
CHELSEA GARDENS

Newsletter



January 2021

AUTUMN LEAVES



It is hard to get sentimental about them when you have so many!

Terry Hyde got chatting to Shawn Allen about it. He told her that this single load of leaves will weigh in at about 2 tons. Over the course of the fall season, his crew removes 40 tons of leaves from Chelsea! Staggering!

STRIVING FOR NORMAL

Over the summer and into the early autumn, residents were able to visit outdoors and gradually we were able to reopen our club house for small preapproved groups. That respite was short-lived since come fall, new and more stringent measures were imposed by our Provincial Health Authority.

Obviously there would be no Oktoberfest or Halloween parties but we didn't want to disappoint the little ones. They were back in school but it was anyone's guess as to how many of them might participate in the traditional trick-or-treating. The social committee weighed the risks and de-

ecided that if they took special precautions, they could distribute goodies safely.

Chelsea residents were as generous as always and the contribution boxes that had been placed in the entrances of the condos and clubhouse were well used. A few days before the big night, committee members halted collection of treats and then having given the donations the recommended time to "air cure" they proceeded to fill bags so they could be handed out with minimal contact.



To protect those who had volunteered to distribute the goodies, the number of "hosts" was limited to two. Side-by-side tables provided a barrier between them and their guests and then of course they had the grabber-reacher tools they could use to hand over the bags. The bags were large and well filled. While the supplies lasted, each child also got a container of orange juice.

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Approximately 80 children attended. We had an assortment of nasty looking rats to warn them not to get too close but even though they were kept at arm's length we heard no complaints at all.



(Picture was chosen to show the use of the grabber-reacher. The kids did not really have black strips over their eyes.)

IT IS AN ILL WIND:

It is old news now but on August 4th, there was a rupture of the fire suppression line in the Kensington. At 9:00 PM that day residents of eight different units watched in horror as water flooded into their homes. Fortunately, the restoration is pretty much finished now so our neighbours are gradually moving back in after their ordeal,

Still, it is an ill wind that blows no good and our Emergency Preparedness teams a had chance to see how their plans worked as they respond-

ed to real emergencies first in the Kensington and later after a kitchen fire in the Mayfair.

Here's what they reported.

SPARE KEYS!

An issue arose when team members were not able to rapidly access a unit because the homeowner was away. No one knew who had her key. Someone was dispatched to the clubhouse to check on that but then they found that the person designated was also out. **Did you know that John will store our keys in the office safe?** If you take advantage of that arrangement, you will assist emergency responders so that they can access your unit quickly and take any action that may be necessary.

Some teams were pleased to find that their plans worked out pretty much as they had hoped. Margy Jalbert filed the following report:

REPORT OF CARE & SHELTER TEAM MEMBERS WITH RESPECT TO THE KENSINGTON FLOOD

The leader was called to aid in the emergency. She called another member to help, and they both jumped into action promptly!

They went around and recorded names and suite numbers of residents effected, and stayed until they were assured that everyone had a place to stay for the night. Although another member of the Care & Shelter team was not called to attend the emergency, she assisted in many ways without even giving it a second thought!

We were pleasantly surprised that neighbors stepped up to the plate and offered the victims their homes for the night. Others offered water and one resident helped out by making announcements using his commanding voice.

We discussed how this just confirms the supportive spirit of Chelsea Gardens, where neighbors help neighbors! Chelsea Garden's is a great place to live!

THE DREADED **RENO**:

by Yvonne Brennan



See our “bed” just below the kitchen window.

As God is my witness, I will never do this again and this time I really, **really** mean it!

Why do we do it? We have a perfectly good place. But we must update, make it more modern so we go ahead.

Now, there are some husbands who need a fire-cracker lit at their backs before getting going on a project. Mine is not like that. In fact, he chomps on the bit to get started. I call him Jiminy Cricket. So, as soon as we decided what we were doing, he tore up all the carpets, right there and then! So here we are on concrete, learning to live like peasants, but thinking it won't be for too long. Well, we were wrong!

March came and the big C happened. At the beginning, we were all scared to go out, let alone have contractors inside.

So the floor had to wait. By June, we had had enough and decided to go ahead anyway. What adventure awaits us! Let the renos begin:

Because we are in a condo, they had to be done in 2 stages.

Stage 1– Empty all furniture from the living room and dining room. Put it wherever you can — bathroom, bedrooms, halls, anywhere you can slip it in. As long as you can hop over or squeeze through, you're OK. You now live in the main bed-

room for 2–3 weeks. After which the living room floors and mouldings are done and we're ready to begin stage 2.

Stage 2– empty all the draws in the dresser and armoire, put all the closet clothes in the ensuite bathtub, box up the shoes and other items in the bedrooms, making sure you have all things you will need for 3 weeks and putting them in the linen closet in the main bathroom . Move all the bedroom furniture into the living room. Pick a spot on the kitchen floor to sleep. Be prepared to sleep this way for 3 weeks. The problem will be getting up in the morning, and I mean getting to a standing position!

Finally, the movers come to put everything back. The mouldings and the floors look wonderful. The condo looks new. Was it worth the hassle?

I have heard that there have been many reno's since COVID has appeared and I presume that may be because there is some excess money that would have been used for vacations. So, for all of you who have spent your vacation budget on renos, (Garages, flooring mouldings, tile, kitchens and on and on) was not this a wonderful experience? Or, maybe you too, will never do it again.

CHRISTMAS AT CHELSEA

What a magical time this usually is! This year, I'm afraid, the list of events we could not have was a long one. There could be no choral afternoon, no Christmas concert, no ugly Christmas sweater night and no Christmas coffee with Santa. We also had to forego our caroling since group singing was identified as a high-risk activity. Fortunately for the kids, Santa was allowed to do his deliveries on the night before Christmas since he has always assiduously avoided making any personal contact with householders. I heard that Bonnie Henry was in touch with him and that he had promised to sanitize his hands before handling gifts. So, with so many things cancelled, what was left?

Well, the Christmas spirit of course!

We had our usual collection for the Surrey Food Bank and residents donated **360lbs** of food and **\$955.00**. This contribution was greatly appreciated especially this year when so many people are facing financial challenges and the demand on our food banks is high.

During the spring and summer, we had banged pots and rung bells from our balconies or driveways to show support for our health care workers. This activity had died out but was reactivated on Christmas and New Years Eve.

**The Chelsea Gardens Newsletter is sponsored by
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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 www.chelseatoday.org

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A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS...

The one traditional Christmas activity that was not on the naughty list, was decorating and this year we outdid ourselves in that department! Council even accommodated our collective desire to create a festive look by extending the season and allowing us to turn on our Christmas lights from November 15th until January 31st.



Margy Jalbert, Barb Parker and Mary Gawle were part of the group responsible for decorating the entrance area of the clubhouse. Individual homeowners bought extra lights and put on quite the show. Bob Greenwood organized the installation of the lights on our common property. He reported that the volunteers he approached were overwhelmingly supportive of the "project." We join him in thanking those who worked so hard to make Chelsea a Christmas wonderland. Did you notice the new lights along the waterway? Bob credited Jim Parker, Bob Hyde, Doug McLeod, Ron Plankeel, Dave Denning and Jack DeVries for making it all happen but I understand he was a pretty hands-on supervisor so our thanks to all of them.

The Chelsea Today website has limits on file size so we couldn't show the photos as part of this edition but if you would like to take a virtual tour of Chelsea's Christmas lights, just [click here](#).