

# New grant provides enhancements to local conservancy

by Alex Gregory

A new grant provided by one of the province's biggest non-profits will strengthen one of Mississauga's largest protected areas.

The Riverwood Conservancy announced that volunteers and environmental protection work will be enhanced through a \$200,000 grant delivered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The grant, which will support projects created from Sep. 2020 - Aug. 2023, means the conservancy will be able to make enhancements to its environmental conservation efforts

and restoration within the 150-acre site, which is located next to the Credit River in the central part of the city.

In total, \$213,800 will be delivered through the grant, said Riverwood's executive director.

"We're incredibly grateful for this funding, which will ensure Riverwood's natural ecosystems can continue to sustain an abundance of wildlife, and allow our community to enjoy more meaningful connections to nature," said Douglas Markoff.

"These sort of connections to the natural world matter even more

now, as so many of us have had to restrict our time outdoors."

Each year, hundreds of volunteers from Mississauga and the Greater Toronto Area participate in conservation work at Riverwood. The grant will help the Conservancy expand the types of conservation work volunteers engage in and give volunteers the opportunity to take part in wildlife monitoring and citizen science.

"We're really looking forward to giving our volunteers even more engaging activities so they can really see the impact of their

work," says Derek Stone, conservation specialist at Riverwood. "Volunteers will be able to monitor native plant survival and record their wildlife sightings so they can see the difference they're making on

the health of our local ecosystems."

The grant application, and the OTF's approval of the application, were completed before the COVID-19 pandemic, the conservancy said last week.

Restoration projects and volunteer activities on site will commence only when public health guidelines allow, and proper safety precautions will be implemented when work begins.



## Development team and foundation team up to donate meals

Community partners came together last week to donate hot meals to a local hospital, as part of efforts to support frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Port Credit West Village Part-

ners (PCWVP) and the Port Credit Community Foundation (PCCF) teamed up to deliver 600 meals to Trillium Health Partners Mississauga Hospital staff on June 4.

The two organiza-

tions provided hot dinners from local Port Credit restaurants, Shore Grill & Grotto and My Secret Kitchen, to show gratitude to the healthcare workers who are fighting COVID-19, while at the same

time supporting local businesses during these challenging times.

The meal delivery follows a donation of \$10,000 by the PCCF. As well, the PCWVP will match that with an additional \$10,000 do-

nation to Trillium Health Partners Mississauga Hospital.

"The Port Credit Community Foundation is committed to enriching the quality of life enjoyed by residents in our community. The dedicated efforts by the Trillium Health Partners teams, through personal sacrifice and hard work, go beyond enriching lives to actually sustaining them. You have our utmost respect and appreciation," said PCCF's Karen Priest, who is also the donation co-ordinator of the THP Frontline meal distribution effort.

The meal delivery is one of several initiatives in which the PCWVP and the PCCF have been involved, as individuals, businesses and organizations continue to be impacted by the pandemic.

They are also participating in Support the Port, a newly-launched gift card program with the Port Credit BIA and Edenshaw that supports small businesses across the neighbourhood, and matches donations to The Compass Food Bank.

"The health care workers at Trillium Health Partners have been on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic for months now, providing care under challenging circumstances. Generous support from a number of community partners helps express our thanks to our frontline staff and gives them the energy and support to continue their incredible efforts," says Caroline Riseboro, President and CEO of the Trillium Health Partners Foundation.

