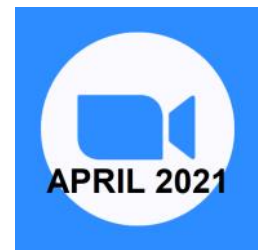

CHELSEA GARDENS

Newsletter



A THIRD WAVE?

Well, that is what we've been trying to avoid. While we waited anxiously to get vaccinated, new variants of the virus materialized. Those were more contagious and apparently were spread effectively through even brief contact. Over the winter even an outdoor setting was not considered safe. Though to date there have been no public health orders about it, an increasing number of people have begun wearing masks outside too.

So how have people coped? Well for many the answer has been...

ZOOM!

By Yvonne Brennan

OK, we all know that Chelsea Gardens is a very social and friendly place. If you want friends here all you need to do is send out a branch and you will get back a forest of trees.

So, when Covid happened we were stunned. We were scared to go out or see anybody but, slowly we learned how to do things safely, with masks, safe distancing and outside activities.

But as the pandemic progressed, the health rules became more and more restrictive. By Christmas, we were totally shut down.

Now what?

Hallelujah, along came Zoom! A simple app made connection possible again, a saviour for those of us suffering from social withdrawal. Now, we can talk, share a drink, and see each other, not in person but the next best thing.

Thank you Zoom!



ZOOMING CHANGED OUR LIVES.

By Bob Poole and Patricia Lynn

Zoom has been really helpful for communication with family and friends during COVID because it is now easy to stay connected. December 30th, we visited with Bob's two brothers, two sisters and spouses from Courtenay, BC and three cities in Ontario, all at the same time. That had previously never happened. Sister Shirley said that being coached by Bob in a practice session of Zoom was her best Christmas gift; she would now connect in this way with her children and grandchildren. On Christmas Day, we gathered up Bob's offspring and their teenage and younger children to Zoom --- the first time we had all been together - 11 people in 5 households. Everybody was so excited. Our Zooming began in April when Patricia's daughter arranged for across-the-world weekly connections of three generations in England, Ottawa and the Lower Mainland. Despite a time difference of 8 hrs, we have maintained that

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connection and now meet every other week and occasionally for birthday “dinner-online”.

We also take advantage of Zoom/online opportunities in the community. These include line-dancing, church services, book club, Armchair Traveller, theatre events, musical performances and lectures. We would never be able to attend all these events if we had to drive or fly to do so. Zooming has provided enrichment well beyond expectations. Much of the above has been free; for some there is a moderate charge, and one was by optional donation.

November 27th, 2020, Patricia attended, by Zoom, the funeral of a very dear friend in England. The event was at 11 am British time, so 3 am here. How poignant it was to be awake in the middle of the night attending that event. Patricia’s words of tribute had been requested and were read by her friend’s son-in-law. To be there with the handful of close relatives in the actual church was an unforgettable experience.

After almost a year of Zooming, those who have to Zoom extensively for work, are Zoomed out and are so looking forward to in-person contact, as are we all, but the two of us will happily continue Zooming. In 2021 we plan to connect with three cousins in England and maybe one in New Zealand, and who knows where else Zooming will take us?

GENEROUS CHELSEA RESIDENTS

by Gladys Bittner

Last year, our Transportation and Communication Emergency Response team, (headed by Arvilla Schneider), put out a request to our Chelsea residents, seeking a wheelchair that would be a big benefit in responding to needs during a crisis. Our generous residents responded:

- 1) Carol & Gerry Bochen
- 2) Terry & Bob Hyde and finally,
- 3) Marty Olsen, who has left us for California.

Upon hearing of our request, Marty donated his late wife Blanche’s new wheelchair and UPS’d it up to us free of charge. He had already donated her walker before he moved. We are more than grateful and thank all of them.

Our Chelsea residents have been so generous, we now have three wheelchairs for our Emergency Response Team to use in a time of crisis and we feel that one of our wheelchairs could from time to time be loaned out to a Chelsea resident on a temporary basis. Residents in need of one could call: Arvilla at 778-593-2525 or Gladys B at 604-599-1460.

CHELSEA RESIDENTS ENTER COVID-SAFE ONLINE DANCE-A-THON

By Margy Jalbert

When we heard about the YWCA holding their first annual Dance-A-Thon, to raise money for vulnerable women and children, the Chelsea Dancers jumped on board, not only for the fun of dancing the night away, but to support such a great cause!

We had over a dozen residents and family members participating in one way or another and Chelsea Dancers Team raised almost \$300! Hooray! We surpassed our first and our second goals!! What a wonderful problem to have!!!



