

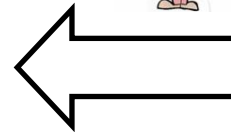
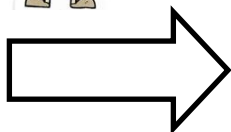
# CHELSEA GARDENS

## Newsletter

AUTUMN

2020

Keeping Our Distance



### **COPING WITH COVID-19, THE CONTINUING SAGA:**

In mid March our Provincial Government declared a health emergency. Some businesses, all our schools and most of our recreational facilities were closed down. Many of the stores that remained open reduced their hours of operation. We were urged to stay home. The traffic calmed! We felt silly standing at the corner of 138th Street and 70th Avenue looking up and down the empty roadway as we waited for a walk signal. People responded differently to these changes. This essay that was posted in a local coffee shop provided a unique perspective.

*When you go out and see the empty streets, the empty stadiums, the empty train platforms, don't say to yourself, "It looks like the end of the world." What you are seeing is love in action. What you are seeing in that negative space is how much we care about each other, for all the grandparents, for our immune compromised brothers and sisters, for people we'll never meet.*

*People will lose their jobs over this. Some will lose their businesses. And some will lose their lives. All the more reason to take a moment when you're out on your walk, or on the way to the store, or just watching the news, to look into that emptiness and just marvel at all the love.*

*Let it fill and sustain you.*

*It isn't the end of the world. It is the most remarkable act of global solidarity we may ever witness.*

*Author unknown*

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## A CAREFUL REOPENING

By mid June we were allowed access to many of those areas that had been closed to us for most of the spring. That being said, these familiar activities looked quite different.



The dance group was allowed to use the RV parking lot. Do you think they are staying far enough apart?



The morning exercise group was allowed to meet on the pool deck.



We had a cool June but as the days got warmer many of us were anxious to use the pool. Some of our Chelsea volunteers had made the koi pond very unwelcoming so this fellow joined the rest of us looking longingly at the pool while waiting for the go-ahead from Fraser Health.

Residents were eventually allowed to use the pool but there could be no more than 8 in the water at any time. No visitors were allowed, so our hopeful heron was out of luck.

Our library too reopened and users noticed some significant changes. Our thanks to Barry Miller who built the additional bookcase that now houses the romances and to Barb Herndier and Gladys Bittner for all the work they have done in reorganizing this much appreciated resource.

## A NOTE FROM OUR LIBRARIANS

We are fortunate to have amassed a library with a wide variety of authors. The library is very well used, especially in these Covid times when for months our public libraries were shut down.

Our books are organized alphabetically by author, with the exception of the Historical Romances and Harlequins. These books are situated in the new shelves nearest the front door to the library.

Val Morrison has taken on the job of monitoring the books that are being returned, so that there is a 4 days “cleansing” lapse, before they are returned to the shelves to be taken out again.

Because of space limitations the library cannot accept donations of

- (1) Hard-cover books,
- (2) Non-fiction
- (3) Magazines

As well as all our books, there are many puzzles that have found their way to the library for sharing. These are placed at the far end of the room, and seem to be well used. The puzzles also have to go into the “cleansing” boxes-when returned, before being put back on the shelves.

Our thanks to Val for her help in getting our library accessible to our residents.

*By G. Bittner/B. Herndier*

## AN AUTUMN EVENT:

When large social groups were not allowed and when we couldn't get cozy with our neighbours as we cooked, served and did clean up together, how could we have our usual September corn roast? Well we couldn't but social committee members put their heads together and tried to come up with a safe alternative. The result was Wings Night which was held on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

They arranged to have a Wing's food truck come in to provide Chelsea residents with a meal they could take away and share within their smaller groups. It worked really well. Some might say too well since they ran out of food! We are already planning a repeat for some later date and our vendor has said he will arrange to have two trucks working next time.



Since residents had their teeth set for chicken wings, hamburgers and fries, those who were too late to get the limited supply headed out into the community and brought back takeout food from some of our surrounding restaurants. It was a good time even if things did not go exactly as planned.



We had a 50/50 draw and thanks to the generosity of all those who purchased tickets, the prize was a big one. Don McKenzie took home \$441!

Don and his wife, Maureen, have been long time supporters of the many social events we have had at Chelsea over the years so we were delighted to see this big pot go to such a deserving couple....

But wait! It was Don's ticket that won.

"Did he share?" I asked Maureen.

She explained that he had indeed but it wasn't just by way of a treat for her. He took a good chunk of his winnings and donated it to the Global T.V.'s Variety Week for children where his gift was matched by that of a corporate donor.

So, if you bought a 50/50 ticket on September 6<sup>th</sup>, isn't it nice to know you contributed to this worthy cause in our greater communi-

## WE NEED A WHEELCHAIR

The Transportation/Communication Committee of the Emergency Response Team is reviewing needs for any critical emergency that may occur in Chelsea Gardens. Upon discussion, we felt that a wheelchair and / or a foldable transporter would enable us to more easily transport anyone in need at such a time. If any of you here in Chelsea have a wheelchair or transporter not in use, would you consider donating it to our committee? If you can help, please call us at **604-599-1460**.

**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](mailto:lazarc@shaw.ca), Our submission guidelines and an online version of this newsletter, in colour, can be found at [www.chelseatoday.org](http://www.chelseatoday.org)

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## ONCE UPON A POND

*By Ashley Orton*

In April 2019, being of unsound mind, I took on the responsibility on council for ponds and fountains. I wanted to tackle the fish pond which I felt was in need of some TLC.

We started by draining the pool and pressure washing it so that it was as clean as we could get it. Zenon and I got the submerged pond lights working again after 12 years. I re-potted some plants and bought a few more under the guidance of she-who-must-be-obeyed.

Jack DeVries suggested a UV filter to help reduce pond algae and the yearly addition water conditioners. He also suggested the fake heron, Harry, who now stands on guard in the pond. Due to an unfortunate accident, Harry is somewhat shorter than he used to be and has developed a stoop. He is nevertheless stoic and ever watchful; he is assisted by a motion activated sprayer. Jack also donated a decorative concrete fish to the pond.

Cherith Johnson and David Bremner brought bulrushes and duckweed to populate the pond. They also purchased Mc Hoot the owl to protect from above. (He's taken a sabbatical this year but shall return).

Gerry Horne manages feeding the fish along with Bob Hurley and more recently, Anna Razny.



*PATTI, SCOTT, GERRY HORNE, JACK DEVRIES AND ASHLEY ORTON*

Being inventors, geniuses and poor, Barry Miller and I designed and created a pond vacuum for \$30: The Chelsea Gardens Suck-o-Matic Mark III made from the metal carcass of a built-in vacuum, and a sump pump has lasted the summer. Jack (who frequently speaks unkindly of it) and I have used it to vacuum the bottom of the pond to get rid of algae.

Cherith, David and I have also worked on extending the reach of the Wisteria along the walkway between ponds and along the stanchions around the fish pond.

Jack, bless his heart, keeps finding fish for free to replenish depletions brought about by the resident heron.



Due to COVID related shortages, we were not able to purchase more pond lilies. The goal is to eventually get 60% coverage to manage the growth of algae and to provide the fish with hideouts and supplemental food.

Many thanks to all of you that made the changes possible.

A small note to residents enjoying the fish-pond:

Please don't feed the fish – we provide them with a specially formulated food for their health. They are fed 2-3 times daily as needed.

Please do not allow rocks to be thrown into the pond. This adds to the junk on the bottom and clogs our vacuum when we are cleaning.