

Chelsea Gardens Newsletter



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

Georgina Ooms

April 1 was a wonderful Sunday afternoon at Chelsea Gardens as we gathered to celebrate the many amazing volunteers who help keep our community thriving all year round. From organizing events to tending gardens and the fishpond, hosting coffee mornings, welcoming newcomers, managing irrigation and card games, (just to name a few) and everything in between – our volunteers truly do it all, and somehow make it look easy.

The social committee showed their appreciation with a delightful spread of wine, sandwiches, charcuterie boards, fruit, vegetables, and sweets, because nothing says “thank you” quite like good company and a few tasty treats. To add to the fun, door prizes were won by lucky attendees. Past President of the social committee, Terry Hyde, was honored for her many years of service.

A big round of applause, for all of those who generously give their time and energy. Chelsea Gardens simply wouldn't be the same without you.



ALOHA and MAHALO

It was Tacky Tourist Night at the Hawaiian Dinner Saturday April 18. And boy, were there some tacky sights! But first, those attending were greeted by our own ukelele band playing as Roxanne Worden danced a graceful hula.

Many men donned their ugliest socks with sandals, lots of fanny packs were in view, cameras, binoculars, and leis were hanging over crazily coloured shirts and dresses. The contestants paraded through the clubhouse to cheers and jeers. The knockout costume prize was worn by Vivian Anderson flaunting her coconut knockers, black wig and ridiculous accessories, Tina Bernardo pink water wings, white sunscreen and horrible clothes, took second place, while

Yvonne Brennan, our fashionista, wearing awful capris, flip flops, swim goggles and a beach towel, was awarded third prize. Evelyn Baillie wearing wind-chimes and other nonsensical

accessories deserved honourable mention.

The dinner was one of the best ever.

Hawaiian meatballs

and flavourful rice, sweet Hawaiian rolls, a salad bar with tropical trimmings, and for dessert, a nostalgic ambrosia salad with chocolate coconut candy bar.

The clubhouse and table decorations were outstanding.



GEETINGS FROM COMOX

Carole Lazar

From Carolyn's reports and the postings on your Facebook page I see that there have been a lot of changes at Chelsea since I moved away last April. The new residents reading this are probably wondering who the heck I am. I regret that I can't teleport myself back for one of those after-dinner walks where we used to meet and chat with so many of our neighbours.

Much as I loved Chelsea, when I lost my husband Dan, I just wanted to come home and home for me was the Comox Valley. I am not a city girl. I am an old lady who really loves the ocean, mountains and the familiar green of Douglas fir and cedar forests. I knew the perfect spot and it just so happened that they had just finished building a large seniors' living complex there when I had left the valley back in 2009. I immediately applied to the Comox Berwick and took the first suite they had available.

People ask about what it's like moving into a seniors' residence. This one is a really good fit for me but that is more a result of good luck than good management. I was so intent on the location I did not pay much attention to the facility itself. I knew I would have a roof over my head and that they would feed me. There is a library a block away and a variety of beautiful walks within a kilometre's radius. What more could I want? Though this time last year I wouldn't have been able to answer that question, I have all sorts of ideas about it now.

I could write about the things someone contemplating such a move should consider but as a past editor of this newsletter, I know I am out of space so maybe next edition?



GOLFERS

2026 Season (Apr-Sept)

Anyone in Chelsea Gardens interested in joining an already established golf group Thursday mornings? We are looking to expand our group. Please call to register or if you have any questions.

Cathy 604 506-216 or email
clockwood1121@gmail.com



Willows 9 - 9 Holes

7700 168th Street, Surrey

Thursday mornings, 8:03, 8:12, 8:21 & 8:30

Par 3, 4 & 5's

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Beginning in September. Tuesday night crib in the Fireside Room. Watch for details. Contact Bess Ribero.

ANNUAL VISITORS



For the past four or five years, a pair of mallard ducks have come to nest and breed in our gardens. This year was different. They came, they quacked, they billed and cooed, but as time passed, no duckling appeared. We wondered if crows or raccoons took the eggs. The empty nesters paddled sadly around the koi pond. Finally, late in the season, babies were spotted--a second hatch! Just like last year the babies followed their mother into the koi pond and were unable to get out. With help from Cathy Lockwood, they were netted and sent on their way. We hope they made it safely over to the Newton Pond.

