

# CHELSEA GARDENS

## Newsletter

AUTUMN 2021

### BURNT OUT!

When the first Covid restrictions were put in place back in April of 2020, many of us took to our kitchens to bake and try out some new recipes. By August 2021 that was getting old and we were

all looking for a night off from cooking and were happy to welcome not one but THREE food trucks to our front entry-way.

Decisions, decisions. What to have... wings, burgers, poutine, perogies, schnitzel, cabbage rolls? The choices seemed endless. And that was all before we even got to the dessert provided by the Slavic Rolls truck. This vendor stationed herself in front of the Wings and Perogies truck to make sure residents were properly tempted. At least a few of us avoided the hard decisions by taking bit of everything.



There was no way that we could eat all that but what the heck. It meant we didn't have to cook for the next three days. There was another stretch of hot weather coming so who would want to be in the kitchen anyway?

### REALLY BURNT OUT!

In the late afternoon on August 3rd, fire broke out in the Canterbury Green apartments across the street from our front gates. We joined the residents of that complex and watched in horror as the flames resisted the efforts of the multiple fire trucks that filled the street. Before it could be extinguished the fire had destroyed the east end of the building. One can only imagine the smoke and water damage to other units.

As Chelsea residents, we would like to give a collective thanks to those in our midst who marshalled the forces and brought out seating and water or who responded to the other needs of those who had been evacuated. You made us all look like such good neighbours.

### THIEVES IN OUR MIDST!

Theft is often a crime of opportunity and our watchful crows know a good one when they see it. The summer weather meant we were all spending more time outdoors and some of us got a bit careless with our possessions. The theft of a set of car keys from a pa-

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tio caused a huge inconvenience to a visitor who had to return home to Sechelt to get a replacement set. A resident preparing a barbeque, lost a hot dog bun in the blink of an eye. A favourite pair of rhinestone decorated sunglasses also went missing from a patio while the owner was taking other items into her townhouse. Residents are warned to be vigilant. There has been a report that earrings disappeared from a bedside table. The owner suspected her daughter's boyfriend was the culprit, until a crow was spotted coming in an open window looking for more bling. When our gutters are cleaned this fall the workers may find some unexpected treasures.

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

by *Margy Jalbert*

“Close your eyes!”

We were barely out of the car with our tennis gear that hot evening in July, when our granddaughters charged toward us like a herd of hungry cats! Blindly, we submitted to their pulling and prodding that ended quicker than expected with, “Okay, you can open them!”

Strings of colored lights caught my eye, as they lit the path along side our townhouse festively. Bobbles decorated with red ribbon, and perfect artificial poinsettias clung gently to my summer baskets of fuchsias and begonias, adding to the magical site.

Christmas had arrived! Covid safety regulations had loosened, and we could finally share Christmas! The excitement of the girl's surprise danced in my heart and gave way to appreciative hugs.

Once inside, my eyes were immediately drawn to two house plants that were now, adorned so beautifully with lights and decorations, hot off the press! Apparently,

these little elves do not take the summer off at all!

I found myself humming softly, “Let It



Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow...” It seemed weird to be thinking about snow, in JULY! The song quickly became an ear worm that would not stop! Perhaps a good dose of the song, “Let It Go” would have helped! LOL!

It hadn't rained for such a long time, and the temperatures were higher than normal, but the next morning, the oven went on! The turkey was stuffed and roasted and all the trimmings were prepared! Stored up gifts were happily exchanged while we sang familiar Christmas songs with the help of Alexa.

Instead of snow cave building, we settled with watching the resident turtles basking in the warm sunshine, along with a beach day of swimming and a picnic.

This truly was a Christmas to remember.... The Christmas of 2020- in July 2021!

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## WORDS FOR THE WISE?

Last winter, when all our social functions were at a standstill, I put out a desperate call for newsletter contributions. Yvonne Brennan, who has always enjoyed history and mythology, prepared a few pieces for us and this was the title I was going to use for these columns. I even downloaded a cartoon owl to add some visual appeal. We needed no cheesy downloads this time though. ANITA MCKIE caught this shot of a live specimen contemplating our fishpond on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was wise enough not been deterred by a couple of owl decoys we had posted along our water feature. Perhaps too he hoped to add to his store of wisdom so we will keep him waiting no longer. In this edition, Yvonne writes about another oft quoted phrase. She says:



“The face that launched a thousand ships”...that sounds so romantic but the story behind it is proof that one should think very carefully before doing something that might end up causing more damage than one could imagine. Case in point: Once upon a time, a handsome young prince fell in love with a beautiful girl. He whisked her away back to his home to live happily ever after.

No, not so fast! Wait a minute.

First of all, the prince was the prince of Troy and that beautiful girl was already married to the brother of the king of Mycenae (Greece). Helen was her name

So the king, Agamemnon, gathered together 1000 ships, and sailed to Troy. They waged a 10-year war, in which many died on both sides.

At the end, the Greeks sailed away, leaving a massive wooden horse on the beach. The Trojans thought it was a gift and hauled it up into the city.

In the middle of the night, soldiers that had been hiding in the belly of the horse, snuck out and let in the Greeks who really hadn't sailed away but had hidden behind a small island.

Helen of Troy, the face that launched a thousand ships, was taken back as a Trojan whore. So be careful. When you do something, think of the possible outcomes and those that are affected.

## NEAR NORMAL AT LAST!



*Barb Parker, Maralyn Young, Patti Sater and Barb Gregg* were the designated corn shuckers who met in the RV parking lot and efficiently dealt with the 10 dozen cobs that had been ordered

for our September 10<sup>th</sup> corn and burger dinner. Good to know that after all the shut downs and restrictions the crew has not forgotten how to prepare a fine meal right here in Chelsea Gardens. Workers were all a little further apart but corn was cooked, burgers were flipped and condiments were served to meet the specifications of each diner.

The big treat was that for the first time in 18 months, we had the option of eating the meal inside the clubhouse.



*Cathryn King, Don and Maureen McKenzie and Dawn DeLong* took advantage of that. You can see that seating was well spaced since covid does not appear to be finished with us yet. Perhaps because of that, some resi-

## A HARD-WORKING NEWCOMER

In a previous edition, I bemoaned the fact that because of the Covid restrictions, we hadn't been able to give our newcomers a proper welcome. We had one newcomer though who didn't wait to be introduced or made much of.



When she found out council was asking for help with garden maintenance, Lillane Johansen pitched right in. She has, over the past two years, taken on the labour-intensive job of pruning and hand weeding the areas on either side of the waterfall. There's no job quite like trying to get matted couch grass out of a patch of kinnikinnick. Thank you, Lillane for being such a great addition to our community.

### TURTLES ON YOUR MIND?

We've run out of space here but promise an update in our next edition. A big thanks to all who have sent pictures.

**The Chelsea Gardens Newsletter is sponsored by  
The Chelsea Gardens Social Committee**

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