

CHELSEA GARDENS Newsletter



THE PRICE OF SUCCESS

Traditionally, Chelsea Halloween parties include a competition to determine who has come up with the best costume. This year there was no contest! Cherith Johnson and David Bremner were hands down winners.



Unfortunately for this sociable pair, their ghoulish make up and blood splattered rags were so convincing that no one was prepared to sit with them. Even those neighbours who normally regard them fondly covered their eyes and fled.

We are happy to report that our other winners that evening were not shunned in this way. Dave Brennan's friends gathered to congratulate him on his fifty/fifty win and another sociable table collected drink tickets as a prize for winning the evening's trivia contest.

HALLOWEEN AT THE GATE

Our little trick and treaters had a beautiful clear evening for this event and we were almost back to our pre-Covid numbers. An estimated 100 young visitors claimed big handfuls of goodies



A CORRECTION AND AN ADDITION:

In our fall newsletter there was an article appropriately entitled "Confused," in which I said that the bottle collection project at the Windsor was the work of Charlie Sweet and Bob and Kathy Hurley. Immediately upon the newsletters being delivered, I had a note from Kathy to say that it was Anita Thompson who set up the program and okayed it with council. She and husband Keith, along with the Hurleys collect and return the bottles. Charlie's contribution was as one of the party planners. We also reported that the Lloyd Anderson's group would be donating their earnings to the Surrey Food Bank. The numbers are in on that now. The \$1,800 in refunds that Chelsea residents donated was deposited with Envision Credit Union and they matched our donation so a cheque for \$3,600 went to the Food Bank.

NOT ALL OUR EFFORTS ARE SUCCESSFUL:

When David Eby was sworn in as our new premier on November 18th we knew that he was contemplating significant changes to the Strata Act so a group of concerned Chelsea residents set up an appointment with our MLA, Harry Banes.

The government was too fast for us! On November 24th the legislation was passed. Still our group honoured their commitment and attended the scheduled meeting. Do their smiles look forced? We thank them for their effort anyway.



Back row: Bob Poole, Doug McLeod, Dan Lamont, Bill Zemianski
Front row: Patricia Lynn, Yvonne Brennan, Harry Banes and Ron Plankeel.

THE SECRET IS OUT!

Our special Christmas coffee has always been a popular event but it was primarily attended by our Wednesday morning coffee regulars. That was largely because we did not publicize the nature of the Christmas spirit being shared. Of course, there is always a good show of Christmas spirit at Chelsea. Social committee members present and past and their council liaison made, donated and served all the goodies for this event and guest contributions raised \$1,025 in donations for the Food Bank too. In the past though, we never told guests in advance that there might be a little something extra to add to their coffee. Only regu-

lar attendees knew that they could expect some Christmas spirits as well as the Christmas spirit. Elaine Galley made sure this proud tradition continued.



The Chelsea Gardens Newsletter is sponsored by 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 Carole Lazar at 778-565-7488 or contact her by e-mail at lazarc@shaw.ca.

Submission guidelines and an online version of the newsletter can be found at: www.chelseatoday.org

INDECISIVE JUDGES?

Or just a lot of really ugly sweaters?

Our ugly Christmas sweater pub night on December 16th raised \$360 for Canucks Place but judges were unable to come up with a single winner for the ugly sweater contest. They narrowed it down to a group of five. Annette Sabatini, Vivian Anderson, Evelyn Baillie, Darlene Razzo and Lloyd Anderson.

I wonder if they gave Darlene extra points for the glasses.



******Late Breaking News: A mysterious benefactor tripled the pot . In the end we were able to send \$1,068 to Canucks Place.******

A LAST-MINUTE CHANGE:

Santa had said he would visit us again on the 19th when our drive about and caroling was to take place but by late afternoon that day it was evident that we were going to have a whiteout. Snow had been falling for hours and there was a significant accumulation. Since we usually have all sorts of visitors walking beside or running after the trailer that is used to provide seating for the very young ones or for those who aren't too spry, we worried about someone slipping under the wheels and getting hurt. A last-minute deci-

sion was made and the rental trailer was returned.

Still, we knew many children had been invited to this kid friendly event and we didn't want the goodies and warm beverages that had been intended to top off the evening to go to waste so we just moved it all indoors. It actually gave the children a better chance to really have a chat with Santa.



Paul Dhaliwal and Cee Mann's daughter Aman Braich and grandson, Jalen, took advantage of this. Looks like Jalen had some serious requests

CHELSEA ANGELS



The snow kept coming. By morning we had an additional foot of accumulation.

Cynthia Bartel and Danielle Ragan worked their way down the street shovelling out neighbours' driveways.

They were not the only good Samaritans. Every street had a few. Our thanks to all of them!

GOOD BYE TO 2022

It saw us struggling back to normal after two years of restrictions and shut downs. As sorry as we were to have to turn a few people away, we were pretty excited when the tickets for our New Year's dinner sold out. It is the first we have had since 2019. Buffets are permissible again, so we ordered ours from Coast Country Catering. It didn't disappoint.



Have Deb Thorburn and Marilyn Hunter left room on their plate for the salmon and roast beef that the server they're approaching is waiting to give them?

We also reinstated our New Year's Eve dance. This is a free event and you do not have to buy tickets to the dinner to attend. In fact, only about half of our diners elected to stay and work off some of those calories. Other residents had din-



ner elsewhere and joined us to dance and then welcome in the new year

Unfortunately there is always that one individual who cannot hold his liquor. Poor Marie. She can dress him up but she can't take him out.



We will forgive Ashley his crass behaviour because he was a great DJ .

HOW TO CELEBRATE THE 1ST DAY OF 2023?

With a polar bear swim of course! There were no ice floes, but it was still nippy enough to test the mettle of the dozen or so who participated.



Were they dancing or doing exercises to get warm? Whichever it is, they earned their free breakfast. Oh yes, and their mimosa too. Remember when it was only those who took the plunge who got some sparkly with their orange juice? Now for \$5.00 anyone can get one and a breakfast too.