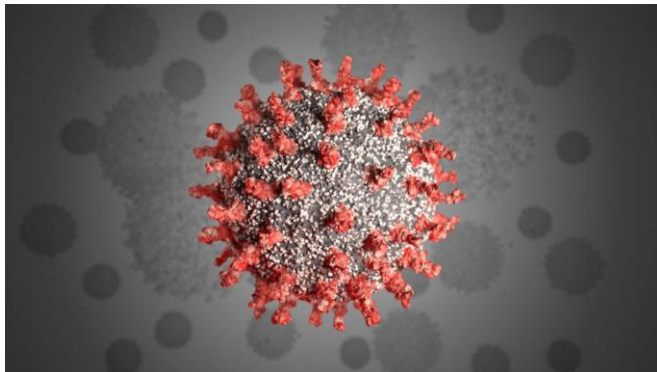


Chelsea Gardens Newsletter



COVID 19 AND US.

At end of January it was just a faint rumbling on the horizon. We were told there was a new virus that was taking its toll in Wuhan, China. They have the worst luck over there. Remember the SARS epidemic in 2003? Maybe not. It never became much of a problem for us in Canada. Too bad the Chinese have been hit again, we clucked sympathetically. Over the next couple of weeks as the virus spread throughout China, those of us who had planned Asian trips cancelled them. We were distressed to hear that a Chelsea family were among those on the Diamond Princess who were quarantined. We worried about them but still it seemed to us to be an Asian problem.



It was early February when we had our first cases in B.C. and a month later that B.C. recorded its first case that could not be directly traced to Asian contacts. The distant threat was becoming an immediate one. We were getting nervous. A movie night was cancelled. That same week we received word that the spring dinner which had been scheduled for March 28th was cancelled. The

Hymnspiration set for March 29th was postponed. We were told there would be no snack trays at pub night. Should we continue with our weekly coffee? That decision was taken out of our hands when on Tuesday, March 17th, we received notice that the clubhouse had been closed and that all of the activities that would normally occur there had been cancelled.

Outside our gates, restaurants, bars and hair and nail salons were closed. Strict rules were put in place for other businesses. Though they were voluntary, we too had rules to follow. Stay home, wash your hands, don't touch your face and finally, if you must go out, stay two metres away from others. So how is our community life here at Chelsea surviving in these unusual times? Well we have proven to be an adaptable lot.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION:

We had expected to have our spring newsletter finished and ready for distribution on April 15th and we certainly could have done that but as the level of concern increased we realized that many of our residents would not much appreciate having a paper that had been handled by who knows how many people thrust through their door. We decided then to forgo our spring edition and maybe have a larger one come July 15th. At that point we still thought our July 1st celebration might go ahead.

Now, with no immediate end in sight for either the threat or the restrictions we too have had to adapt. You will have noticed there was no door-to-door delivery of this edition and we will, until the threat has passed, simply leave the newsletters on the counter in the

mailroom or in the entrance of the apartment buildings to be picked up by those who wish to read them. This edition is off schedule and until things return to normal, no attempt will be made to commit to particular publication dates. Instead, we will gather material and accept contributions until we have enough to fill an edition and then have one printed. It will be a surprise!

So for now, let's look back to January and the way we were.

A TASTE OF ASIA

Anyone living in the greater Vancouver area could not have missed the fact that January 25th was the Chinese New Years. What many probably didn't know though was that it was also New Years for those of our neighbours whose families hale from Japan, Korea and Vietnam since these countries too use a lunar calendar.

At Chelsea we like to be inclusive so this year our big January event featured a selection of



foods from several Asian countries.

The meal presented included sushi, rice and meatballs, namasu salad, chicken satay, a banana rice cake wrapped in coconut leaf and spring rolls. Mandarin oranges doubled as table decorations and a dessert and chai tea was served as a beverage. It was a tasty meal but did you know that each dish was chosen for its special significance?

MANDARIN ORANGES: round fruits are eaten to encourage family unity. Oranges and tangerines are especially popular because their golden color is believed to attract wealth, success and good luck. **SPRING ROLLS** are

a Cantonese dim sum dish. They are named after the Spring Festival. The golden color of the fried spring rolls represents gold bars which, of course, symbolize wealth. The bean sprouts used in the filling, literally mean to sprout "to your heart's content" so they provide a positive start to the new year

NAMASU SALAD: red and white are considered celebratory colors in Japan. The combination of orange and white colors in this salad represents happiness.

