Collective Accomplishments

2011 was a remarkable year for The Riverwood Conservancy. We grew our audiences and moved forward in programs in environmental education, natural areas stewardship, gardening and volunteerism due to the collective efforts of volunteers, staff, and friends. Here are the metrics:

- 750 volunteers
- 16,423 hours contributed by volunteers
- 4,400 hours contributed by garden volunteers
- 6,000 guests explored nature in Discovery@Riverwood
- 4,837 students learned environmental science and our interconnections in Education Naturally and Exploration Naturally, bringing the total to 19,737 since 2005
- 240 students interpreted nature through art in Art Naturally, a program partnership with Visual Arts Mississauga
- 386 programs offered
- 22 special needs ErinoakKids in Camp Riverwood
- 521 Friends of Riverwood
- 3 new bird species observed, adding to a total of 181
- 27 stewardship events held to improve wildlife habitat
- 65 high school students gardened and stewarted Riverwood
- 2,311 hours contributed by high school students
- 3 students volunteered for the last three summers
- 63,768 times our Facebook news-feed was viewed
- 6 sculptures created and displayed by Hotbox Riverwood artists
- 7,500 trees, shrubs, perennials, bulbs planted

85,000 dollars raised to build the TRC Enabling Garden thanks to friends
4 new gardens created: TRC Enabling Garden, Iris, Carolinian and Front Entry
1 new MacEwan Terrace Garden opened by the City of Mississauga
189 Guests at the 10th Earth: A Celebration
13 dedicated directors, and
8 exceptional full and part-time staff

Thanks to the considerable efforts of the Fund Development Committee and its volunteer members, TRC was able to financially sustain our programs and services. TRC extends a special thank-you to our members, partners, donors and sponsors, and the generosity of:

- City of Mississauga
- Credit Valley Conservation
- Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
- Evergreen Foundation
- Frank Fowler Foundation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Peel District School Board
- Pendle Fund at the Community Foundation of Mississauga
- Private benefactors
- ScotiaMcLeod and Scotiabank
- Scotts Canada
- Service Canada

Thank you all for supporting YOUR Riverwood Conservancy. We look forward to an equally successful 2012 making a difference in Mississauga.

Douglas Markoff, Executive Director
Looking Forward to a Year of Challenging Growth

2012 promises to be another exciting and challenging year for The Riverwood Conservancy. Now that the MacEwan Terrace Garden is substantially complete we can expect this development to attract many more visitors to Riverwood to explore and enjoy this unique facility. In the second quarter we also expect to ‘launch’ The Riverwood Conservancy Enabling Garden – the first capital funding project successfully undertaken by the Conservancy. Active recruitment of a Coordinator for the Enabling Garden is currently underway with a view to having programs in place for a successful launch of this facility in the second quarter. In addition, we will continue to focus on our existing stewardship, environmental education, gardening and volunteerism programs in accordance with our Long Range plan.

These initiatives will involve additional challenges for our staff and volunteers. For example, if the MacEwan Terrace Garden is to achieve its full potential it must be able to offer visitors both a welcoming environment and garden interpretive services. To help achieve this we are currently collaborating with a number of other local volunteer groups to develop a manual that will be used to train volunteer docents who will be able to provide such services. The overall objective of the collaboration is to support the City of Mississauga in the operations of the MacEwan Terrace Garden including garden programming and garden maintenance.

The Riverwood Conservancy Enabling Garden is also going to require volunteer resources. Clearly, when added to our existing gardens, stewardship and other programs, these new initiatives are going to place substantial additional demands on our volunteers. However, based on the commitment and contributions our volunteers (i.e., Robin’s Army) have consistently demonstrated, I have no doubt but they will rise to the challenge. As Riverwood - and the Conservancy - continue to grow these are the kinds of challenges that we will embrace and run with.

Martin Robinson,
Chair, Board of Directors

2011 Gardening Highlights

2011 was once again a very productive and enjoyable year for the gardeners at Riverwood.

The Chappell House and Front Entry Gardens were tended by five teams of enthusiastic volunteers and high school students. They worked diligently to make sure that the beds were full of colour, well tended, and showed interest throughout the spring, summer and fall.

The Carolinian Woodland and Teaching Garden enjoyed new trees and shrubs, planted by various corporate groups and members of Credit Valley Horticultural Society. Hundreds of Carolinian perennials completed the garden in May.

A new Iris Garden created in the summer will have a colourful display as the plants become established. Thank you to Dean Sane for plants generously donated.

