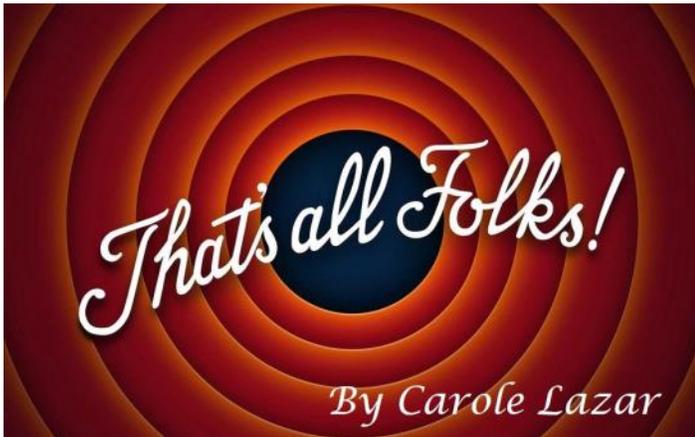


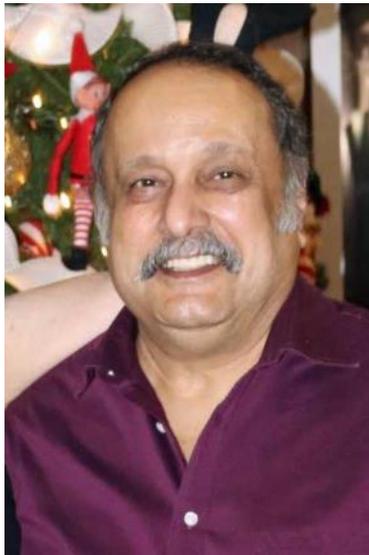
CHELSEA GARDENS Newsletter



2023



Have you noticed that I am repeating myself a lot? Those who know me personally may



find it hard to believe but after 11 years of acting as newsletter editor I am running out of things to say.

My thanks to Ashley Orton who has agreed to take over the job. Proof of the old adage, "If you want something done, ask a busy person."

CHELSEA GARDENS EMERGENCY PROGRAM SOCIAL EVENT

by Doug McLeod

The Chelsea Gardens Emergency Preparedness and Response Program held a volunteer members social event on January 12 in the Fireside Room. This was the first social event since the inception of the program in 2017 and was attended by about 50 of our members. Most attendees said it was a great way to connect with other like-minded volunteers and was an opportunity to get to know them better since they might be working together in an emergency response. That would help all involved in a stressful situation to feel more comfortable and more capable of relating to others.

Many attendees brought appetizers to share and the program coordinators provided a variety of refreshments. The event started with a general mingling of attendees, and many conversations occurred. After this ice-breaker, each of the nine program teams presented a brief overview of their roles and responsibilities during an emergency, highlighted activities that they have been engaged in over the past year or so, and answered a few questions regarding their team. On conclusion of the presentations, everyone continued to mingle, talk, and partake in the refreshments and appetizers.

Given the success of this event, the program leaders will consider making it a regular activity.

Anyone who is interested in becoming engaged in this community program, helping all who reside here to be safer, is encouraged to contact the Program Leader, Doug McLeod, at 604.996.3504.

Welcome
Spring

KEEPING UP WITH THE ROYALS

by Carolyn Swayze

The Dutch have their Pannekoeks and the French their Crepes, but some English-speaking countries turn to Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras.

This year Catherine, the Princess of Wales visited Oxford House, a care home in Slough, England, to help the staff make pancakes for the residents' supper.

While she charmed the residents and staff, the Princess failed the flipping pancakes demonstration. Videos and photos show the resulting "congealed blob". She admitted that when she makes pancakes at home, they often land on the floor.

This year, Prince George and Princess Charlotte took over to make them for their parents.

Luckily at Chelsea Gardens, which is not a care home, but sounds suitably English, we had the best of both culinary traditions - two cooks with a Dutch background, Ron Plankeel and Gladys Zemianski, and a cook with French background, Simone Tait.



The three of them perfectly flipped 200 pancakes for our supper. If any fell to the floor, they aren't telling.

In her first stint as volunteer coordinator, Jan Bergman, recruited an excellent team to turn the pancakes into a healthy, delicious meal for eighty residents. A fruit cup of fresh pineapple, kiwi, and berries as well as sausages, syrup, and whipped cream topped the pancakes. Lemon squares, tea and coffee followed, while the cash bar did a brisk business.

Where else can people have a meal for \$10.00? Thanks to the Social Committee!

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The Chelsea Gardens Social Committee

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If you have any suggestions, or would like to submit articles or photos for future newsletters, phone Ashley at (604) 503-3703 or contact him by e-mail at ashleyorton@telus.net.

Our submission guidelines and a coloured copy of this newsletter can be found at:

www.chelseatoday.org

EVERYBODY'S A LITTLE IRISH ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

But while everyone may be wearing the green some of us are more convincing than others. Case in point was the very mixed success rate we saw when we put our pretenders to the test with an Irish trivia contest. Though their surnames may suggest otherwise, it is our view that winners, Norm Reid, Lorraine Myers, Eileen Krukowski, Fred Halcro, Sonja Jones and Jack DeVries proved themselves to be the real McCoy!