BANANA RICE CAKE WRAPPED IN COCONUT LEAF: The banana represents offering and a wish for education and brilliance at work/ school. The sticky rice represents an increase in prosperity for every year and the coconut promotes togetherness

PORK MEAT BALLS represent reunion, strength and abundant blessing and **RICE** represents fertility, luck, and wealth.

CHICKEN SATAY represents prosperity, togetherness of the family and joy (If we had served you a chicken with its head, tail and feet intact, that would symbolize completeness of family.)

SUSHI: A long time tradition, while eating certain types of sushi, is to throw soybeans out of the door while shouting "demons get out, luck come in."

CHAI TEA: As a sign of respect, in Chinese society, the younger generation offers tea to their honoured elders.

NOODLES: No, we didn't serve those and that was not an oversight. Because noodles represent long life, the longer the noodle, the longer the life expectancy. So if you're in China and you get a plate of ziti instead of the yi mein you ordered, somebody really doesn't like you. Had we served noodles, we would have had to be sure not to break any or we'd have been offering misfortune to our guests. We didn't want to chance it!

(The significance of these food choices are fun facts that were provided by Terry Hyde.)

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION AGAIN:

It snowed during the night on January 15th. A special thanks to Mary Gawle, Barb Parker, Carolyn Swayze, Ron Plankeel and Elaine Galley who braved the dump of fresh snow on that morning to deliver our newsletter to the townhouses.



Glen Petersen was out early to shovel his driveway and that of neighbour, Alice Venema. Is it any wonder many Chelsea residents chose to avoid all this and head south?

CELEBRATING A 2019 HOLIDAY

We've all had to abandon most of the holiday plans we had for 2020 and it may be some years before we will get up the nerve to try cruising again, so we are glad that some of our neighbours were able to enjoy a good time at sea before the lockdown came....not that Dot Munsie, Ray Arnett, Milt Jones and Elaine Scott's trip to Hawaii didn't involve a few glitches.

CRUISING TIPS & STORIES

by Dot Munsie

The day has arrived; our suitcases are packed.

We have checked our lists and are sure we have everything: travel documents, passports, medications, money and credit cards. We get up early and check our lists again.

Our ride to the ship has arrived. We are all excited – the day to leave is here! We arrive at the “Sails” and our ship is at the dock. They take our luggage and we proceed to customs to get our passports checked. Mine is okay, but my sailing partner, Ray's is not. He has brought a very old (1990) passport. Expired! We are taken to the customs office holding area.

A very nice, understanding U.S. customs officer does some phone checking and extra paperwork and after 45 minutes we are good to board the ship and are on our way to Hawaii. (I think the photocopy I had of Ray's current passport helped.)

All's well that ends well!!



Cruise is great, meals good and so much to choose from! Entertainment enjoyable.

Side trips are good – except for one. We want to go to Waikiki beach. The driver says we will get to the beach. Instead we see a pearl factory and places to shop – no beach.

Highlights of the trip: A helicopter tour of Kilauea Volcano and Germaine's Luau... the best luau that I have ever been to. The food and entertainment are excellent.

Alas, the trip is over, and we are waiting to disembark. Customs officers look at our declarations and tell all four of us to go into their inspection room. My sister, Elaine is questioned about her declaration. The customs officers check everything in her two suitcases. Elaine has to produce receipts for

all purchases. One officer repacks the suitcase – the other doesn't.

We're finally through and cleared to disembark.

Alas, our reserved transportation home has left because we were so long getting through customs. A phone call to Jay. He is dropping off another Chelsea group and will pick us up in about half an hour. A short distance from the terminal we have to change vans but then we're finally on our way home to Chelsea Gardens.

All's well that ends well.

P.S. Travel Tip: Check your passport!

