

CHELSEA GARDENS

Newsletter



WINTER

2025

SILLY SPOOKY SEASON

Hallowe'en came to the clubhouse a bit early this year on Friday, October 25th. It might have been the great decorations or the enticements of pizza – 3 slices for \$7.00, what a deal! Or perhaps it was the seasonal beverages—Black Russians and Bloody Marys. At any rate, the residents came out in crazy costumes, ready for some fun.



Emcee Doug McLeod posed the 15 difficult and goofy trivia questions, which caused many a

furrowed brow. The winning team with ten correct answers was The Skeleton Crew of Keith Morris, Barb Eisinger, Joan Danis and Marge Biggs. I think the real losers were the Motley Crew with a measly one—although they claimed they had 1.5.

Many agreed that the costumes were the best we'd seen in recent years.

Evelyn Baillie was a knockout Cleopatra, Georgina Ooms took second place as a wicked Queen of Hearts, while Patti Sater, a weird and wonderful Day of the Dead La Katrina in high heels (doing double duty as a bartender) placed third. Honourable Mention went to beekeeper Howard and Queen Bee Coreen Farquhar.

The Haunted House at the gate was once again a tribute to the enthusiasm of our volunteers, who tried to live up to the example set by Lloyd Anderson. The residents donated a bountiful box of treats. Corn chowder made by Terry Hyde awaited the eager little monsters who often make the Chelsea Gate their first stop. One

POT LUCK

This November 15th event was a bonus organised by the social committee, with a plethora of treats including samosas, salads, desserts and Keith Morris's pulled pork. A very pleasant and sociable evening, attended by 40.



SPEAKING OF PULLED PORK...

Don't forget our pulled pork pub night this Friday, January 17th. Cash bar opens at 4:30.

DECORATIONS GALORE

As the complex is cluttered with roofers, equipment, porta-potties, supplies, extra trucks and dumpsters while roofs are in various stages of replacement, we didn't expect much by the way of decorations this year.

But Chelsea residents were undeterred. In fact, they seemed to make more effort this year to make things merry and bright. The social committee and volunteers went all out decking the halls, lobby, fireside room and pub. The lobby Christmas tree and outdoor lights were spectacular, thanks to the addition of new lights.

The residents of the Mayfair, Kensington and Windsor apartments produced lovely displays, while the townhouse residents did it up right, despite, in some cases, not being able to decorate the eaves.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

The festive season officially began December 4th with the Chelsea choir singing carols as residents streamed into the Fireside Lounge and pub to tables laden with treats. Mr. And Mrs. Santa Claus attended to identify people who hadn't been naughty. Those lucky folks were able to enjoy special sweeteners in their coffee.

BLUE BAG COLLECTION



Glenn Lewis, Al Dyck, Gary Economy, Anita McKie and Brad McKie presented a cheque for **\$1,000** to the Surrey Food Bank. These were the proceeds from the blue bag collections of refundables from Chelsea residents.

This project, in aid of the Surrey Food Bank, will continue on alternate Wednesday mornings, commencing January 22nd, and continuing February 5th, 19th, March 5th, 19th, April 2nd, 16th, 30th, May 7th and 21st.

If you have an hour to help with collecting, please contact Anita McKie.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

After the Covid hiatus, an old-time variety show "Christmas Around the World", produced by Marilyn Thomas, took place Sunday, December 8th. An overflow crowd attended to enjoy the Chelsea Choir under the direction of Yvonne Brennan who was assisted by Patricia Lynn, and Marilyn Hunter. They were accompanied by our skilled pianist, June Walker.



While the show didn't cover all countries of the world, the audience was treated to Christmases in Ireland, Mauritius, Barbados, and even an hilarious Canadian Christmas performed by Margy Jalbert and the Chelsea Dancers. (Check it out on YouTube.)

An equally silly SISTERS act featured sisters Vivian Anderson, Evelyn Baillie and Annette Sabatini.

The silliness was balanced by the exquisite violin of Jeremy Ferland who earlier that day composed a new arrangement of the Little Drummer Boy. He played Oh, Holy Night and other beautiful pieces as well. Jeremy plays with the Victoria Symphony when he is not performing at Chelsea.

The event, which was simultaneously live-streamed for viewers in the pub, was emceed by Bruce Helmer. The concert concluded with a Sing-a-Long and presentations to the participants, followed by Christmas treats and beverages provided and served by the social committee.

Donations were made to Meals on Wheels to assist those who are not able to afford this service. There are five drivers at Chelsea, and more would be welcomed. Those who contributed to this very worthy cause were given boot warmers made by a volunteer. More than

SOUNDING VERY GOOD!

If you have attended events in the clubhouse recently, you will have noticed that the sound of broadcasts spread throughout the facility with no dead spots at all. This is thanks to our new Samsung Q-Series Premium Soundbar which complements our TV with sound flowing from every direction. Speakers and soundbar work simultaneously. The soundbar is adaptive which means it automatically chooses sports, music or movie mode, depending on content. Thank you to Marilyn Hunter for sourcing this and to the social committee for funding it.