The Edible Garden, created by the Wednesday gardening team, filled the circular stone planter on the Chappell House Terrace. Many smaller containers around the property displayed an inspiring mix of vegetables and herbs and garnered much interest.

The Front Entry Gardens were rejuvenated by the Monday gardening team with many new perennials able to withstand the demanding conditions of this area. This created a welcoming display at the entrance to the park.

The Enabling Garden with the newly constructed MacEwan Garden was the largest undertaking with specially designed planters and the vision to create a place where all members of the community can experience the joy of gardening.

First Edible Garden created by Martha Kantorczyk

A sincere and heartfelt thank you all Gardens Committee members who work so enthusiastically on each new project and to the gardening volunteers and city staff who help bring those dreams to fruition.

Linda Morris
Chair, Gardens Committee

Concept illustration of The Riverwood Conservancy Enabling Garden
Wildlife Reflections in 2011 - The Rabbit’s Tail

We can’t help but wonder about climate change here at Riverwood, after all one of the themes of the park’s education programs is “Time and Change”. There is no question that the area we know as Riverwood has changed over the historical time period. It was a forest, a farm and now is a mix of cultivated gardens and naturalized landscapes. But how much of this change reflects the human influence and how much is due to a changing climate?

There is no clear answer as both are ongoing factors. What we can do is look at the wildlife of Riverwood. Cottontail rabbits are common today but 300 years ago they were absent from the archeological record of the area (indeed southern Ontario). This was during a period of time known as the Little Ice Age when much of Europe and Northeastern North America was experiencing a very cold spell. Cottontails are a Carolinian species and they prefer milder climates. The cold loving snowshoe hare bones are common in the archeological sites from the period.

Cottontails returned to South Ontario sometime in the 1800’s as the climate gradually warmed. If they were to vanish from our region again, then that might be a clue about a cooling climate. But what species might indicate a warming trend? Deer and coyote are generalists and adapt well to changes in climate. Indeed there are few mammal or bird species that indicate climate change.

Insects are a better indicator and mosquitoes are one of the best. Recent research has shown that different species of mosquitoes have very specific tolerance levels. When malaria arrived in North America 500 years ago, various strains were kept at bay due to mean winter temperatures. Mosquitoes are known carriers of the malaria virus and the West Nile virus and the arrival of new diseases carried by them might be one of the best (or worst) indicators of climate change. Frankly, we’d prefer rabbits.

Pathways to Careers

In 2011 the Riverwood Conservancy introduced a new secondary program. After review by the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board, we have initiated a program to help high school students experience environmental science careers through hands-on activities.

This Pathways to Careers program is designed to work with secondary teachers in Cooperative Education, Career Studies, Business Studies and Guidance.

Students will explore careers such as environmental technician, biologist, ecologist and wildlife management. Students will enjoy hands-on practical training at the Riverwood site with classes that use technologies and skills to enhance their understanding of these careers on a new level. Programs can be tailored to the needs and interest of the particular class.

For more information please contact Laura Fanthome, Secondary Science Teacher at 905-279-8099 or explore@theriverwoodconservancy.org.

SAMARA
Volume 22, Issue 1

Samara is the quarterly newsletter of The Riverwood Conservancy, 4300 Riverwood Park Lane, Mississauga, ON L5C 2S7. T: 905.279.5878. F: 905.279.4303.
E: Info@theriverwoodconservancy.org
Web: www.TheRiverwoodConservancy.org

TRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Martin Robinson, Chair; Shirley Daniels, Past Chair; Alan Lytle, Vice-Chair; Douglas Saunders, Treasurer; Graham Fox, Corporate Secretary; Dean M. Sane, Member-at-Large.

DIRECTORS: Dr. Edward Davies, Denis Flanagan, John Huether, Sarah MacDonald, Linda Morris, Pam Miller, Kevin Sherwin. CITY OF MISSISSAUGA LIAISON: Hazel McColl, Parks & Forestry Program Coordinator. "RC STAFF: Douglas Markoff, Executive Director; Brian Packham, Office Manager; Robin Haley-Gillin, Volunteer Coordinator; Lorrie Crow and Madeha Khalid, Marketing Coordinators; Claire Ellenwood, Stewardship Coordinator; Rina Schulze, Education Naturally Teacher; Laura Fanchone, Exploration Naturally Teacher. CONSULTANT: Dave Taylor, Education Program Director. SAMARA Team: Douglas Markoff, Editor-in-Chief; Lorrie Crow and Madeha Khalid, Editors; Sean O'Rourke, Layout & Design; Ranjini Rajah, Writer. PHOTO CREDITS: Dave Taylor, The Landplan Collaborative Ltd., Karen Bygnes.
Special Events Committee Annual Report 2011

The Special Events Committee certainly had another busy but enjoyable year in 2011. Time flies by when you are having fun, so it is said.

