

# CHELSEA GARDENS

## Newsletter



Spring 2025

### **PULLED PORK PUB NIGHT**

January 17th

Thanks to the hard work and imagination of the volunteers, pigs, pig jokes, and riddles were everywhere for this fun event. The washroom doors, walls, placemats and trinkets were pig-themed. More than 60 residents enjoyed tasty pulled pork buns (sugar free, all meat, or BBQ sauced) with coleslaw, and a side of potato salad. Tuxedo chocolate cheesecake topped up the meal.

### **FASHION BOUTIQUE CHELSEA STYLE**

January 19<sup>th</sup>

As mid-January is reputed to be the saddest time of the year, we added more fun with a Clothing Exchange, aka 'swap & shop'. All at no cost. As this was a new event, we wondered if anyone would come. By the time Jan Bergman and I began setting up, the donations were pouring in. Four clothing racks and five tables were groaning with coats, jackets, dresses, sweaters, purses, and accessories.



We couldn't unpack boxes and bags fast enough. Surprisingly, many items were new, with tags still attached. We had pants, shirts, and all clothes stacked on the stairs and the furniture, with rows of boots and shoes on the floor. When the bar bell rang at 2:00, eager 'shoppers' crowded in to find just what they didn't know they

needed. Some took a break in the pub where the social committee provided refreshments and opinions about the fashion show. Everyone took something home, but not as much as they donated. Carole Lazar, Jan Bergman and I loaded our vehicles to distribute the mountains of clothes to charities in our community (Nightshift Street Ministry, Cinderella Project for graduating girls, Hospice Thrift Stores), where the donations were warmly received. By popular demand the event will be held again mid-January 2026. We will be asking for contributions to be delivered the day before the event so that we can properly sort and display items by category and gender.



### **ITALIAN NIGHT**

February 21<sup>st</sup>

This eagerly anticipated pub night was a huge success. 100 tickets sold out on the first day. Who could resist the enticement of fun, Italian charcuterie style appetizers, home-made lasagna, salad, garlic toast, and decadent cake, all for \$15.00!

The decor was primo, with many of the guests getting into the mood of things by wearing mustaches. Our local Greco's deli, supplied the appetizers and gift cards which were used for prizes. The bartenders did a brisk trade, including the appropriate Aperol Spritz cocktail. With emcee Karen Hall, the social committee went all out in making this a wonderful event.

---

## THE EARTH MOVED

by Carole Lazar

Shortly before 1:30 p.m. on February 21<sup>st</sup>, you probably felt a thump and shake. It really wasn't that dramatic. Initially some assumed that their upstairs neighbour had dropped something but soon the word was out; an earthquake, estimated to be magnitude 4.7, had struck on a remote part of the Sunshine Coast, at a depth of just one kilometre.

We were not impressed. The Pacific Coast is the most earthquake-prone region of Canada. It is a subduction zone and part of the ring of fire, a 40,000-kilometre-long horseshoe-shaped tectonic belt running around the edges of the Pacific Ocean which provides 90 percent of the world's earthquakes. In the offshore region to the west of Vancouver Island, more than 100 earthquakes of magnitude 5 or greater have occurred during the past 70 years. This one was nothing. It caused no damage and there wasn't even a tsunami warning. There was a second quake just a week or so later but most of us did not feel that one at all.

Now the Alaska earthquake of Easter Friday 1964 was a different matter. It measured 9.2 on the Richter scale. The massive tsunamis it caused affected coastal communities as far south as California and caused 131 deaths. Rosalba Lamont lived on 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Port Alberni at the time. The 9-foot-high waves that rushed down the Alberni Inlet and washed away 65 homes in that community had only come up as high as 5<sup>th</sup> Street where her best friend lived. Her friend's house remained standing but Rosalba remembers that it was awash in mud when the waters receded.

Forbidden Plateau, which is just west of Courtenay and Cambell River on Vancouver Island, was the epicentre of a 1946 earthquake that registered 7.3 on the Richter scale and was the strongest ever recorded on land in Canada. Chimneys all up and down the coast lost their lives to that one. When we bought our first little house in Maple Ridge, we were told that the zig-zagged crack that ran through the brickwork on the back of the fireplace showed that the house had been built prior to the earthquake of 1946. For Gladys Bittner it was more than a bit of lore. She experienced the event. Her family lived just off number 10 highway in Cloverdale and she

remembers her mother struggling to replace the lid on the wood-burning cook stove because it had suddenly started to shake. She yelled at Gladys and the other children to get out of the house. In the open field by their farm house, they watched as the violent tremors ripped their galvanized tin chimney into pieces and threw them into the yard.

It is probably good to have the occasional little shake up just to warn us that here on the West Coast we can never be complacent. Which reminds me, we need to be prepared at all times. Is your grab and go bag up to date and ready to go?

### GROAN:

Did you hear about how James Bond slept through an earthquake?  
He was shaken, not stirred.

## GOOD-BYE VAL

February 23<sup>rd</sup>

After ten years of service, Valerie Morris resigned from her duties as our resident on-call caretaker, problem solver, guest room scheduler, site inspector, etc., to retire to Parksville on Vancouver Island to be close to her mother and sister. Many residents came out to express their appreciation for her hard work. Council and the social committee provided beverages and refreshments. Val was always knowledgeable and courteous, especially during challenging times. She will be missed. Many thanks, Val. We all wish you good luck and happiness in this next adventure.