“I tried every style of dance offered, until I almost dropped! My favorites were, ‘Dance Fit’ and ‘Bollywood’. My heart is full with dancing and the spirit of generosity of our community! Way to go Chelsea!

Gerry Helmer participated in the dance-a-thon too and said, “It got us off our couches! We learned new moves (especially in the BOLLYWOOD section) and REALLY got a workout!

Patricia Lynn was another of our Chelsea Dancers and for her this was also a family affair. Three generations of her family danced together from the safety of their own living rooms. Mem-

bers of the Chelsea Dancers Team and the Lynn Family Team were among more than 950 people who raised \$57,033 for YWCA's programs and services for women and children.



VISITOR ATTRACTS LOTS OF ATTENTION:

With so many of our social contacts on the forbidden list these days, I think we were all able to empathize with Rob Fraser when he said that he was lonely. I, for one, was happy for him when he wrote in mid-February to say he had made a new friend. He even sent along a picture.

It wasn't long, however, before Rob's neighbours noticed this visitor and brought their concerns to



our attention. The problem they identified was that he was clearly not a member of Rob's household and yet he and Rob were seen by several people in close proximity to one another. (Much less than the mandated 6 feet.) Nor were either of them wearing masks! The evidence against them was damning! One of

our intrepid reporters was even able to provide this photographic proof of the breach. If this wasn't bad enough within a day or so this visi-



tor created a disgusting scene by over-imbibing to such an extent that those who walked by in the morning found him passed out on Rob's lawn with his bottle beside him. (It was empty of course.) I suspect that council stepped in to enforce our bylaws because he was gone the next day and no one has reported seeing him since. This must have been a grave disappointment for Rob but we have reason to believe that this fickle character would not have been a good candidate for a long-lasting friendship anyway.

Editor's note: My thanks to Rob, Gary Economy, Barb Parker and others for this hot tip on a cool subject.

A GOOD LAUGH FOR A GOOD CAUSE:

On May 4th, 2021 Chicken Soup for the Soul is releasing a special book entitled, READ, LAUGH, REPEAT, as a fundraiser for non-profit charities that provide love and laughter to patients in hospital and hospice.

Kensington resident, Joei Carlton Hossack's story LEAD ME NOT has been chosen to go into the book. Look for it at your favourite book

WORDS OF WIDOM

By Yvonne Brennan



The phrase, "You can catch a lot more flies with honey than with vinegar" conjures up memories of a hot steamy day in the kitchen before the advent of screens or air conditioning, where a strip attached to the ceiling is covered with black little creatures.

But this phrase can give us a life-long lesson. You will get a much more cooperative response if you are pleasant.

Do you have a problem and have to talk to someone on the phone? Put a smile on your face. It can be heard in your voice. Ask the person how they are doing today. It puts them in a good mood.

As a teacher, I wrote many report cards and learned how to word things in a way that would get the parents' cooperation. When some child was not doing his homework, "Jimmy needs to put more effort into doing assignments." was likely to get a better response than what I was thinking which was "Your child is a lazy little sloth."

If Anna stole and lied, "Your child is a lying

thieving cheat." got translated into "Anna needs to be more honest and should ask others before using their supplies."

So next time you have a problem, be nice and you will find it gets you a lot further.

GRUMBLES SWEETENED AT TIM HORTONS

By Margie Jalbert

A few weeks ago, I was picking up a treat for my son at Tim Horton's. I drove to the back of the long line, for the Drive Thru. I was getting a little annoyed at cars from a side road cutting in at the front of the line. Still when it came to my turn, I did let a car go ahead of me though I grumbled a bit under my breath. Imagine my surprise then when I went to pay for my order, and they said it was already paid for by the lady in front of me. Her thanks for letting her go into the line.

I felt bad for my grumbling, but delighted by her kind act on my behalf!

I watched her leave and I happened to be going the same way. As it turned out there was a red light and we ended up beside each other waiting for it to change. I waved the donut box at her and gave her a grateful smile and thumbs up. She gave me a happy big smile back!

Obviously, there was a much bigger plan in place for me that day, than just picking up a treat for my son! I felt so blessed for the experience! He did too when I told him the story as he enjoyed yum-my Boston cream donuts,

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

Editor: Carole Lazar

Layout: Ray Arnette

Contributors: Gladys Bittner, Yvonne Brennan, Gary Economy, Rob Fraser, Barb Gregg, Gerry Helmer, Margy Jalbert, Joei Carlton Hossack, Patricia Lynn, Barb Parker and Bob Pool.

If you have any suggestions, or would like to submit articles or photos for future newsletters, phone Carole Lazar at 778-565-7488 or contact her by e-mail at lazarc@shaw.ca.

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

www.chelseatoday.org