

Chelsea Gardens Newsletter



CORN DINNER

Summer festivities came to a close September 19 when the social committee hosted their annual corn dinner. As it seemed everyone was eager to get back together after the summer hiatus, tickets sold out within a few hours. Seating included tables on the pool deck, which enticed a few crows to dive bomb three residents with a nasty calling card, prompting them to go home for clean clothes.



This year the local corn was accompanied by giant bbq'd beef hotdogs, coleslaw and seasonally decorated cupcakes. Diane Moore had her first stint as our bar-tender by preparing white sangria. Coreen Farquhar made the table decorations. Thanks to the social committee, MC Charlie Sweet, and the many volunteers who pitched in.

RELIEF BAR HELP

We require occasional help at the bar for clubhouse events. We will provide training and pay for 'Serving It Right' certification. Please contact Diane Moore at

robhip5@hotmail.com."

NEWCOMERS' WELCOME

Twenty units changed hand with 27 new residents moving to Chelsea between Aug.1/24 and Sept. 1/25. They were treated to a reception in the Fireside Room Oct. 5. They were given the opportunity to ask questions, meet other newcomers, members of the Strata Council, Social Committee, and Crossroads Management.



Representatives from emergency preparedness, arts & crafts, choir, coffee, volleyball, snooker, RV lot, golf, web page /blog, cards, exercises, dance

and the workshop, were available to discuss activities Their photos were posted on the clubhouse bulletin board and can be found in the binder in the library. Please reach out to our new neighbours and encourage them to participate in events.

...*SPEAKING OF NEWCOMERS...*

MEMORIES OF AN IMMIGRANT

Contributor Vesna Stefanovic

Thirty-something years ago, I left my country during a civil war. I was always on the side of peace—but peace didn't exactly come with a road map, so I ended up here. Coming wasn't an easy decision, but staying turned out to be even more of an adventure. People were nice. Adjusting? Not so much.

The first question I got—*everywhere*: "Where are you from?" (a.k.a. code for *we hear that accent*). "I'm from Yugoslavia."

“Oh... are you a bad guy or a good guy?”

“Well, I’m Serbian, so... bad guy.”

Silence.

(That was my first lesson in North American small talk.)

Speaking of small talk—my first lunch break at the mall: Cashier: “How are you today?” Me: “I have a bit of a headache this morning.” Cashier: *[stares]* Apparently, the correct answer is “Fine, thanks!” not “Here’s my medical file.”

Another day, I was late because I slept through my alarm. I rushed to work and said, “Sorry, I was almost late this morning—I slept over, and my husband had to drive me.”

My coworker: “Ha ha, good husband, driving you after you slept over! I realized too late they thought I’d had a romantic night out... with someone other than my husband.

Meanwhile, my three-year-old son was learning English at lightning speed. One day, he begged for a Coke while we were driving. We stopped, bought it, and I handed it to him. But he just held it in his lap. I asked, “Why aren’t you drinking it? You said you were thirsty!” said, very seriously: “No. I’m not drinking and driving.”

And that’s how my kid became more Canadian than me in under three years.

SOUTH ASIAN DINNER

Another sell-out dinner was hosted by the social committee Oct. 17th, serving butter chicken, samosas, naan bread, and treats. It was great to see lovely saris and beautiful table decorations.



GOOD-HEARTED AND HARD WORKING

It was an easy thing for residents to put out their refundables for pickup. It was a much harder task for our volunteers to complete the nasty job of collecting, sorting and returning them. As a result, we donated \$1,500. to the Surrey Food Bank and \$1,000. to the local Meals on Wheels Program. As we don’t have a truck available during the winter months, this service has been discontinued.



A SAVINGS TIP FOR TOWN HOUSE RESIDENTS

Resident, Rob Fraser reports that when he advised his insurance provider that his unit has a new roof, he received a discount of \$10.00 per month. Thanks for this, Rob.