KENSINGTON CHRISTMAS

By Vesna Stefanovic

The Kensington Christmas party December 15th was a wonderful success, with a fantastic turnout of friendly neighbours. We came together to share delicious appetizers, cookies, and festive drinks, enjoying each other's company in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. It was a celebration filled with laughter, heartfelt conversations, and the joy of the holiday season. We are a community of happy, kind-hearted people who truly appreciate and support one another. Here's to many more gatherings that bring us closer together!

UGLY SWEATER NIGHT

Friday Pub Night on December 14th took an ugly turn when the worst-dressed fashionistas arrived for pizza, and seasonal libations. Proceeds, topped up by the social committee, were matched by Terra Breads resulting in \$400.00 being donated to Canuck Place.

Unbiased judges deemed Ashley Orton's sweater the ugliest, Sonja Jones placed second, while Cindy Herbstreit, in full elf gear, including red velvet short-shorts, placed third. Emojis posted around the clubhouse were the clues depicting Christmas carols. Two teams solved all 18, and the tiebreaker question was



solved by the Humbugs, thanks to Paul Kavanaugh who was able to calculate the total number of gifts given in the 12 Days of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG

Mr. and Mrs. Claus made a repeat appearance December 16th looking for good boys and girls. Carolers walked the streets (even the roofers' port-a-potty invited Santa to stop in), entertaining shut-ins before gathering in the clubhouse for photos, refreshments and caroling.

CLOTHING EXCHANGE

And now for something completely different to brighten a dreary January afternoon. Come to the Fireside Room at 1:00, Sunday January 19th for a bit of fun and a wardrobe refresh. Hoping to see residents who don't often come to the clubhouse. Meet your neighbours. Bring your surplus belts, coats, hats, boots, shoes, dresses, pants etc. (in good condition please.) Mirrors and change rooms available. No money will change hands. Any unclaimed items will be donated to the Women's Place and/or the Hospice Thrift Store. If you have questions, contact Carolyn at

604 503-3895 or

carolynswayze@shaw.ca

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND DANCE

40 lucky ticket holders enjoyed a catered buffet dinner December 31, followed by a free dance open to all. Emcee Charlie Sweet kept us all in line.

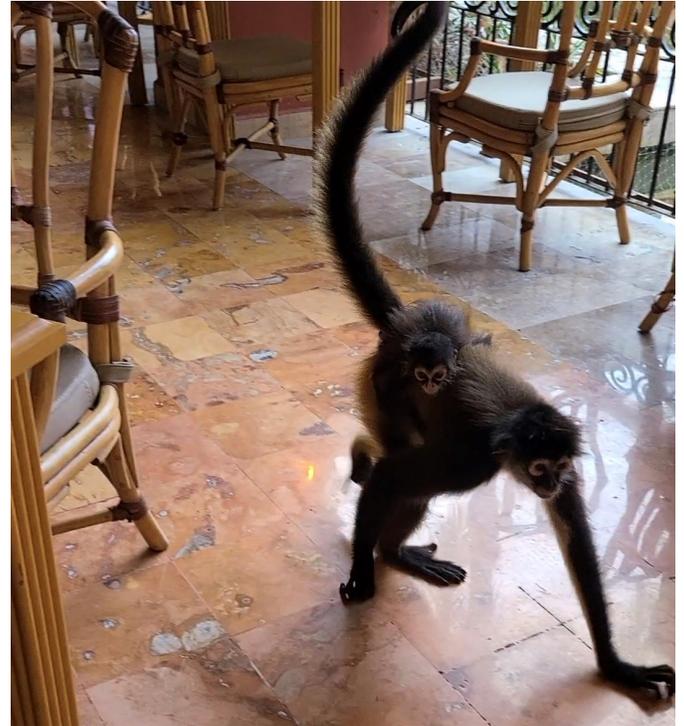


Charlie Sweet, Bob Hurley, Colin Softly, Peter Valbonesi, Nathalie Valbonesi, Jan Softly, Cathy Hurley and Naomi Sweet.

zi-pro as I was one of the first to snap a shot, and a video!!

Were my eyes deceiving me...was it really happening???

Yes, a monkey with its cute little baby straddled on its back, had found ME!!



STARS IN MEXICO

By Margy Jalbert

During our recent holiday at an all-inclusive resort in Mexico, it was my goal to see a monkey in the wild. Each day I kept both eyes open as we walked around the amazing paths surrounded by jungle, mangroves, and natural cenotes, watching for the critters, but to no avail.

By Day 7, I had pretty much given up. On Day 8, we enjoyed our usual buffet breakfast, with a fancy coffee. The only thing different was that we were late arriving, as yes, we slept in. We sat on the opposite side from our usual spot and that's how I spotted the 'Mexican Stars', heading toward the restaurant's open doors.

I quickly pulled out my camera, as the stars strolled in as though they owned the place. The patrons and staff jumped to their feet with cameras in hand, following the newcomers this way and that, around the guests. I felt like a paparaz-

**The Chelsea Gardens Newsletter
is sponsored by the Chelsea Gardens'
Social Committee**

Editor: Carolyn Swayze

Layout: Ray Arnette

Technical Assistance: Carole Lazar

Proof Readers: Lorraine Myers and Terry Hyde

Contributors: Barb Gregg, Margy Jalbert, Marilyn Hunter, Vesna Stefanovic, Jack DeVries and Carole Lazar.

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