March we participated in the Successful Gardening Show at the International Centre. With the help of Riverwood volunteers, we were able to speak to numerous visitors about the park, our programs and achievements, a successful start to the year.

April 11th, our AGM was held. Members were updated on the progress of Riverwood, which included a fascinating talk by guest speaker Dan Schulze on “Diamonds”.

Enabling Garden, Chappell House and various trails. The weather did not co-operate and it was a very cold day resulting in a disappointing turnout. Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and the Mississauga Master Gardeners for all their enthusiasm and hard work.

In closing I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the committee, the staff of The Riverwood Conservancy, the Executive Director, Douglas Markoff, and the Board of Directors. Without their support, these events would not have happened.

Shirley Daniels, Chair, Special Events Committee

Discover Riverwood

Spring is in the air. There is more to discover at Riverwood Park with the advent of spring. Experience migratory and resident birds as they sing away their winter blues and woodland creatures as they attract mates and establish territories. Each year, The Riverwood Conservancy offers over 200 community education programs through their Discovery@Riverwood initiative. This seasonal events program started in 2009 as a joint venture between The Riverwood Conservancy and the Credit Valley Conservation along with support from Scotts Canada.

Discovery@Riverwood features astronomy nights, bird hikes, health walks, gardening workshops and family friendly events year around. Most of these events require registration and are free for the public. Our audiences have steadily grown each year with a record number of 5,753 people coming into the park and participating in Discovery@Riverwood events in 2011.

So, if you are new to Mississauga or a life-long resident looking to connect with nature, Discovery@Riverwood offers a wide range of programs and workshops. This quarterly events calendar is found on our website www.RiverwoodConservancy.org. Don’t forget to become our friend and join us on Facebook and Twitter and we look forward to seeing you with your family and friends and discovering the glory of Riverwood Park.

Madeha Khalid, Business Development and Marketing Coordinator

April 29th, our major Fundraiser, Earth: A Celebration was celebrated at the Oasis Convention Centre in Mississauga for the 10th year. Members, friends and guests from the corporate world enjoyed a wonderful evening, mixing and mingling with celebrity horticulturists, Denis Flanagan, Liz Primeau and Paul Zammit. Sway Jazz Trio played in the background and we were delighted that Mayor Hazel McCallion could join us, kindly praising The Riverwood Conservancy for the tremendous contribution that everyone had made to support Riverwood Park. The silent and live auctions and our Monarch Butterfly Mystery bags were very well received. Thank you for the generous donations of many local merchants, businesses, our own members and the Board of Directors. The donation of the “Naming Rights in Perpetuity” for a very beautiful day lily produced by Jack Kent, owner of The Potting Shed in Cynagta, was part of our live auction and we thank him for his continuous support.

In July a patio party was hosted on the back terrace of Chappell House for our members. With beautiful weather, everyone enjoyed the camaraderie, the food and the music by the Sway Jazz Trio.

Finally on October 1st, we participated in Doors Open Mississauga with guided tours of MacEwan Terrace Garden, TRC.
TRC Grows More Than Just Flowers!

In 2011, almost 750 volunteers contributed over 16,420 hours to the operations of TRC. This represents a growth of over 38% in a year's time in terms of the actual number of volunteers. The biggest areas of growth occurred in the education programs and the gardens. But what do the numbers really mean?

The first day after the heavy equipment left the new TRC Enabling Garden construction sight, I was waiting at the parking lot for the children to arrive by school bus, when who should come prancing but Mrs. Coyote. Her presence was disdainfully heralded by the many vigilant squirrels (safely, from their treetops) as she trotted north along the Historical Trail. She was, no doubt, checking out the old hunting grounds from her younger days, prior to the arrival of all the noisy machinery. Since that time, she and her friends have been noted scampering about the property (as they once did prior to the coming of the TRC Enabling Garden). The deer have also been seen walking closer to the former construction area. Spring will tell if the toads return to the pond, daring to cross the concrete stretches once covered in soft grass. Their journey will be more perilous with fewer places to camouflage, but under the cover of darkness, most likely they will prevail. As time goes on, the younger creatures will replace the older, learning their ways and continuing in the journey of life. I too will pass my knowledge on as our newest staff complete the circle of learning with the many children yet to visit our beautiful property and learn to love the natural world that abounds here at Riverwood.