INSTAGRAM MOMENTS:

Not all our good times can be captured in action shots or make for entertaining stories. That doesn't make them any less enjoyable. This Valentine's Day we had a beef dip dinner and David Bremner made up a trivia contest to mark the occasion. Shrove Tuesday was celebrated in style with the traditional pancake dinner. Had the virus not interrupted the fun, we would have had an open bar and appetiser potluck in March and a communal ham dinner in April. I think this is the kind of variety Gladys Bittner had in mind when she wrote to us.

ACCOLADES FOR OUR SOCIAL COMMITTEE...

by Gladys Bittner
Chelsea Gardens residents are so very fortunate to have had many years of excellent social committee members who have given freely of their time and effort to plan and produce a wide variety of activities and dinners to keep our residents engaged and enjoying life.

Many residents not on the committees, help out whenever and wherever they can, by serving, decorating, doing clean-up; they do so willingly whether they are asked, or just offer to help.

Our Newsletter is an opportune place to thank our present committee for a year full of a variety of events. The members have added events - such as Asian Night, Mexican Pool

Party, Grandparents Pool Day, to our regular favourites, like Oktoberfest, and Ugly Sweater Night. For each of these events, the committee has strived to produce fun and enjoyable decorations that create wonderful settings to go with an excellent variety of foods. They have also worked at streamlining the many jobs that it takes to put on these events.

As a committee you all are greatly appreciated, and I know I speak for many when I say we owe you huge thank you, for all you do, to encourage Chelsea residents to stay socially active and enjoy living in this complex.

IT'S AN ILL WIND THAT BLOWS NO GOOD:

What's a guy to do when vacation plans are scrapped and the honey-do list is finished? Well fortunately, there was the winter growth of algae and moss on the aggregate walkways to keep some of them busy. They scrubbed down the walkways on the common property and had so much fun doing that they thought they would offer to do private driveways and patios. There was no shortage of customers. The sign-up sheet they posted in the mail room filled quickly.



Zenon Jalbert and Ron Plankeel smartening up the driveway at the Jones/Swayze residence.

Over the course of the next week or two, Bob Hyde, Robert Fraser, Ron Plankeel, Ken Thorburn and Zenon Jalbert power washed the concrete at 38 townhouses. Residents paid them a total of \$1,460.00 for their

services. This they donated to the Surrey Food Bank. At this time when even more families than usual are experiencing financial distress, I am sure the money was much appreciated.

REPORTING UNAUTHORIZED GUESTS!

In the minutes of council's April meeting residents were advised that they should not be entertaining any visitors, including family. So who invited this lot?



They dropped in to visit our water feature on May 27th and many residents came by to take a look at the little ones as they climbed up the rocks and then skidded or jumped back into lower pools. There were lots of cameras in evidence but then we all wandered off thinking the story was over. Were we ever wrong! I will let Margy Jalbert take over from here.

WHY DID THE DUCKS CROSS THE ROAD?

An hour and a half or so after seeing the ducks in our water feature, Carol Greenidge and I stopped and were visiting Mary Gawle in front of her driveway at townhouse #128. We looked up the road to see the duck family slowly, slowly waddling their way west. They went through several yards. We helped to keep the family together as there was a little pokey one who seemed to be behind. He was so cute and seemed to be going door to door trying to find his mamma. We had to pick him

up and return him to the bunch. You wouldn't believe how soft he was!!!!

They were heading in the direction of the road, cutting through yards as they went, so I asked Mary to get her fob so we could help them cross the road. Carol, Mary and I also grabbed beach towels to help guide and keep them together.

We waited till mamma and babies were close to the road before we stopped traffic. Mary started across 138th, following the family. One car was coming quickly so I waved my beach towel to stop it, as the ducks weren't about to stop! The car I stopped ended up being a police car! The officer put on his flashing emergency lights, and that I'm sure helped stop traffic going the other direction. (It had nothing to do with us crazy ladies in the middle of the street.)

The family made it to the other side---all but one. He must have been the runt... I tried to shoo him with my towel, but he was not cooperating quickly enough, so I picked him up and got him back with the group.

They headed down the grassy slope, toward the Newton ponds, while we walked back across the road where the traffic was still stopped and waiting. The police and others yelled a grand thank you out their windows accompanied by their appreciative horn-honking for our good deed. I felt honoured to be part of the little duckies' adventure!

The answer to the question?.... To get to the other side, obviously!

