

Chelsea Gardens Newsletter



MISSING IN ACTION

Contributor Barb Parker

When Jodi and Tom Scott took an extended holiday without permission from their neighbours, they came home to find that Rocky Realtor and friends had taken over.



KENSINGTON BLOCK PARTY

Contributors Vesna Stefanovic and Brian Coates

Another wonderful summer party at Kensington!

We had a fantastic time gathering with neighbours, sharing laughs and great conversations. The delicious snacks—courtesy of the bottle run—were a big hit, and games like Jenga and cornhole brought out everyone's playful side. It was a fun-filled day and a lovely way to enjoy summer together. Hosted by Linda Hart and Maria Kouroupis.



POOL PARTY FUN

Contributor Georgina Ooms.

Our much-anticipated August 16th pool party took an unexpected turn when dark clouds, and the weather forced us to move the celebration indoors. But if anyone thought a little weather could dampen the fun, they were quickly proven wrong!

The party kicked off with plenty of energy, laughter, and music. While the pool stayed quiet, the dance floor was anything but; everyone joined in, dancing the night away right to the bitter end. Cindy Herbstreit organised the event, the social committee paid for the DJ, door prize gift cards were donated by Lori Dyck. We were also treated to the generous spread of food (pot luck), with something for every taste. From savoury bites to a mouth-watering selection of main dishes, no one went hungry. And when it came to desserts, the choices seemed endless. Cookies, cakes, and other sweet treats kept everyone coming back for “just one more”. A special shout-out to Wendy McHale and her delicious carrot cake.

While the weather kept us inside, it couldn't keep us from celebrating in style. It was the kind of night that reminded us that it's not about where we gather – it's about who we gather with.



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH.

Our annual summer windup corn feast night. See posters for details.

POOL VOLLEYBALL

*Contributor Zenon Jalbert
Photo Ken Thorburn*



Every Monday evening in the summer you can see a number of our water loving members enjoying pool volleyball, engaging in good natured trash-talk and on rare occasions even getting the ball over the net. Feel free to join in playing or, as many people do, come to watch. The sparkling pool is due, in part, to the acquisition of Robbie Robot; an underwater robo-vac.

KENSINGTON REPORT

Contributor Gladys Zemianski

The Kensington's claim to fame is our uniqueness in having split floors. This means that half of each floor is level with the elevator, while apartments in the other half are five steps lower. These lucky residents don't need a Stair Master to keep fit, but it is somewhat of a nuisance when bringing in groceries.

We live in a park-like setting, with lovely shaded green space, and benches. One of our residents is an amazing gardener who tends to our flower beds all season long. The Kensington boasts a very friendly atmosphere, with our Christmas and summer parties adding to our community spirit.

POND VOLUNTEERS

The critters in the koi pond are faithfully fed by Al & Gerry Dyck. Dorie White, often with her birds on her shoulder, vacuums and works on maintenance with Marilyn Hunter. Cathy Lockwood does much of the heavy lifting on the filters and pumps, while at every opportunity, Leah Hayton skims and sweeps.

SUMMERTIME STREET PARTY

*Contributor Gerry Helmer, with Margie Jalbert,
Photo by Mary Burton.*

For the past 3 years a few energetic souls (Marie Steen, Mary Burton, and Georgina Ooms), who live on the BEST STREET (Townhouses 163-202) decided we MUST GATHER! Kudos to all who made it happen this year!

On a fine sunny July day residents descended on TH 177 with wagons, walkers, wine and warm goodies to chat and mingle. Marie, our gracious host, cleared out her garage and set up several tables to receive the bounty of food.

Music was provided by Ashley. Games to improve



*Contributor Gerry Helmer, with Margie Jalbert,
Photo by Mary Burton*

our knowledge of the neighbours were presented by Mary and Georgina. We had to hone our interrogation skills to discover 'who did what' to complete the survey. We learned (among other salient details), that one of our neighbours could brag about attending a Stones Concert!! Like little kids we joyfully popped the displayed balloons to find the elusive prizes.

This year there were several new faces - even a newcomer, who had not yet taken up residence, attended. All received a warm Chelsea welcome. It was a fun, enlightening and educational gathering.

We highly recommend every street takes the time to gather and bond with each other – GOOD NEIGHBOURS ARE PRICELESS.

Remember to obtain approval from council well in advance.

