

# Connections

July/August 2020

**Water, Sewer & Rental Services**



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## Riverview Park & Zoo temporary closure details

Riverview Park & Zoo (RPZ) remains temporarily closed to the public as a precautionary measure in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The zoo gates may be closed, but staff is on-site and continuing to take excellent care of the animals that live at RPZ. Essential employees have been at the zoo taking care of the 140 animals, 35 exhibits, grounds and facilities. Because staff resources are limited, we must focus on what is most important: caring for our animals and protecting the staff who keep them safe and fed.

The following facilities and services at the park and zoo are also off-limits until further notice:

- main parking lot
- washrooms
- playground equipment and splash pad
- train ride
- gift shop
- mobile water station
- meetings, educational programs and use of the Rotary Educational Centre
- gazebo and shelter bookings and events



Trails and park areas are currently open for walk-through traffic only, for the recommended group size (10 or fewer) or with family members living in the same household. As you get out and enjoy the park, please keep your distance (two metres) when passing others on the trails.



*The gates are closed at RPZ but zoo staff is working hard behind the scenes to take care of our animals.*

Trash is 'carry in, carry out' due to limited staff resources and added risk to visitors and staff. Please plan accordingly and help keep our park clean.

The disc golf park is open to local residents. The Peterborough Disc Golf Club has posted the rules of play as well as safety precautions. Failure to follow the guidelines, overcrowding or misconduct will result in closure of the park.

We appreciate your cooperation in this effort to stop the spread of COVID-19.

For updates on reopening schedules and our new safety guidelines, please visit our website: [www.riverviewparkandzoo.ca](http://www.riverviewparkandzoo.ca).

## A new and improved space for our servals and lynx

Every animal in our care has access to an off-exhibit holding area and "hiding spots" where they are not visible. In addition to improving overall well-being, this helps promote natural species behaviour and allows them more flexibility to interact with their physical and social environment.

In 2019, our outdoor cat exhibit underwent a renovation which almost doubled the space, allowing for improved movement and exploration, more elaborate exhibit furnishings, and glass viewing panels in place of fencing. In the next phase of our expansion, we will focus on the cats' indoor space.

RPZ is home to two female servals: Ali (age 16) and Friday (age 18). Increasing indoor holding area size would provide Ali and Friday with more room to move freely throughout the building as well as give their keepers additional space for enrichment and training.



*Our serval, Ali, enjoys her new larger enclosure made possible through donations and the Annual Fun Run fundraiser.*



Find out more at [riverviewparkandzoo.ca](http://riverviewparkandzoo.ca)

## The Roberta Bondar photography challenge



*While the Bondar Challenge is geared towards youth ages 9 to 13, it's a fun and engaging activity for all ages. It's also a great way for families to explore nature together.*

Does your child love both nature and photography? Riverview Park & Zoo has been working with the Roberta Bondar Foundation and the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) to make resources from the signature program, the Bondar Challenge, ready to be safely enjoyed this summer. While maintaining physical distancing, we can still explore our natural environment and enjoy the wonders of nature.

The \$20 registration fee includes entry into the official 2020 Roberta Bondar competition, our weekly camp challenges, tools, and virtual coaching from our trained instructors. You can register for the month of July or August or both.

Find out more at: [www.riverviewparkandzoo.ca](http://www.riverviewparkandzoo.ca). Click on Education Programs under the What We Do tab on the home page.

## Registration opens in July for this year's virtual Fun Run

The Fun Run and Walk is a vital fundraiser for Riverview Park & Zoo. Last year, the run raised more than \$13,500 towards the expansion of the meerkat exhibit, and hosted more than 425 participants. Thank you to all the runners, walkers and the more than 20 local business sponsors that made the event such a success. This year, proceeds support the expansion of the indoor cat holding area, home to the servals and lynx, with the goal of raising \$15,000 toward the \$50,000 project.

Like many annual events, the Fun Run will be a bit different this year. Here's how it will work: between September 20 and October 3, run or walk in your own neighborhood or on local trails, with your family, and at your own pace.

Early-bird registration for the Fun Run and Walk begins July 15, 2020. To find out more or to register, visit the Special Events page under the Support Us menu on our website: [www.riverviewparkandzoo.ca](http://www.riverviewparkandzoo.ca).



*Last year, the 10th Annual Fun Run and Walk raised more than \$13,500 and hosted a record number of participants.*

## Lawn watering restrictions

Each year we ask you to observe lawn watering restrictions in order to ensure there is enough water for everyone.

The following guidelines are in place:

### Peterborough and Woodland Acres From June 1 to August 31

- Even-numbered addresses may water only on even-numbered days between 7 am and 10 pm.
- Odd-numbered addresses may water only on odd-numbered days between 7 am and 10 pm.

### Lakefield From May 15 to September 15

- Even-numbered addresses may water only on even-numbered days from 7–9 am and 6–10 pm.
- Odd-numbered addresses may water only on odd-numbered days from 7–9 am and 6–10 pm.

## Growing food at RPZ

The animals at RPZ eat a wide variety of vegetables and herbs, some of which are grown on-site. Tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes, corn, parsley, mint and eggplant are just some of the treats that find their way onto the animals' dinner plates. Our groundskeeper also grows 'browse' that the animals enjoy as a part of their enrichment program to encourage natural behaviors like foraging.

We'd like to thank the Peterborough Horticultural Society, Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, and GreenUP, as well as all the other groups that have made valuable contributions to the park gardens over the years.

To find out more, visit [www.riverviewparkandzoo.ca](http://www.riverviewparkandzoo.ca), look under the Support Us drop-down menu for the Adopt a Garden link.



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