The Chelsea Gardens Newsletter is sponsored by

The Chelsea Gardens Social Committee

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If you have any suggestions, or would like to submit ideas, articles or photos for future newsletters, contact Carole at lazarc@shaw.ca. Our submission guidelines and an online version of this newsletter, in colour, can be found at ChelseaToday.org

IT WILL NEVER BE THE SAME!

So said some despairing residents when they found that the clubhouse was closed and our many social events were cancelled. But Chelsea has always been known for its community spirit and I can assure our readers that that lives on. So do the problems with blocked drain pipes, buried water shut off valves and malfunctioning or missing sprinkler heads. It took some doing to gather our sprinkler crew up for a group shot since they were spread out working in pairs at different locations along the street but they were all out there working on our problem spots.



Jim Parker, Fred Halcro, Murray Hill, Ron Plankeel, Norm Reid and Ed Brennan pose with the cart. We are missing a couple of workers who wouldn't fit into the shot but we caught up with them later.



Diane Brugger, shown to the left, tell me that she and Fred are the diggers.

WHAT ABOUT THE SOCIAL LIFE?

Well it's not as easy as it was but friendships survive. Many of our conversations these



days take place from opposite sides of the road. This afternoon, Renate Cheetham had brought her lawn chair over to sit 8 feet from Kay Buckley.

Sylvia Ostrowercha and neighbour, Barbara Monasch share a driveway visit. They are taking no chances. That's way more than six feet ladies!



Elaine Saunders, always the perfect hostess, invited friend Elsie Scully over for a garage visit. (Note the floral centrepiece.) Now that's class!



The benches in front of the Windsor are a popular place to meet. Joyce Doyle and Lucie Walker were enjoying a happy hour meet up when our photographer strolled by.



MISSING PUB NIGHT?

You aren't alone and around 4:00 PM on any Friday when the weather is good, we find smaller groups meeting a glass or two of wine. Thanks to the wonderful hostesses who swab down the furniture, arrange it with appropriate spacing and spoon out nut mixes into individual dishes for their guests.



Anne Gorrill, Dave and Lois Pritchard, Elaine Saunders and Simone Tait, all keeping their distance.

That same Friday, Ron Plankeel and Elaine Galley had friends over. Barb Gregg, Gladys Bittner and Saroj Manhas had to keep their voices up as they talked to Ron and Elaine who were about as close as our photographer.



Not wanting to miss out on this Friday afternoon Chelsea tradition, the under 35 group were getting together in Scott McFadyen and Diane Moore's driveway.



Diane, Cindy Herbstreit and Jack DeVries are saving a chair for Kelly Garland. He gets to sit next to Cindy because they live together.

SAME STORM, DIFFERENT BOATS.

I have borrowed this heading. It is one making the rounds on the Internet right now and it is something we all need to remember. Not all of our residents have outdoor spaces they can access for social contact. (Our Health Authority has said outdoor contacts are safest.) Those on the upper floors of the condos find themselves with limited options as do upper floor townhouse dwellers. Please remember that and try to give them first chance at the seating that is available on our common property. Many of them might also appreciate an invitation to come for a visit on your patio or driveway so keep them in mind.

CHELSEA RESIDENTS SUPPORT OUR HEALTH CARE HEROES.

It was around the end of March that across the country, people began taking to their front yards or balconies at 7:00 each evening to bang pots, ring bells, hoot, whistle and generally make a great deal of noise to show their appreciation for all the health-care workers who were giving up their family life and putting their own lives on the line to provide care for those stricken by the Covid-19 virus.



Patti Sater
and Bob
Greenwood



Wayne and Mary Burton



Myrna Skazel and Velma Derksen



Cherith Johnson, David Bremner and
Mike Williams.

These are just a few of the 86 pictures that Barb Gregg took the week of April 6th to 10th. They are online and if you have signed up for notifications on the ChelseaToday website you may already have seen them. This was also the week that Jack Devries video taped our noisy tribute. He put it into movie formatting and it too is posted online. Again, if you are registered for ChelseaToday, you would have been given a link in one of the blog postings. Not registered but you'd still like to see the picture and the video? The web addresses are too long to be readily copied but if you drop me a line at lazarc@shaw.ca I will send you the link in an e-mail.