CHELSEA GARDENS SPOTLIGHT

Contributor Marilyn Hunter

Caring for Our Turtle and Koi Pond: A Community Effort

Surrey, BC is home to many beautiful green spaces, but few are as peaceful—or as lively—as our own turtle and koi pond at Chelsea Gardens. Keeping it clean, balanced, and healthy is a year-round commitment that brings our community together. Here's how we do it!

WATER QUALITY: THE FOUNDATION OF A HEALTHY POND

Regular testing ensures a safe and stable environment for our fish and turtles.

- pH: 6.8–8.2
- Ammonia & Nitrite: 0 ppm (both are toxic)
- Nitrate: Keep under 40 ppm
- Temperature: 15–25°C for koi; turtles need warm basking spots



FILTERS, PUMPS & OXYGEN

Mechanical and biological filters keep water clear and clean. Aeration ensures oxygen stays high, even in warm weather.

- Backwash biological filters every 1–2 weeks
- Preserve biological filters with gentle rinses
- Consider UV clarifiers for algae control
- Fountains help oxygenate the pond



TURTLES: CUTE, CURIOUS... AND MESSY!

Our turtles bring personality and joy to the pond—but they also require a little extra care:

- They produce more waste—frequent water checks are vital
- Basking platforms are essential for their health
- Hardy plants must be secured to withstand their curious nature



SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

Spring

- Clean pond bottom
- Reinstall pumps & filters
- Replant aquatic vegetation

Summer

- Weekly water testing
- Responsible feeding (less is more)

FALL

- Reduce feeding as temperatures drop
- Clean filters more frequently

WINTER

- Use a de-icer or pond heater
- Stop feeding as turtles and koi go dormant

OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE. Thanks to a small team of dedicated Chelsea Gardens residents, our pond remains healthy and vibrant.



Every weekday morning at 9:00 any number of Chelsea residents can be found at the Newton Seniors Centre, enjoying coffee, tea, fresh scones, or muffins. "Coffee Klatch" is an old German term for a gathering for coffee and friendly gossip. And that's just what it is.

We are so fortunate to have this facility nearby. Self-serve coffee or tea is only \$1.50 and treats are very reasonably priced. Some residents head off walking briskly around the neighbourhood at 8:00, others leave the gate at 8:30 for a stroll around the complex or the Newton Pond, and others just wander over for a visit and to catch up on the news and views. All are welcome. Many check the menu for the day and return for lunch. Liver and onions is a favourite, as is the Beef Dip. Frozen meals and day-old baked goods can also be purchased at bargain prices. Buy a coffee card and a membership to support this community service.

THE JOKE'S ON US

When I first started editing this newsletter, I invited contributions of silly mistakes we'd made.

For example, one of our residents was industriously cleaning her new vehicle, including washing the floor mats. I engaged her in conversation as she toiled away. The noise of the recycle truck made it hard for us to hear each other, but we persevered. Then we discovered that the floor mats which had been drying against the blue box, had been taken away. Despite heroic efforts, they were never recovered.

On another occasion a surprise birthday party was to be held at a Newton Mexican restaurant. Good friends went ahead to decorate with balloons and banners.

It was the one time they were out with no cell phone, and were mystified when the birthday girl and guests didn't arrive. Oops, wrong Mexican restaurant!

Recently, one of our residents was out and about with a friend. When she parked, the message on the dash warned, "Replace battery". They came back to the car and had a tough time getting it started. The husband at home was alerted that a new battery was required--pronto. Off he went to Canadian Tire to purchase one from the automotive department. Oops, it was the little battery in the car fob which needed to be replaced.

If you have a silly story to share, please forward to me. I promise to preserve anonymity.

PROUD PARENTS

Lisa Brokop, the daughter of Chelsea residents Ann & Herb Brokop, will be inducted into the Canadian Western Music Hall of Fame. The event will take place September 12 in Kelowna.

CCMA President states "Lisa's unforgettable voice and artistry have helped shape the sound of Canadian country Music for Generations"

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

Barb Gregg, Barb Parker, Coreen Farquhar, Elaine Galley, Georgina Ooms, Jan Bergman, Karen Hall, Linda Hart, Sig Reid, Susie Glowsky, Terry Hyde, Vesna Stefanovic, Shirley Taylor, Diane Moore

Editor: Carolyn Swayze

Layout and technical assistance:

Zenon Jalbert

Proof Readers: Zenon Jalbert, Terry Hyde,

Contributors: Margy Jalbert, Gerry Helmer, Vesna Stefanovic, Georgina Ooms, Mary Burton, Gladys Zemianski

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