

# CHELSEA GARDENS Newsletter



2024



## OUTSTANDING CHELSEA ATHLETES

Renata Cheetham is our resident athletic champion. She took the gold medal in speed walking at the 2023 Seniors' Summer Games held this year in Abbotsford. A member of the Greyhound Masters Track Club, she has hundreds of medals from the 55+ BC Games, the International Masters Games,



and the World Senior Games. She competes in running, shotput, javelin, and weight throwing. This past year she competed in Utah and Las Vegas. Although Renata modestly claims that as she gets older there are fewer competitors, we know that she has been winning medals for many years. Did I mention that she is a youthful 86!? What is her secret? In addition to keeping active, she doesn't eat beef or drink milk. Renata would be delighted to have other Chelsea residents participate in the 2024 Games to be held in Salmon Arm September 10-14. Registration opens March 1<sup>st</sup>. Categories include pickleball, horseshoes, snooker, swimming, bocce, darts, and more.

### ANOTHER CHELSEA ATHLETE

is Council member Mike Williams who speed-walked 33,000 steps one day in October. He had no other competitors in his volunteer task of stringing hoses from the swimming pool to

the fountain ponds—cleverly and thriftily pumping the water to the empty fountains, which couldn't be filled during the summer water restrictions. This innovative idea saved us a great deal of money and water. Mike says he is **not** pumping the water back to the pool once the new liner is installed. Apparently, we had fresh water for our New Years Day Polar Bear Swim.

### COLD BLOODED ATHLETES

Three red-eared slider turtles have mesmerised on-lookers as day-after-day, they clambered up on to the logs in the pond to bask in the sunshine. As turtle soup is a gourmet delicacy, their winter hide-away is only known to a select few. Faithful fish and turtle feeder Diana Peterson is looking forward to seeing them return in the spring.

### ZENON JALBERT WORKS HIS MAGIC

Another hard-working volunteer who has saved us a considerable amount of money, is Zenon Jalbert. When he learned that the shades on our pathway lights which had broken over the years, are nearly impossible to replace (and costly when located), he rose to the challenge and bought a new-to-him 3-D printer, designed replacements on his CAD program and created them for a cost of less than \$6.00.

Zenon loves technology. Being one of the first drone-owners, he employed his to inspect the Chelsea roofs, assisting in determining which ones were obviously in need of replacement. While his research was underway during the summer, the residents doing their morning aqua fit session, were quite excited, thinking they were going to be featured on Global News. In the interests of modesty, Zenon blacked out identifying features.

He is also a keen member of a radio-control aircraft group. He has four of these planes in his garage. In his spare time Zenon and his dancing wife Margie are avid tennis and pickleball players.

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## CRIB TOURNAMENT

One day Kelley Garland and Cliff Glowsky floated the idea of having a crib tournament. Once they posted a notice, 32 people signed up in a flash, to play the best of seven games. Third place winner was Murray Streifel, with Wendy McHale placing second and Ron Plankeel pegging his way to first.



## MORE FUN AND GAMES

In the past, the upper mezzanine was used for extra dinner seating and Wednesday night poker, but for the most part it was under-used. As Jules Verbeke donated a dart board, Ray Smith a shuffle board and David Bremner a ping-pong table, it was decided to re-organise the room for games. Thanks to all for the contributions and the muscle, It's now ready for use.

All this is in addition to the pool table downstairs, a favourite gathering place, especially after Wednesday morning coffee, and for periodic tournaments. Drop in anytime.

## OUR GOOD GUYS DO IT AGAIN

Every Friday Lloyd Anderson toodles around the complex collecting blue bags full of refundables. Lloyd, Gary Economy, Mike Collins and Brian Coates, then sort the containers, and deliver them to a Recycling Depot. This season they collected \$3,200, which has gone to the Surrey Food Bank.

## BE PREPARED

The Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 8+ hour power outage serves as a reminder to keep phones charged and flashlights handy.

## LEND A HAND WHEN YOU CAN

The many activities and decorations which we enjoy at Chelsea Gardens happen thanks to the generous contributions of talent, time, and efforts by our residents. If you would like to help in any way please contact volunteer coordinator, Jan Bergman at [Jan22bergman@gmail.com](mailto:Jan22bergman@gmail.com) or phone 604-538-4485

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE ROUND-UP

### OKTOBERFEST

Oom pah pah. Ann Brokop set the tone for a



fun evening, as she strolled around playing the accordion, escorted by a doting guy in lederhosen. A dinner of Bratwurst, Sauerkraut, German potatoes, all prepared by the social committee and volunteers, followed by apple strudel, left all attendees feeling happy and wishing to do the polka. Maybe next time!

### HALLOWEEN AT THE GATE

The weather favoured us this year. The team erected a spooky haunted house at the entrance. Volunteers, in their creepiest costumes, handed out vast amounts of treats, donated by residents, to more than 100 tricksters who make Chelsea their first and favourite stop each year. Adults were grateful for the chowder, made by Terry Hyde with surplus corn from our September Corn and Burger night.