---

## THE WINDSOR REPORT

By Yvonne Brennan

When I was asked to write an article about the Windsor, I was stumped. Now, those who know me know that I am never at a loss for words. Just ask my book club.

So, I put a note on our bulletin board asking for input. One lady reminded me that the name Windsor was associated with the queen and we are all royalty.

Another lady here whose red car bit the dust and because of her age, didn't want to drive anymore is doing just fine. Her friends at the Windsor are always there for her, willing to support and help or take her anywhere.

Yes, the Windsor has many wonderful people who will volunteer and do anything to help people. Not only do they volunteer, but what they do is well thought out.

The Windsor was the first to collect bottles for refunding and was the first to set up an emergency response program that is especially well organized and maintained.

## ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION

March 21<sup>st</sup>

St. Paddy's Day was celebrated a few days after the fact this year, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the attendees. 90 tickets sold out within minutes on a Friday night.

The clubhouse was wonderfully decorated, and the guests were bedecked with silly hats, glasses, shirts, and green attire. The tables were completely decorated with shamrocks, centerpieces and even Lucky Charms, and Irish wishes. Shepherd's Pie, salad, and Apple Blossom desserts had everyone smiling. The bar was well stocked with



Guinness, Irish whiskey and whiskey sours. Barb Gregg served as the emcee. Ticket holders' names were drawn for Irish-themed presents. Yvonne Brennan and Bill Thorton-Trump sang Irish solos.

## COLD BLOODED CRITTERS

by Marilyn Hunter



As spring arrives, our red-eared slider turtles, koi and goldfish start to come out of hibernation (or brumation, in the case of turtles). Here's what to expect and how to help them transition smoothly:

### Red-Eared Slider Turtles

During the winter, red-eared sliders enter a state of brumation, slowing their metabolism and becoming inactive. As temperatures rise above 10-16°C, they'll begin to eat again. Please don't feed the turtles. They are well fed by our volunteers.

They will be offered easily digestible foods like leafy greens or pellets to ease digestion.

- **Basking Behavior:** They need access to warm basking spots to fully wake up and regulate their body temperature.
- **Water Quality Check:** By early spring, the fountain and biological filter will be up and running and they will have clean, well-oxygenated water ready for the new season.

### Koi and Goldfish

Koi, like turtles, slow down in cold weather, resting at the bottom of the pond. As temperatures warm up:

- **Swimming Resumes:** They will start moving around more, especially when water temperatures reach 10°C and above.
- **Gradual Feeding:** Their digestive systems are still adjusting and will be fed by our volunteers. They will start with wheat germ-based food, which is easier to digest, and feed only when the water is consistently above 10°C.
- **Water Quality Matters:** Spring is a time when ammonia and nitrite levels can rise. There will

be regular water testing and partial water changes that will help keep the environment safe.

Our turtle and koi pond has become a very special attraction and feature of Chelsea Gardens. It is run with assistance from Council, Social Committee and our abundance of volunteers. Brad Buckley has been faithfully attending to the pond and its' inhabitants. Now that snowbirds, Al and Gerry Dyck have returned from the south, they will be taking over feeding the fish and turtles for the season. Please be sure to visit and support our very special feature this year.

### **AGM**

Be sure to mark your calendars to attend our AGM, Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30, at Renew Church, 7328 144<sup>th</sup> Street, Surrey.

Chat with your neighbours to arrange car pools, or if you are unable to attend, provide a friend or neighbour with your proxy. This is your opportunity to vote for new council members, consider new resolutions and to have some input about the future at Chelsea Gardens.

### **HOW THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE SPENT OUR MONEY during the current fiscal year:**

*By Barb Gregg, Social Committee Treasurer*

Your involvement in our social events often generates a profit. Each year our social committee uses those funds to pay for extras for our community. This year they purchased:

3 banquet tables

Pool table, overhead lights, signage and accessories

Poolside plants

Soundbar for the Fireside Room TV and sound system

Tarps for the front gate for Halloween

Repairs to the complex benches shared with council.

### **FRIDAY NIGHTS ARE GAMES NIGHTS**

Friday pub nights are also games night.

There are numerous card games and board -

games that you can join or you can start another one. This is a great way to meet neighbours or to introduce yourself. Some pub nights even have live music.

### **A GREAT LOSS FOR CHELSEA**

It's often said that no one is irreplaceable, but I don't think that's true when it comes to losing Carole Lazar, who moved from Chelsea on April 1st, and that was no joke. In her 16 years here, Carole quietly and consistently helped in countless ways. Whether it was with legal problems, technical assistance, photographing events, serving on the social committee, volunteering for everything and anything: singing in the choir, delivering, editing and reporting for the newsletter for eleven years, serving as my total technical assistant for the past two years or picking up litter around the Newton Pond with me on Sunday mornings, her contributions have been appreciated.

Carole has returned to Vancouver Island to live in Comox.

She will be profoundly missed.

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

**Editor:** Carolyn Swayze

**Layout:** Ray Arnett

**Technical Assistance:** Carole Lazar

**Proof Readers:** Lorraine Myers and Terry Hyde

**Contributors:** Carole Lazar, Yvonne Brennan, Jan Bergman, Barb Gregg, Marilyn Hunter, Jeremy Ferland and Georgina Ooms.

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](mailto:carolynswayze@shaw.ca)

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

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