HALLOWEEN SILLINESS

We often see the canine residents of Chelsea taking their owners for a walk, especially at the end of the day when they congregate. In the spirit of the season this fall, the owners dressed themselves and their dogs in silly costumes and paraded them about the complex. Thanks so much for the giggles!



The entrance gate was transformed to an eerie scene with soup, hot chocolate and treats galore. for a record turn out



SPOOKY CONTINUES....

Once again, the clubhouse was transformed by autumn decorations and then Halloween spooky things.



GOOD LUCK POT LUCK

For the residents who attended the Friday, November 17th Pub Night Pot Luck, it was good luck indeed. The contributions were a wonderful mix of savouries, sweets, and treats. The social committee organised the event, provided extra salads, and beverages. There was so much food, people were encouraged to refill their plates! Barb Gregg was the MC.



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CHRISTMAS COFFEE, DEC 3

Christmas Coffee in the Clubhouse was a special treat courtesy of the Social Committee. Table decorations were made by Coreen Farquhar. The



Santa & Mrs Clause discussing the Naughty & Nice List

choir, led by Yvonne Brennan, serenaded the guests as they arrived to have their pictures taken. Coffee "sweeteners" were on offer and the goodies were delectable.

FASHIONS AND FUN

The 2025 Clothing Exchange was such a success and so much fun, that we have been asked for a repeat. We couldn't have imagined how many donations we would receive. It was overwhelming! This year please bring your items to the Fireside Room on Saturday, January 17 between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 It would be helpful if men's and women's clothes were in separate bags or boxes. No ragged or soiled items. Boots, shoes, purses, belts, scarves, and jewellery, as well as clothing will be welcome.

The Chelsea Boutique will open at **1:00 on Sunday, January 18**. The washrooms will be available as dressing rooms. There may be a prize or two for the best New Look. Any remaining items will be donated to charity services. We welcome your suggestions and assistance in delivering.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT DEC 7

The Christmas Concert was to commence at 2:00. By 1:00, the lobby was full of people eager to attend this holiday favourite. Soon the chairs were filled, the upstairs games room was at capacity, and the overflow watched the show on the Pub tv.

Produced by Marilyn Thomas, with the help of Georgina Ooms and many others, it was a great success. Zenon's drone footage of Chelsea one snowy day, a re-play of last year's A Canadian Christmas, and then the choir with several new members, including flautist Shanda Stirk got things off to a rousing start.



A piano duet medley by June Walker and Patricia Lynne, a lovely accordion solo by Cheryl Boehr, and a Christmas in Saskatchewan monologue by Zenon Jalbert, enriched this wonderful variety show. The choir, under the direction of Yvonne Brennan was in fine voice, and My Favourite Things (Chelsea style) was a comedic hit. The grand finale, Let it Snow, featuring the Chelsea Dancers, created and choreographed by Margy Jalbert, was the highlight of the program, which many said was the best ever. \$1,560. was donated in support of Surrey-North Delta Meals on Wheels for needy senior recipients.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

The 2025 wind up dance party was well attended with many yet to be broken resolutions made.



UGLY SWEATER PARTY DEC 19

This favourite seasonal event was very well attended with many goofy get-ups. The best (or the ugliest), modeled by Velma Derksen took first prize. A Christmas trivia contest challenged teams of five, rum and eggnog, Mistletoe Margarita, and pizza had everyone in good spirits. \$400. was raised to benefit Canuck Place Children's Hospice.



Cliff Glowsky (2nd ugliest)

POLAR BEAR SWIM

The fearless swimmers who braved the frigid 85' temperature were treated to mimosas and a festive breakfast.



CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG DEC 22

The weather behaved nicely for the carolers following the truck bedecked with lights playing carols. Santa led the way, stopping to visit shut-ins, and handing out treats. The carolers were met in the Fireside Room with hot chocolate, apple cider, and baked goodies. Pianist June Walker and Yvonne Brennan led the singing.



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

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

www.chelseatoday.org