

# CHELSEA GARDENS

## Newsletter



2024

### IMPORTANT AGM

**TUESSDAY, APRIL 23 @ 6:00 PM**

As there are critical matters to be discussed and voted on, Council is urging as many residents as possible to attend the AGM. Make an informed vote. Reach out to your neighbours to offer car-pooling.

**RELATE CHURCH, 6788 152 St. Surrey**

### RRRRROBBIE BURNS NIGHT

The People's Poet, Robbie Burns, was celebrated in grand style January 27. Tartans were the order of the evening with our resident Scot, David Bremner, Master of Ceremonies, resplendent and dashing in his authentic tartan kilt, vest, waistcoat, sporran, stockings and accessories. Commencing with the Selkirk Grace by Barb Gregg, the haggis, held high by Bob Hyde was piped and drummed to the head table, where MC Bremner addressed and toasted the humble haggis and plunged his Sgian Dubh into it with gusto.



Ron Plankeel proposed a nonsensical toast to the Lassies, while Eileen Krakowski, a genuine Scots lass, made an amusing and naughty reply. Eileen also made classic shortbread for

each table. Whiskey Wenches served wee drams for the toasts.

After a hearty traditional dinner of neeps, cottage pie and haggis, and a delicious kracken for dessert, the program resumed with a fascinating and informative tribute to the Immortal Memory of the Laird, a short thematic trivia quiz, a reading of A Man's A Man by Yvonne Brennan, Elaine Galley, Harry Peterson, Jim Parker, and Gladys Bittner. Sing-a-long music, concluding with Auld Lang Syne marked the end of the program, while the bar continued to do a brisk business serving Rusty Nails.

### AN IGLOO IN CHELSEA?

There's nothing like a heavy snowfall to bring out the best in our Chelsea neighbours. Brad Buckley was one of the many heavy lifters who shovelled out driveways up and down our street after each new dump of snow. When it reached the point where finding room for it all became an issue, Brad had his own creative solution.



---

**HERE'S AN IDEA:**

How about celebrating 30 years of Chelsea? Shirley Taylor recently brought a newspaper to my door which her in-laws, original residents, Pat and Yvette Taylor, had tucked away.

*The Surrey-North Delta Leader* published a supplement in November 1994 celebrating the striking new development which featured a \$1.75 million dollar Clubhouse and "Uncompromising adult living-Apartments & Town Homes at prices ranging from \$167,100 to \$247,700 incl GST."

**SNOOKERED AGAIN**

The pub saw a lot of action at the pool table in recent months, with snooker tournaments providing entertainment for on-lookers.

Men's singles winner was Brian Gervais



*Mixed Doubles won by Cindy Herbstreit and David Bremner*

**PILLOW PALS**

One of the activities supported by Chelsea residents is Pillow Pals. Joan Winters has taken over this project from Betty Davis.

The participants sew, stuff and deliver pillow sets for the post-surgical comfort of breast cancer patients. One of these pillows is crescent-shaped to fit under the arm to provide padding and protection for the incision, which is of particular help when lymph nodes have been removed. The other is a smaller rectangle which attaches to a vehicle seat belt as a protection buffer.

Pillow stuffing is donated by KB Fabrics and Delta Hospital Auxiliary covers the cost of other supplies. Last year they distributed 600 sets. Every second Tuesday, they have a "stuff and stitch" in the Fireside Lounge. Recently a note of appreciation was received from a recipient who donated \$500 toward the cause. If you would like to participate, give Joan a call at 604 590 1393.

NB: Breast cancer also occurs in men, who are often overlooked in the breast cancer awareness campaigns.

**MAMA MIA!**

The Social Committee arranged another great evening February 17. This time it was Italian night—the first in many years. Ninety residents, enticed by a menu of chicken parmesan, stuffed pasta shells, and all of the trimmings, had a great time. It was good to see newer residents enjoy the festivities. The featured beverage was Negroni. Kudos to the herculean efforts of the volunteers who prepared the entrees and cheerfully dealt with a huge clean-up job as the bar dishwasher was out-of-service. They report having fun in the scullery late into the evening.



*Yvonne Bremner and Terry Hyde at your service*

---

## WEARING OF THE GREEN

St. Patrick's Day came a little early to the beautifully decorated Chelsea Clubhouse on March 15 when the Social Committee hosted a party featuring Irish libations, Guinness Stew, soda biscuits, and green dessert treats.

David Bremner tested our knowledge of all things Irish with a trivia contest. He tried unsuccessfully to change his accent from Scottish to

Irish, but most attendees knew what he was saying.

