

CHELSEA GARDENS Newsletter



2024

SOCIAL COMMITTEE TO THE RESCUE

After 30 years of hard use and a lot of fun, the pool table in the Clubhouse was showing signs of wear and tear, and becoming difficult to balance. As more residents were playing, frustration with the uneven surface increased. Kelley Garland spearheaded an effort to replace what we had. Marilyn Thomas approached Council about a financial contribution for a replacement, but with a roof levy pending, there was no money. Marilyn then approached the Social Committee which quickly agreed to help.

Kelley found a solid table complete with cues, balls, scoreboard, clock, and overhead light, all of which were delivered to the clubhouse for \$2000. The team removed our old table, set up the new one, and volunteers including Kelley, Jim Parker, Brad Buckley, Norm Reid, Shirley Taylor, Marilyn Hunter Georgina Ooms, Wendy McHale, Patti Sater and Marilyn Thomas got to work washing the walls and blinds, patching, sanding and painting the room.

Thank you to all who made this improvement possible.



WINGS NIGHT

April 19 was a sold-out event organised by the Social Committee. Three flavours of wings were available, with generous offerings of crudites and dip. Actually, the volunteer servers were a bit *too* generous with the veggies. The last twenty ticket holders had to settle for carrots as the supply of tomatoes, peppers, and peas was depleted. However, they were given extra profiteroles for dessert. These cream-filled delicacies were made by Barb and Jim Parker's grandson Ty, a recent graduate of the Pacific Culinary Institute.

CINCO DE MAYO TACO NIGHT

We all know that everything happens early at Chelsea Gardens. "Chelsea Time" is a standing joke.



Pati Sater, Suzie Glowsky and Diane Moore

As Cinco de Mayo fell on a Sunday the Social Committee held the fiesta on Friday, May 3rd.

Chicken and beef tacos, tequila sunrise cocktails, Corona beer, thematic decorations, and potted plants set the mood.

CARING FOR THE COLD-BLOODED

Residents and visitors were happy to see that the three turtles and koi survived the winter.

May Hamaura volunteered to attend to feeding them. She finds it a challenge to keep the hungry heron away from the small fish.

For the past few years, a pair of mallard ducks have come courting. They paddle about in the ponds and the waterways. However, when the hen disappeared to sit on her eggs this year, the crafty drake soon learned to zip over to the pond, when May shook the containers of fish and turtle food. Despite her efforts to shoo him away, he ate the fish food. Some males are like that and don't share with their mate.

May also skims debris from the pond. She encourages passersby to do the same. All help is appreciated.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO VERNA SANDISON

Kath McLeod arranged a farewell tribute to Verna Sandison at clubhouse coffee on May 1st. After 30 years at Chelsea, Verna moved to Elim Village. Her many contributions were greatly appreciated.

FOUR ORIGINALS

As I entered the mail room a while ago, I heard roars of laughter. I wondered what could be so much fun. Turned out that by happenstance the four men had gone to collect their mail at the same time. They told me they were ancient originals. They credited life at Chelsea for their good spirits and long lives. I wish I had been quick enough to take a photo of John Short, Minoo Engineer, Ken Anderson and John Schollen.

FIRST AID TRAINING SEPT 7TH, 2024

From 8:30 to 4:30 in the Fireside Lounge. Coffee will be provided but please, bring your own lunch. For more information or to register contact Marilyn Hunter at 604-366-1013

POOL OPENING

Traditionally the swimming pool opens on the May long weekend. However, there was a delay this year as the paint on the steps had to cure and the new liner had to settle into place. Luckily as it was cool and rainy, there were few complaints before the opening. Kudos to Scott McFadyen who had the pool sparkling.

POOL VOLLEYBALL

Participants, ball chasers and onlookers are encouraged to attend pool volleyball on Monday nights at 6:15. Absolutely no skill required.

INDIAN SUMMER DINNER

An eclectic range of themed dinners, including German, Mexican, Scottish, and Irish have been great fun at the Clubhouse over the years. However, one important culture had been neglected until Harprit Ahluwalia offered to help organise an Indian dinner.

The June 7th event began with a demonstration of sari wrapping by Yasmin Ghaznavi, while volunteers had mendi hand painting by Dilpreet Kaur.

The Social Committee prepared butter chicken, purchased naam and vegetarian samosas and served it all with a tamarind sauce made by Harprit and her brother, Sukh. Sukh also flash fried platters of papadams for each table. Refreshing cold veggies, basmati rice and a delectable sweet desert made this a meal to remember. Sukh admirably served as our emcee, with cultural and culinary commentary. The finale was a parade of all of those who had donned Indian finery.



