



## Attention GRFN Community Members

### STRUGGLING WITH RATS

Please refer to the following:



#### What do Rats Eat?

Rats are omnivorous, and because they are highly adaptable, they can and will eat just about anything (including dead animals or tree bark) to survive. *Norway rats* favour meats, grains, fruits and nuts, and need drinking water to survive. They will eat greasy foods if available. *Roof rats*, huge food hoarders of food, prefer fruits. They will settle for seeds, grain or meat.

#### Signs of a Rat Infestation

- Sighting live rats during the day.
- Finding a dead rat.
- Hearing scampering or scratching noises at night
- Finding nests indoors.
- Locating outdoor burrows surrounding your home or building.
- Finding rat droppings, often around food or trash areas.
- Discovering rub marks or grease stains (made from rats running along interior edges).
- Finding food packages, especially cardboard packaging, that are chewed through.
- Uncovering gnaw marks on food, food packaging (especially cardboard), or utility lines.

#### How to Decrease your Chance of Rat Infestation

- Keep dry foods like cereals, grains, pet food and even bird seed, in tightly sealed plastic, glass or metal containers with secure lids.
- Regularly remove food crumbs (human and pet) from eating, food preparation, food storage and trash areas.
- Maintain clean and sanitized sinks and counters and keep free of food waste.
- Empty indoor garbage cans regularly, and store collected trash outdoors, away from entry points.
- Use secure lids on all garbage and compost bins, both indoors and outside.
- Keep your compost bins clear of fatty or oily food waste, eggs, or milk products.

- Discard unused or damaged cardboard boxes or packaging and opt for storing items in quality rubber or plastic containers with tight lids.
- Seal up cracks and crevices around your windows, doors, eaves, chimney, and any other entry points.
- Cover dryer vents, attic vents or soffits with fine mesh metal screening.
- Replace broken screens over windows and vents or install new ones.
- Use metal weather stripping under doors, and weather strip windows.
- Maintain lawns, trees, shrubs, bushes around your home or building.
- Use a layer of heavy metal mesh between the soil and the bottom of the compost bin.
- Place all woodpiles away from the house or building.
  - Raise woodpiles about 30 centimeters off the ground.
- Fix plumbing leaks in and around your home or building.
- Refrain from using water features and bird baths close to your home.
- Don't leave windows open, especially at night, without tightly fitting, hole-free screens.

(Source: Environmental Pest Control [www.environmentalpestcontrol.ca](http://www.environmentalpestcontrol.ca))

Please be advised, spring is here and due to the runoff of winter, an increased number of rats are more likely to be spotted around any source of water including ditches, rivers, etc.

Lands & Resources have plans to work closely with Housing, Public Works, Health Centre and Community Members to determine the severity of the issue. If you witness a rat, infestation or nest in your area, or are looking for more information, please contact:

***DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK, PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING CONTACT INFORMATION TO REPORT A SIGHTING TO:***

AMANDA CRESS  
[acress@gardenriver.org](mailto:acress@gardenriver.org)  
or  
705-987-1313

Meegwetch