The trivia prize was won by The Four-Leafed Clovers, who were joined by two other players to become weird Six Leafed Clovers. They were each awarded a \$4.00 ticket for the next social function.



*Winners Linda Hart, Marilyn Hunter, Marilyn (Mar) Thomas, Vesna Stefanovic, Barb Gregg and Cherith Johnson.*

---

### SPEAKING OF CLOVER...

Remember those great expanses of lush green lawn that once lined the streets of many residential neighbourhoods? It seems they are destined to become a thing of the past. Water shortages and the resulting restriction on the use of sprinklers means that the best one can hope for is that the brown stubble of mid-summer will revive and turn green before it is buried in snow. In Chelsea, many of us have given up even that modest expectation. Whether it is because of tree roots, making the soil impenetrable or an infestation of chafer beetles, our small patches of grass are brown year-round.

Small wonder that when our gardening contractor suggested that clover might do better than our

grass, some of us were keen to give it a go. Council has approved a trial of this alternate ground cover, but since it too, might have drawbacks, they are proceeding cautiously. Four front yards will be converted this year.

Clover is more drought-resistant and is not targeted by chafer beetles the way our grasses are. It adds nitrogen to the soil. Bees like it and given the decline in their population, many of us would say that is a good thing. Caution is being exercised in this experiment because clover is not without its drawbacks. It can be invasive and will probably go brown in the winter.

Keep an eye out for these test plots and let us know what you think.

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

As the Social Committee has completed the accounting for 2023, they report where the money they've earned has been spent.

Acquisitions:

Umbrellas for the patio  
TV for the Fireside Lounge

Dishwasher for the bar, including installation

2 banquet tables

Misc. smaller items (locks, keys, flower pots)

Events put on without charge to residents:

Newcomers' reception

Christmas coffee, treats and liqueurs

Soup at the gate for Hallowe'en

Christmas carolling treats and libations

New Years Eve Dance, decorations, and prizes

Breakfast and mimosas for the Polar Bear swimmers.

If you have suggestions for acquisitions or events for 2024, please drop a note in the Social Committee mail slot in the Clubhouse.



## AN APPRECIATION FOR TEAM CHELSEA

A thoughtful gesture of appreciation took place on Monday, March 25 at noon when Kensington residents Nelda Kabesh, John Day and Dianne Houghton hosted a fancy luncheon in front of the Clubhouse. The guests of honour were our hard-working Allen Bros. landscaping team, caretakers Val Morris, Don Kendall and his assistant David Bremner as well as our handy handyman, Jeff Morin.

The colourful table was set with John Day's legendary chili, cookies, brownies, and banana loaf. Three kinds of sandwiches, salad, a fruit plate, and beverages helped the hungry team muster up the energy to complete their work day. The three residents said they enjoyed a chance to talk with the team, to learn a bit about them and to thank them for their contributions to keeping our Chelsea homes in good condition. Unfortunately, no one thought to take a photo of the picnic. John and Diane have also donated and planted primroses in front of the Kensington.



## FREE FIRST AID TRAINING APRIL 28

This is an opportunity to upgrade your skills. You will learn actions to take before helping, how to assess injured or ill residents, how to cope with environmental emergencies, hands-on lessons doing CPR and using the AED.

To register, contact Marilyn Hunter at 604-366-1013, or [marilyn.hunter112@me.com](mailto:marilyn.hunter112@me.com)

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION TEA

The many social activities and a great number of maintenance projects which keep Chelsea Gardens going, are due to the unstinting efforts of the resident volunteers who do so much to enrich life at Chelsea and keep it looking good. Sunday April 7, the Social Committee (who are also volunteers), hosted an appreciation tea for the dozens of residents, who give generously of their time and talents.

## SMART PHONES AND TABLETS FOR DUMMIES

During the past few Wednesdays after coffee Marilyn Hunter and Marilyn Thomas have been offering tutorials for those with difficulty accessing the Chelsea Today site, and showing them a few tricks and techniques to help residents to use their devices for more than simple texts and e-mails.

**The Chelsea Gardens Newsletter  
is sponsored by**

**The Chelsea Gardens Social Committee**

**Editor:** Carolyn Swayze

**Technical Support:** Carole Lazar

**Page Layout:** Ray Arnett

**Contributors:** Marilyn Thomas, Barb Gregg, Carole Lazar

**Proofreaders:** Marilyn Thomas and Terry Hyde

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](mailto:carolynswayze@shaw.ca)

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

[www.chelseatoday.org](http://www.chelseatoday.org)