## DECORATIONS

Once the fall decorations and the posters and they were promptly replaced by festoons of Christmas bells, balls, elves, garlands, beautiful blinds and of course, the tree in the lobby—all thanks to the hard-working volunteers, who strive to keep us in good spirits. Consequently, Wednesday coffee was extra cosy with fireplace scenes on the new TV. Within a few days the call went out for volunteers. About a dozen men came out to take advantage of a sunny day to string lights around the clubhouse, the stream, the trees, and the entrance. The residents of the three apartments also did spectacular outdoor displays and many of them decorated their doors as well. We have it from a reliable source that the Windsor had 44 doors decorated, the Kensington had 36 and the Mayfair had 4. The townhouse decorations were incredible.

## INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK DINNER



As the Social Committee felt they deserved a break from cooking, they decided on an old-time potluck for November 17. International flags and decorations

were magically located, bar manager Elaine Galley made a wonderful sangria, and approximately 60 residents streamed in with tasty dishes from around the world. Newfoundland fish cakes, Quebecois tourtiere, Oriental rolls, Mexican treats, all sorts of chicken, fantastic breads, desserts, cheeses, baked beans, etc., made it one of the best spreads ever!

## CHRISTMAS COFFEE WITH SANTA

Christmas Coffee is a favourite annual event. Barb Gregg kindly took photos of good boys and girls with Santa, while Mrs. Santa kept things moving along. In the Fireside Lounge, elves dispensed seasonal goodies and special sweeteners for the coffee. The choir sang Christmas carols which put everyone in a festive mood. Santa drew tickets for door prizes which included a beautiful stocking created over many hours by Barbara Schindelka. This was won by Linda Smith. To acknowledge Barbara's generous contribution, the Social Committee donated \$100.00 to Canuck Place.



## CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW

December 10 saw the return of our traditional Christmas concert/variety show, organised by choir mistress and impresario, Yvonne Brennan. It was a delight to see new choristers this year. June Walker accompanied the choir on our new piano and then, along with Patricia Lynn, played two holiday duets. The Chelsea Dancers under the direction of Margy Jalbert, were in good Hawaiian form, dancing to Mele Kalikimaka, accompanied by Ray Schneider and Barb Gregg on ukuleles. Jeremy Ferland treated us to a virtuoso solo, while Iris Short and Lucie Walker were a great comedy duo. Bill Thornton-Trump, Lana Hart, Don McKenzie, and Barb Gregg also contributed songs and readings. Sugar plums and coffee were provided by the Social Committee. This event which played to an overflow audience generated donations to the Surrey Food Bank in the amount of \$1,007.00. Thanks to all for their generous contributions.

## UGLY SWEATER

December 15 was a particularly silly night with some truly awful sweaters competing for the worst sweater prize.

While organisers pondered who was the ugliest of them all, party-goers attempted to solve a



Christmas Carol picture game. The winning team which scored 100% was Three Neighbours, comprised of Mary Gawle and Joyce and Brian Wilson.

Cliff Glowsky's sweater was deemed uglier than the other men's while Georgina Ooms' sweater bedecked with cat toys beat out some equally weird contenders. Pizza and seasonal libations added to the fun. Proceeds in the amount of \$300.00 went to Canuck Place at Children's Hospital.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

After several disappointing years when Covid, sleet and snow, kiboshed our traditional Christmas caroling around the complex, December 19<sup>th</sup> was a charmed night. Santa led the brightly-lit wagon around the complex, followed by carolers who called out Season's Greetings to the indoor residents. It was a wonderful opportunity to admire the spectacular lights. The cavalcade fetched up at the clubhouse where mulled wine, hot chocolate and trays of goodies awaited. June Walker played carols in the Fireside Room for a sing-along. The only thing missing was snow and not nearly as many children as in times past.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SOCIAL TIME

Thanks to the initiative of Cindy Herbstreit, a good turnout of residents gathered at the clubhouse on Christmas Eve for a convivial visit and

to share goodies, conversation and Brad McKie's birthday-retirement cake.

## YEARS EVE DINNER AND DANCE

48 lucky revellers attended delicious dinner provided by Coast & Country Caterers. Diane Anderson created the elegant table settings and decor. After the meal the dancing began, open to one and all at no charge. Everyone had such a fine time they did not think to take any pictures!



## POLAR BEAR SWIM AND BREAKFAST

2024 began on a happy note, with the annual Polar Bear Swim. As the hot tub was out of service, only nine intrepid swimmers (including a 93-year-old resident) entered the pool. They were rewarded with a free breakfast. Many others turned out to cheer on the swimmers and to enjoy the meal and mimosas. Of course, many resolutions were announced. We shall see how that works out. Wishing everyone good health

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