If you are an Irish purist, you might also have wanted to check out the menu. Were you one of those who was fooled by appear-

ances? Like our sold-out crowd of guests, not all things wearing the green or sporting shamrocks were authentically Irish. Our Irish stew did have peas in it but though it was the real thing, it didn't flaunt the fact. And the soda bread? Why this plain Jane bit of baking is as Irish as it comes. The imposter? Did that green icing and St. Patrick's appropriate top-per on each of our eclairs fool you or did you recognise it immediately as a French delicacy trying to pull a fast one on us?

Our social committee and the volunteers they recruited provided the food and entertainment that made this sell out event a great success. Still, guests agreed that the highlight of the evening was something no one had planned or foreseen. When Bill Thornton-Trump, attended the dinner with his daughter, Monica, he did not know that he would be expected to sing for his supper. It wasn't long though before his table mates noted that some Irish music would be appropriate. They began pestering him and finally their wishes prevailed. Bill gave us a lovely acapella rendering of "When Irish Eyes are Smiling." It really was the crowning touch on a perfect St. Patrick's Day.



Dorothy McCormick, Monica and Bill Thornton-Trump and Ann Gorrill

AN EARLY HISTORY OF OUR CHELSEA GARDENS PUB

by Gladys Bittner

Back in the early nineties, few residential developments were built anywhere in Metro that offered both townhouse and condo living, and were centred by an attractive clubhouse that was meant to welcome and encourage a variety of social activities. So, sales at Chelsea were brisk and by mid-June of 1994, with only one-third of the townhouses and the Mayfair built, residents began moving in.

Soon, thirty years will come to pass, and few original residents remain. Perhaps it's time to preserve those early memories. Our library's 1994-1996 photo album proved to be a great starting place. We're grateful to Elaine Saunders who had the foresight to take some photos and keep records of those early activities many of which residents still enjoy to this day.

The cozy pub with its small round tables to sit at, a pool table, a shuffleboard and dart board awaited use. Naturally, residents gathered for games, competitions, and regular Friday "Happy Hours". For social events, it was "bring your own" everything else—liquor, glasses, dishes. Many "firsts" became annual events- Halloween costume night; New Year's Eve- which was pot luck and card games; then ushering in 1995 with a Polar Bear Swim!

Given the heavy use of the pub, it was thought it might be a good idea to buy a few cases of beer and stock the unlocked fridge there. When a resident wanted a beer, they could drop money into the kitty for it. Unfortunately, the honour system didn't work too well. The fridge got a lock, and several residents got legal advice on operating a paying pub. A cash bar was established and did business every Friday night. The right to do this was allowed under a ruling that the pub was really an "extension of our homes" and with that, a resident's house guests were allowed in, but no outsiders.

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Stocking and pricing for the bar was established by residents Mike Podolski, Glen Parkes, and Sandy Richardson. At that time Elaine Scott was the Developers' Sales Agent, and some of her information was that in 1997, the Developers held a summer Open House affair to attract more buyers to finish building the last phases, including the Windsor. So likely the handy wine racks and glasses were contributed to the bar then.

Our townhouses and condos were filling up, and social activities continued to increase, with the bar requiring more help. This order may not be exact, but Bill Callagan, being newly retired, dove right in as did Anne and Will Gorrill. Will carried on helping when Celia Lundy took over for a number of years. Until Celia's illness and passing, Lucie Walker was her regular assistant.

Since about 2011, Diane Anderson has managed very ably, with much help from husband, Lloyd, and with the able assistance of Lucie, Gladys Bittner, Ron Plankeel and Ray Smith.

By this time, operating the pub required that servers take the "Serving It Right" exam, and that the organizer purchase a costly liquor license for each social event where liquor was sold.



Gladys Bittner and Lucie Walker shown here at an earlier event.

The efforts to comply with these new regulations also resulted in a decision to hold pay pub nights only on special occasions.

With the coming of Covid, almost all social activities were stopped from early 2019 to 2022 but we're back to meeting again now.

Managing the successful operation of our pub is no easy undertaking. It requires much planning and organization; there are trips to select & purchase liquor and return empties; we must calculate attendance and make sure we have enough cash for a float.

The earnings from the pub being added to monies raised through special events have permitted the social committee to offer some free events to our residents, and also to contribute to the acquisition of additional pool and clubhouse furniture, kitchen appliances and a variety of smaller items.

NEED PHOTOS?

Whether it is a special birthday, an anniversary or a celebration of life, friends and family often want to assemble a collage of memories. The big photo albums in our library are a good place to start. Many of us have tablets or phones and can take a photo from those. Also, all event pictures since 2017 are on the ChelseaToday website, and you can download them directly from there. Too techie for you? Then just phone me, Carole Lazar, at 778-565-7488 and I would be happy to help you get the pictures you want.



Enough of this already! We're ready for spring!