Robin Haley-Gillin, Volunteer Coordinator
Donors & Contributors 2011

TRC is very grateful for the contributions of products and services from these generous donors in 2011:

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- Soulpepper Theatre
- Springbank Greenhouses
- Stratford Shakespearean Festival
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- Studio Erdmute
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- Suzy Shier Clothes
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- Waterside Inn
- Wasdale Florists
- White Oak Ford Lincoln
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Whitchurch Tackle Shop
- York University
- Z'Anne Keele

Funders 2011

TRC is very thankful for the generosity provided by these supporters during 2011:

- 280th Mississauga Girl Guides
- Alan Maclean
- Alan & Kathy Lytle
- Allison Sheppard
- Ann & John Hildred
- Anonymous
- Applewood Gardens
- Applewood Garden Club
- Applied Electronics Ltd
- Arthur McDonald
- Barry & Alverna Metcalfe
- Baxter Corporation
- Beta Sigma Phi
- Brian Davenport
- Brian Packham
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- Carolyn Sherk
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- Credit Valley Horticultural Society
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- Diane Stafford
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- Douglas Markoff
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- Kimberley Oly
- Laura Hummel
- Lesley Evans
- Linda Pizale
- Madaha Khalid
- Margaret Ramsay
- Marilyn Hirst
- Marilyn Maden
- Mark Cullen
- Martha Kantorczyk & Pablo Dominquez
- Martin Robinson & Gillian Lien-Robinson
- Mary Jane Miller
- Mary McDonald
- Michelle Damato
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- Newhouse Rusin
- Nick & Rita Novieli
- Oasis Convention Centre
- Paul Zammit
- Peel District School Board
- Peter Hodgkinson
- Philip Stuart
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
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- Rina Lawley
- Robert E. Laker
- Robin Haley-Gillin
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- Scotia McLerran
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- Shirley Daniels
- Stephanie Grant
- Stephen & Krystina Hofinski
- Stephen Balke
- Steven Hemphill
- Sytske van der Veen
- Frank Fowler Foundation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Pendle Fund at the Community Foundation of Mississauga
- University of Toronto, Mississauga
- Vigen Ngo
- VPI Mississauga
- William Brown
- XPV Capital Corporation
THE RIVERWOOD CONSERVANCY  Condensed Financial Statements

Condensed Balance Sheet as at December 31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Accounts receivable</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td></td>
<td>567,504</td>
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<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>573,385</td>
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<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
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<td>516,111</td>
<td>495,768</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets represented by:</strong></td>
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<td>Program development fund</td>
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<td>Garden development fund *</td>
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<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
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<td>$ 516,111</td>
<td>$ 495,678</td>
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* The Garden Development Fund includes $67,609 designated for the Enabling Garden. The Board has capped the capital cost of this project at $85,000 of which $39,497 has been incurred to date. The remaining funds will be used to fund ongoing operations.

Condensed Statement of Operations for the year ended December 31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>Grant funding</td>
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<td>Donated materials (Note)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enabling Garden</td>
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<td>80,151</td>
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<td>CVC revenue</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
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<td>542,464</td>
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<td><strong>Operating expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Salaries and benefits</td>
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<td>Administrative and other</td>
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<td>96,147</td>
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<td>Enabling Garden</td>
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<td>Purchased services</td>
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<td>Donated resources and materials (Note)</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>522,121</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of Revenue over Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$ 20,343</td>
<td>$ 162,468</td>
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**Note:**
Volunteers contribute many hours each year in carrying out the organization's activities. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, most contributed materials are not recognized in the financial statements. However, during the year, the organization received contributed materials for which the fair market value was reasonably determined and these donations have been reflected as expenditures at the determined value. The condensed financial statements are extracted from the financial statements examined by our auditors, Newhouse Rusin LLP. A complete set of financial statements, together with the Independent Auditor's Report, is available on request from Douglas Markoff, Executive Director, The Riverwood Conservancy, 4300 Riverwood Park Lane, Mississauga, ON L5C 2S7.

*As part of TRC's Eco-friendly commitment, this publication was printed on Supreme silk stock and contains 30% post consumer recycled content and is FSC certified*