HELP WHEN HELP IS NEEDED-- IMPORTANT!!

One morning as I was driving out, a fire truck came down my street. I pulled over to let it pass. When I returned from my errand, I was greeted by neighbours who advised that the fire truck had parked at my townhouse and firefighters had been inside. A resident had called emergency services because of a fall and a stove fire. They were about to break down the door to gain access, when luckily my good neighbour came over with my door key. They found nothing but a curious cat inside. Turned out that a condo resident had called for help, saying that she lived in Chelsea Gardens in a certain unit, which happened to be the number of my town house. Luckily a condo neighbour had her key, turned off the stove and let the firefighters in. What a close call! A month or so later I was home, expecting a visitor, so my door was not locked. I heard it open and someone called out "Emergency Services!" I thought it was my expected visitor pranking me. I realised that the call had come from the same condo resident and directed them to the right address. Time is essential in a crisis. Failing to provide your location could result in loss of life, fire or flood damage. It's understandable that in an emergency the caller may not be thinking clearly, and precious time could be lost. Please ensure that the office and several of your neighbours have your key or lock code and keep your address close to your phone. No one wants their door broken down or to be awakened by emergency responders. Most importantly, we want residents to receive help as soon as possible.

Sincere thanks to Bob Hurley and Charlie Sweet who took on the task of preparing Notices for condo residents to keep by their phone with their specific address and instructions. They have also posted Notices in the mail rooms.

THE FIFTIES

Many Chelsea residents love to play dress-up. A fifties themed Pizza Night brought out the silly side, even though some of us were in diapers in the 1950s. Poodle skirts, bobby socks, pretty neckerchiefs, cinch belts, and crinolines were on display, as were rolled up jeans, rhinestones and fake tattoos. One of the most authentic originals, were Bill and Jo Troughton, wearing their own clothes from that era--turned up collars, chains, duck tail, and even a street gang vest. Sadly, they missed the photographer. With any luck, they'll make a return appearance. We even saw a handsome dude with a white sports coat and a pink carnation!

The pizza was great, the decorations were fun, the weather was fine, allowing many to sit outside, and the bar was busy.



“ACCESS GRANTED”

You probably heard this greeting when using our new access system or “*Welcome, please come in*” as you enter a condo front door. Yes, the new access system is finally installed.

So - how did we get in contact with 395 units to discuss the new system and distribute the FOBs? Emergency Preparedness to the rescue: Doug organised the floor/building and zone captains to contact everyone in their area about appointment times to receive their FOBs. Our next group of volunteers aided in updating emergency contact information and FOB purchases. Lastly, the techies, embracing their inner nerd, and activating over 900 FOBs. Thanks so much to all our volunteers, this couldn't have happened without you.

Face recognition, Bluetooth, new app, QR codes, adding friends, I am positive there were no issues whatsoever (RIGHT!!!) It will take a little time and patience to get used to the new system but you can still use your FOBs like you did in the past.

One nice feature is the face recognition at the front vehicle gate, we don't need to press the button on the FOB, (hopefully this will work at night).

If you get a call from the front gate at night you may see a Nova Scotia phone number (1-902-701-9367) so don't hang up – it could be Amazon delivering your 6 - foot wicker Moosehead!

OH CANADA! and the CHELSEA DERBY



Canada Day 2026 was a true celebration. The weather could not have been better--no precipitation, no wind, enough cloud cover to prevent overheating. The plaza in front of the club house was festooned with flags and banners. The highlight was the Chelsea Derby in which six hobby horse teams competed to race to the finish line. MC Karen Hall tried her best to keep the rowdy crowd under control.



Thanks to the many volunteers who set up the tents, the bar, the seating and decorations, and to the social committee who prepared a perfect dinner of pulled pork on a bun and salads. The committee is taking a well-deserved summer holiday.

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, Susie Glowsky, Vesna Stefanovic, Shirley Taylor, Diane Moore

Editor: Carolyn Swayze

Layout and technical assistance:

Zenon Jalbert

Proof Readers: Zenon Jalbert, Elaine Galley

Contributors: Vesna Stefanovic, Cathy Lockwood, Georgina Ooms, Zenon Jalbert

If you have any suggestions, or would like to 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