

CHELSEA GARDENS Newsletter



Autumn 2023

NO MICE IN THESE HOUSES

The poet, Carl Sandburg, compared fog to a cat sitting on silent haunches looking over the harbour and city. Chelsea cats are more likely



Izzy Lazar

to be found sitting on silent haunches looking under the living room couch or staring at that space alongside the refrigerator. Their owners are delighted with this vigilance since many of these cats were adopted to deal with unwelcome rodents. Rumour has it that cats are more effective than mouse traps, electrical repellants or the

professional pest control companies.

They also make very charming pets so were there ever to be an emergency, owners would want to be sure that their feline friends were not forgotten.

In the event of a crisis the Chelsea Emergency Response Program will attempt to rescue our pets and their pet team will house them until their people are in a position to resume caring for them. To do this, the team maintains a detailed roster of Chelsea pets. They currently have 45 cats and 54 dogs as well as a couple of birds and guinea pigs on their list. Judging from the frequency with which we now notice curious cats scoping out the neighbourhood through the windows of various homes, we suspect that we have a lot of new feline residents who are not registered. Let's keep them safe too. You can pick up the forms at the clubhouse.



RESIDENT WINS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD!

When we talk about how we spent our summer holidays, not many of us can claim to have broken a Guinness World Record. Anne Van Hove did just that!

How? She donned an inflatable dinosaur suit to help the town of Dundurn, SK, win the Dino Challenge on July 1st.

The previous record was 380 inflatable dinosaurs in one place. With Anne's participation, and that of her grandchildren, Dundurn celebrated the win with 1,163 dinos dancing, prancing and laughing in the 31^o heat. Our new



Anne Van Hove celebrates the win in her signature Tilley hat.

celebrity will be happy to sign autographs and appear at special events.

ZOOMING ZOOMERS

When I first moved to Chelsea, a nearby road sign gave me pause. However, a couple who don't fit that image of retirees, are Marylou and Ken Leslie. These trendsetters are zooming about the neighbourhood on their electric scooters. Ken is 80, Marylou's age is ir-



relevant. Previously motorcyclists, they thought about new wheels. Ken said a bicycle seat wouldn't fit his seat, so he ordered an Apollo Canadian-made scooter. Marylou quickly ordered her own. They both say that they are great for improving their balance and a lot of fun.



A BIRD IN THE HAND OR TWO IN THE FUSCIA

Dark-eyed Junco or Oregon Junco? Bird books and internet research have not helped with a conclusion. This bird industriously made a four-inch diameter nest in Gail



Carter's hanging fuchsia basket in June-July 2023 and continued to care for it with help from her mate. Four speckled, one-inch-long eggs were laid; a hungry squirrel stole two. The remaining eggs hatched into fluffy birds that crammed into

the allotted space. Mama bird busily began to build a bigger nest in the nearest tree. With papa keeping watch, the new birds were encouraged to hop, then spread their wings, and managed to balance on a nearby tree outside their first nest. In an estimated ten days or so the nest was empty. Did they really learn to fly in that time? Nature is full of mysteries!



Mama bird enjoys a rest after all that work.

DID WE REALLY NEED A NEW PIANO?

The new piano has arrived and sits in the library, ready to be used by any Chelsea resident who wants to bring a little music to our clubhouse.

What is the difference in the new piano?

First of all, it is light and can be moved easily.

This enables us to have it anywhere, inside or out.

It has powerful speakers that carry the sound to anywhere we want.

It is digital and needs no tuning.

It has weighted keys, bluetooth and can play music from an iPad.

It has many options for sound: concert, grand, jazz and more.

It can transpose so that if the music is too high or too low it will change keys.

It is modern and sleek looking.



A committee consisting of Yvonne Brennan, Patricia Lynn, Marilyn Hunter and June Walker researched and completed the project.

With the support of the Social Committee, the piano was delivered and the old one, sent to Arbourside Court, where it was enthusiastically received; especially by long term Chelsea resident Dave Pritchard who promptly played it for a full hour.

Our new piano was demonstrated in the Fireside Lounge for Wednesday coffee at which time a representative from Arbourside thanked Chelsea for the donation and presented a plaque in appreciation which now hangs in the library. Marilyn Hunter has given lessons on its use. The choir

will be using it for the Christmas concert. Rehearsals begin on October 23rd. Newcomers welcome.

Any person, music groups or duets, please feel free to go to the library and play.

SUMMER TIME

and the living is easy, at least for the Social Committee, as they don't schedule summer events. Cindy Herbstreit hates to see too much time pass without a party, so she organised an August pool-side pot luck party, open to one and all, with a dee jay and dancing. The weather was perfect, the music was loud (maybe a bit too loud) and danceable.

