership with the Toronto and Catholic School Boards, School Trustees, area School Administrators, Parent Councils, and neighbouring Daycares to address the safety concerns expressed by parents and schools with school opening in September.

Meetings were held over the summer (and continue) and by the time school started the plan was developed, and as well tested. For those schools identified in the plan the safety support provided is Community Safety Teams (CST) doing 'sweeps' of school grounds/entrance ways each morning before the start of school for any drug litter/paraphernalia; and, with CST staff monitoring the 'pathways' of the children/youth coming and leaving school by either walking or TTC. In addition there is daily early morning cleaning of the school properties by City Facilities, and an increased presence of Mobile Security.

This is a robust and comprehensive safety plan, which is reviewed by-weekly by the School Safety Group. The group will continue to meet until at least January 2021 to review the plan, discuss any issues, and any adjustments/changes that may be required or appropriate.

Early on we definitely had a couple of issues that were addressed effectively by the Community Safety Team, but frankly since those incidents any other issues have been few and minor...this is actually very encouraging. In fact, on numerous occasions the feedback from the schools about the work of CST, and their visibility on site has been very positive and their efforts and presence appreciated.

Schools / Daycares included in the Safety Plan:

Eglinton Junior

Maurice Cody Junior

Northern Secondary

John Fisher Junior

North Toronto Collegiate

St. Monica

Hodgson Middle School

Central Eglinton Children's Centre

Please note...for those schools not included in the plan, you are still welcome and encouraged to call the shelter should you come across any drug litter / paraphernalia on your property and request the assistance of the Community Safety Team to safely dispose of the items.

Roehampton Residence Number is [437- 247-2287](tel:437-247-2287).

**As it happens**...recently there was an evacuation at Eglinton Junior School during a potential outbreak and a CST member was there at the time and assisted. We later heard from the Principal who gave thanks that a CST member was there, but that on their own initiative they called to have other members come and assist in order to make sure the children were safe during the evacuation process.





# SPOTLIGHT...A Welcome Home Basket

## (North Toronto United Churches)

How can faith groups help shelter residents?

That's what a number of north Toronto churches were wondering, and the result....

A number of United Churches in North Toronto recently started sharing strategies and best practices through ad hoc meetings of the chairpersons of their corresponding committees. At a recent meeting for the chairs of Social Justice/Outreach Committees, they discussed the challenges faced by those previously homeless and shelter residents once they secure housing and move to their own home. They typically arrive with just the clothes/possessions that they can carry and often lack some of the basic items needed to start a home. This issue was top of mind for the committees because of the recent opening of the Roehampton Shelter in the neighbourhood. The churches were asked by one of their ministers, who sits on the Roehampton Shelter Community Liaison Committee (CLC), if this was something they could collectively help with.

The group unanimously agreed this would be a great project to share. In fact, the sentiment among the group was "of course we can do this!" A "Welcome Home Basket" content list was developed, which included things like dishes, cutlery, cooking utensils, pots, cleaning materials, sheets and a gift card for groceries etc. Each of the churches in the cluster has signed up for the month(s) that they will provide and deliver 15 baskets. With all of the respective churches/buildings closed due to the Coronavirus, there have been some challenges of course. But, the group preserves and share they are delighted to be able to channel their energies toward a project that is so impactful to others less fortunate.

On November 25<sup>th</sup> Roehampton received its first drop off of baskets...THANK YOU!

**The participating churches are (alphabetically):**

- ✚ Eglinton St. George's United Church
- ✚ Fairlawn Avenue United Church
- ✚ Lawrence Park Community Church
- ✚ Leaside United Church
- ✚ Manor Road United Church, and
- ✚ Rosedale United Church



# DECEMBER

## *Special Meals, Snacks and Celebrations for Roehampton Residents December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021*

### *December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Tree Decorations*

*Special evening Snacks of.....Hot Chocolate and Christmas Cookies*



### *December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Holiday Movie Night!*

*Movie Night – Popcorn and Pop!*



### *December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Menorah lighting*

### *December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Residents Holiday Celebration*

*Spring Rolls, Samosas, Jelly Donuts, Potato Latkes and Quiche*

### *December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Christmas Eve*

*Special evening Snacks of....Eggnog or Hot Chocolate*

*Christmas Cookies & Hanukkah Donuts*



### *December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Christmas Day*

*Special meal at Breakfast & Lunch*



*Breakfast to include Bacon and Omelet, Clementine and Blueberry Jam*

*Lunch to include Roast Turkey with Stuffing, Gravy & Cranberry Sauce, Baby Roast Potato and Cheese Cake*

### *December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Celebration of Kwanzaa (Dec 26<sup>th</sup> to Jan 1)*

*Special African meal at Dinner to include Fried Chicken & Fish, Calipso Rice, Corn & Red Peppers, Corn Bread, Fried Plantain and Mango Chunks.*



### *December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 New Year's Eve*

*Special evening snacks of..... Hot Chocolate & Pop  
Potato Chips & Popcorn*



### *January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 New Year's Day*

*Special meal at Breakfast and Dinner*

*Breakfast to include Clementine & Banana, Bacon & Eggs*

*Dinner to include Roast Beef with Yorkshire pudding, Gravy, Horseradish, Mashed Potato, California Mixed Vegetables and Apple Pie*