EARTHQUAKE STRIKES CHELSEA! (NOT REALLY)

On June 22 the Chelsea Gardens Emergency Preparedness and Response Program conducted a live exercise at the Clubhouse and various locations around the complex. This was an opportunity for about 40 of our volunteers to gain valuable experience in preparing to respond to a real emergency. The fictional scenarios used for the exercise included: a moderate level earthquake; a car fire and explosion in the Kensington garage; a car that hit a fire hydrant - thus spouting high-pressure water; a heart attack victim; pets and residents needing assistance; and a host of other related incidents.



The command post and main base for activities was in various areas of the Clubhouse (sorry for any inconvenience). You may also have seen team members around the complex wearing colorful vests and talking on walkie-talkies. After the exercise everyone gathered in the Fireside Room to share what worked and what needs improvement. A post-exercise report will be prepared with recommendations. The team will address the many lessons from this in future planning and training activities. Thanks to all for a fun and educational afternoon.

OOPS! The spring edition of the newsletter included a list of purchases and expenditures by the Social Committee last year. Omitted from this list was our new piano. We also made an error in having the wrong date for our AGM. This mistake was caught in time to make the change on about 250 copies. Judging by the number of calls and messages about this goof, it seems people are actually reading our newsletter. As the AGM was very well attended, no harm was done. It is a credit to our efficient Council that all but one resolution passed unanimously.

KENSINGTON BEAUTIFICATION

Kensington residents, Dianne Houghton and John Day appreciate that keeping the grounds of Chelsea looking good is a huge job. They decided to contribute to the beauty of our home, by purchasing, planting and caring for a lovely assortment of flowers in the front of the Kensington. Warmest thanks to Dianne and John!

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Many of the musicians who used to play at the Clubhouse on pub nights, on the pool deck and in the Fireside Room, have moved on. If you can play an instrument and would like to participate in informal jam sessions, please contact Mike Williams at 604-779-6119. Vocalists welcome.

SUPPORT FOR THE FOOD BANK

For the past 2 1/2 years Lloyd Anderson has been distributing blue bags and collecting refundables which he sorted and took to the recycle centre for the benefit of the Surrey Food Bank. His labours and our donations of refundables have raised almost \$10,000. As Lloyd is moving to the island, his service ended June 29. The Windsor and the Mayfair will now look after their own refundables. Glenn Lewis and Al Dyck will visit the townhouses and the Kensington every 2nd Wednesday, commencing July 10 & 24, Aug. 7 & 21, September 4 & 18, November 13 & 27 and December 11 & 27. Thank you Lloyd and all who have supported this program.

Fit as a Fiddle



For the past 15 years on Mondays and Thursdays from September until pool opening, Simone Tait has conducted Weights & Bands, an exercise class which has been attended by ten to twenty residents who always leave with a smile. The participants showed their appreciation for Simone's dedication by presenting her with a gift.

CHELSEATODAY TECH PROBLEM

Recently, many servers have updated their spam filters with the unfortunate result that our emails are not reaching all ChelseaToday subscribers. You may find the missing notices in your Junk mailbox. Try sending a blank email to webmaster@chelseatoday.org. to convince your spam filter that you know us.

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 Carolyn Swayze at 604-503-3895 or contact her by e-mail at carolynswayze@shaw.ca.

Submission guidelines, and an on-line version of this newsletter can be found at www.chelseatoday.org

CANADA DAY

Canada Day 2024 dawned with perfect weather; our complex festooned with flags and banners. The roofers' bins and equipment were barely noticed as residents celebrated 30 years of always-interesting life in Chelsea Gardens. 21 members of the Vancouver Traveling Band under the leadership of conductor, resident Harry Peterson, got the celebration off to rousing start with O Canada and a nostalgic rendition of The Maple Leaf Forever. They performed a lively concert which had residents asking for more. Other events included a decorated hat contest, won by Marie Orton, who seemed to have much of the garden on her head, followed by Margy Jalbert's with her floral abundance head-gear. Deb Thorburn's creation placed 3rd. The Canadian trivia contest was a head-scratcher won by Table 1. Over 200 people enjoyed a burger bbq. 40 volunteers set up and took down, tables, canopies, and decorations. Emcee Zenon Jalbert kept everything moving along.

For the first time there was an after-party on the pool deck with music by Glenn Lewis. Here's hoping this wind-up to Canada Day becomes a tradition.

