

Chelsea Gardens Newsletter



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:30 at Renew Church, 7328 - 144 Street. Registration begins at 6:00. There will be voting for new strata council members, resolutions, and bylaws. Ride-sharing is encouraged.

WINTERFEST

Never mind that 2026 was a snow-free year. The Social Committee wanted us to have a little more fun in January. Once again tickets sold out quickly. A winter-themed trivia contest, seasonal decorations by the uber talented Coreen Farguhar, bowls of chili, cheese croissants, winter ale and warm apple cider martinis resulted in a very nice Friday Pub night.



DANCING IN THE FIRESIDE LOUNGE

The last pub night of the month ended with Dance the Night Away. Well at least until 10:00. Thanks to all who made this happen.



JANUARY DOLDRUMS? NOT AT CHELSEA! OUT WITH THE OLD

The second annual Chelsea Gardens Clothing Exchange brightened January when residents cleared out their closets to donate mountains of clothing, footwear, purses, lingerie, bathing suits, scarves, jewellery, and even iPads and phones. We thought that last year's bounty meant that there wouldn't be much this year. How wrong we were! Five racks were soon filled to capacity, as were multiple tables, the hearth, and even the stairs. Volunteers Shirley Lingo, Gail Carter, and Lynne Matkovic pitched in to spend hours sorting, folding, hanging, and organizing a wonderful array of goods. Elaine Galley, assisted by Diane Moore, poured refreshments at the bar while "shoppers" hunted for treasures and modeled their free finds. Numerous residents did their part by bagging the remaining items to deliver to charities of their choosing. Hospice thrift shops, The Nightshift Ministry, women's shelters and other recipients welcomed the merchandise. The event was organised by Jan Bergman and Carolyn Swayze, with the generous support of the Social Committee.

SUNDAY NIGHT MOVIE SERIES

Ashley Orton hosted a special Sunday night movie series. Residents were able to watch the three Downton Abbey films in the comfort of the Fireside Lounge.



MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC..

Contributed by Gerry Helmer

Can any one of us claim that we led a band on our birthday? One of our lucky residents Harry Peterson can now voice that as his 'claim to fame'. Harry is the conductor of an exceptionally talented, award-winning group: The Vancouver Traveling Band who travelled from all over the lower mainland to play in his garage on a dreary, rainy Saturday. A few

We were transported on a resounding journey with tunes in a medley of snippets of familiar tunes from all over the globe. From Nolene on the drums to the young, exuberant tuba player each member enthusiastically played their part.

The group's first performance was at Merritt, BC in 2005 at the Santa Parade. They range in ages from teens to elderly and some band members are also family members. The band has travelled to Holland and China and have performed locally from Abbotsford, Maple Ridge, Penticton and this year Ladner (6 June 2026). We had trouble keeping our feet still and joined Harry as he danced to the finale – their theme song – “Rock Around the Clock”.

It was over much too soon but these musical masters brought waves of energetic warmth to our gloomy, rainy afternoon. The band does not charge for their performances and encourages requests to play. We have enjoyed their music at a couple of 1 July celebrations. We look forward to their next visit to Chelsea Gardens. Many thanks to you Harry and your Extraordinary Band!!!



Chelsea residents were treated to a trumpet solo by Chris with “The Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B”. “O’Canada” played by any band grabs attention but their version managed to soften the commanding melody with beautiful trills.

Check out their website:
<http://vancouver-traveling-band.com>

SPRING THINGS

Spring seemed to come early this year. The goldfish and Koi were doing laps around the pond during the first week of February. One night I was awakened when my big cat, Theo, suddenly went on the rampage, crashing through the house. I found him pressed against the patio door, face-to-face with a bright-eyed raccoon. The critters didn't seem to know what to make of each other. Earlier that week, I had found the patio screen door open about six inches. I suspected that a prowler had tried to open the door, which was locked. However, I now realised that Rocky or Rockette Raccoon was the culprit. My late husband sometimes said that I got my exercise jumping to conclusions. I'd done it again! Keep in mind that raccoons are part of the bear family with powerful claws. They can harm small pets. And, they also are adept at catching fish. The pair of Mallard ducks have returned to nest and mate near the stream. I believe this is the fifth year, they have courted here



BUSIER THAN EVER SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Once again, the social committee and a great team of volunteers pitched in to spread fun and food to brighten our lives and raise a bit of money (see list below).

ITALIAN NIGHT FEBRUARY 21

The clubhouse was bedecked in the national colours of Italy on February 21st for a sold-out Italian dinner event. Someone even found a vintage Chianti bottle. The menu included cannelloni, salad, garlic bread and a decadent dessert.



SAKURA NO YURO

As Terry Hyde is stepping back from her 14 years of service on the social committee, 🧡 she chose a wonderful spring theme for her final event on March 20th. Sakura, cherry blossom dinner, was outstanding in every way. Many of the attendees wore pink or Japanese style clothing. The exquisite decorations crafted by Coreen Farquhar were incredible. The bento box dinner was a great success, and a tremendous amount of work. The lovely affair was greatly appreciated.



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.....

by Jan Bergman

Chelsea welcomed a Personal Image Consultant, Kimberly Law, who bore a striking resemblance to a resident who likes to dress up. She gave aging gracefully with style and colour advice to 30 youngish women, who came to the Sunday afternoon event in the Fireside Lounge, ready to learn. There they were welcomed by a glass of bubbles, courtesy of the social committee. Fashion mistakes were demonstrated, and tips on colours, contrast, and confidence were among the topics covered. The prize draws for copies of Image Power went to lucky participants. All had fun, with the only grumble heard was 'no elastic waistbands'.

WHERE DID THE MONEY GO?

The many events hosted by the social committee generated nearly \$14,000, which went toward various items, including:

Replacement keys	\$128.66
Baby gate to prevent visiting children from going upstairs	\$62.82
Chairs for the Fireside Room	\$7,393.00
Tables for the Fireside Room	\$1,100.92
Planters	\$698.28
Cushions	\$134.36
Library Table,	\$4,400.00
Scotch guard	\$63.35
Table covers	\$62.65
Roasters	\$358.36
Chairs for the Poker Table	\$1,621.78

SAVE THE DATES

- April 12 Volunteer Appreciation
- April 18 – Hawaiian Dinner
- April 22 – AGM
- April 24 – Dance in the Pub, BYOB

OUR CRANKY PEDESTRIAN GATES

The Windsor and Main entrance pedestrian gates (yes - these aren't called man gates anymore) are showing their age and just being a bit cranky. Despite the efforts of our crack technical team these two gates just refuse to work at those odd times. Have patience and a much-deserved retirement is in store for the FOB components of these gates, if approved at the AGM.



- Why was the frog late to work on April Fools' Day? His car got toad.
- What do you call a group of bunnies hopping away from you? A receding hareline.
- Why can't you trust spring trees? Because they're shady.
- Did you hear about the guy who drank invisible ink as an April Fools' prank? He's at the doctor waiting to be seen.

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