A great turnout and lots of fun.

SEPTEMBER 8 saw the Social Committee back in the swing of things, with the traditional popular burgers and corn party, which was to take place pool-side. Volunteers set up tables outside in readiness for the 100 lucky ticket holders--\$10.00 what a deal!. However, the wasps heard about it, and descended *en masse*, causing a sudden move in to the Fireside Lounge. The plucky bbq guys, David McBremner in his Scottish chef's hat and Mike Williams were left to fight off the wasps while doing a perfect job of the burgers. It was a great meal, with many compliments overheard, particularly for the super coleslaw created by Diane Moore. Thanks to all for their help.



THE COVETED DRY SUDS AWARD

A friend once mentioned that she had trouble finding time for her own projects as she was busy doing domestic chores for her husband. He protested that he was perfectly capable and willing to take care of himself. To demonstrate



this 'fact', he did his own laundry the next day. He put his clothes in the machine, sprinkled the soap in; returned some time later to find a hot mess in the dryer. At our next gathering, we gave him the Dry Suds Award.

We have heard of a few Chelsea residents who might well be contenders. For instance:

A 65th birthday party dinner was planned at the nearby Guacamole & Salsa Restaurant on 72nd Street. A good friend of the birthday girl offered to decorate in advance with balloons and streamers. She and her partner did a great job. The restaurant staff were intrigued. They do not take reservations but were told there would be a party coming soon. They never came. Turns out they had decorated at Guacamole Mexican Grill on KGH!

If you have an amusing anecdote to share please contact me.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS SEPTEMBER 17

It's wonderful to see so many new faces out and about. Since the last Newcomers Welcome Reception, 27 units have been sold, with a total of 43 new residents.

The Social Committee invited all of the newcomers to a get acquainted reception. While enjoying refreshments they learned about recreational activities and volunteer opportunities. Presentations included information about council, the workshop, emergency preparedness and the social committee. They also had a chance to share a bit about themselves including their talents and interests. Their photos were posted on the bulletin board. Welcome to all.

RETIREMENTS:

Some 17 years ago Verna Sandison and her husband Wayne had the idea of creating a residential phone list for Chelsea Gardens. This phone list would become a mainstay for many over the years. Whether calling up a neighbor to join them in the pub or getting together for a card game or for a walk, this phone list has been a welcome tool for our community.

Verna revamped the list to suit our needs. She did one by unit numbers and another alphabetically by last names. Catching up with new residents and getting their information for this phone list is a large task by itself, but she kept at it.

This year when she handed the torch to Terry Hyde, Terry was humbled to realise just how much was involved.

For the past ten years, Verna has also co-ordinated procedures at the AGM to ensure that a team was on hand to keep the meeting running efficiently, while meeting all of regulatory requirements. Verna has retired from that big job as well. Thank you, Verna, for your years of exemplary service to Chelsea Gardens.



Another outstanding volunteer has been



Anna Razny, who for 8 years has attended the pond, twice a day to feed the fish and the turtles. Anna and her recent sidekick, Cathy Lockwood, have not only faithfully fed the cold-blooded crit-

ters, but have skimmed and monitored the pool. They both look forward to retiring from their duties.

Jack DeVries brought a lot of pleasure and beauty to the pond visitors by introducing koi, turtles and a new cleaning regimen. The pond has become a favourite rest stop and point of interest for residents and their visitors. Jack also decided it was time to kick back, travel more and pass the pond maintenance duties on to a new team.

Another major change came to Chelsea with the retirement of long-time bar manager Diane Anderson and her volunteer staff. Diane, ably assisted by her husband Lloyd, purchased inventory, disposed of refundables, maintained and cleaned the ice machine, and obtained liquor licenses. She also kept an eye on those who enjoyed too many libations. For years Diane was assisted at the bar by Lucie Walker, who retired in 2021, and Gladys Bittner, as well as Ray Smith who frequently stepped up to lend a hand. We will miss their friendly faces.

Many, many thanks to the team who made special events and happy hours so happy.

The Chelsea Gardens Newsletter is sponsored by

The Chelsea Gardens Social Committee

Editor: Carolyn Swayze

Page Layout: Ray Arnett

Contributors: Yvonne Brennan, Barb Gregg, Terry Hyde, Carole Lazar, Patricia Lynn, and Anne Van Hove.

Proofreading: Terry Hyde and Mar Thomas

If you have any suggestions, or would like to submit articles or photos for future newsletters, phone Carolyn Swayze at 604-503-3895 or e-mail her at carolynswayze@shaw.ca

A coloured version of this newsletter and our submission guidelines can be found at

www.chelseatoday.org

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