

# CHELSEA GARDENS

Newsletter

Winter 2018



Siggy Reid and Newcomer

## Newcomers' Welcome

We had our first Newcomers' Welcome in two years on October 2nd. I found myself in the dual position of being both a newcomer and greeting the new residents as a member of the social committee. It was nice to see new faces as well as several others I have come to know.

As each person entered, they were given tickets to receive two glasses of wine, a name tag and a chance to verify their phone numbers for the phone list.

The room filled up with eager newcomers. We were introduced to our council president, Zenon Jalbert, and he in turn introduced the council members. Various people were called upon to explain volunteering, disaster preparedness and the social committee.

Afterward, the newcomers enjoyed savory snacks made by the social committee, a cup of coffee and a chance to mingle and get to know their new neighbours. We met some great people and look forward to seeing them out at functions in the future.

## Electronic Bulletin Board

**You may have noticed the new electronic bulletin board located to your right as you enter the clubhouse lobby.**

Watch for upcoming events, informational notices and the days and times of ongoing weekly group activities held in our complex

## Halloween Pub Night and Dance

There were some great costumes on display even if there was an over-abundance of sexy witches. After the pub night cash bar closed, we moved over to the Fireside room to kick up our ghoulish heels.

Both rooms were decorated spookily with bats, ghosts and witchy pumpkins creating a fun atmosphere for everyone present. The music of Wolfman Jack AKA Ashley Orton was lively and it soon got us all up dancing.

We danced the Electric Slide to Monster Mash with the Chelsea Chicklets and those who chose to join in the dance. Fingers became claws and we all had a fun time. The female costume winner was Gail Carter who was dress as an Aunt Jemima syrup bottle. The male costume was won by Dave Pritchard AKA Dr. Kildare. The cash bar was a great success as usual.



Four witches short of a coven.

## Halloween at the Gate

The front entrance was decorated eerily with goblins, witches and wee beasties to delight the children on Halloween night. Kids big and small came by to pick up the resident supplied candy, chips and juice boxes which we had in abundance. Delicious, hot soup, made by the social committee, was served to keep the adults warm while the children held out their bags to receive their candies. The sparkle in the children's eyes and the wide grin on their faces when two large handfuls of candies were placed into their loot bag made standing in the cold worthwhile.



## Hymn Sing

Hymn Sing was held on Sunday, November 4th this year. The seats were arranged in a semi-circle around the piano which sat to the left of the fireplace. Patricia Lynn played the piano beautifully while Dawn Miller and Yvonne Brennan led the singing of the hymns.

It was a full house and the room became very hot with all those bodies in it. Ashley Orton was called to the Fireside room, on his birthday, to turn up the ceiling fans. With pliers in hand, he was only able to turn the fans up part way; which was really a good thing since the song books might have been harder to read with the fans at hurricane force or should I say typhoon force since we are on the Pacific coast.

When the music began the voices merged together in the most wonderful songs of faith. The hour of music and song was enjoyed by people of many religious beliefs because, as you know, music and song are one of the things that make life joyful. Afterwards everyone was treated to coffee and sweet treats supplied by the social committee members. What a way to spend a very delightful Sunday afternoon.

## Cash Bar and Pizza Pub Night

Pizza was on the menu for our November 9th cash bar and pub night.. twenty-seven pizzas were ordered. For \$5.00 guests received three pieces of mouth-watering, pizza with a choice of all meat, ham with pineapple or veggies. The atmosphere was lively and everyone who had the pizza enjoyed it. The drinks went down well too.

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

Guest Editor for this edition was **Marie Orton**.

Contributor: Carolyn Swayze

If you have any suggestions, or would like to submit articles or photos for future newsletters, phone Carole Lazar at 778-565-7488. Submission guidelines, and an on-line version of this newsletter can be found at [www.chelseastrata.com](http://www.chelseastrata.com)

## Grey Cup Party

What a game! On Sunday, November 25th a rousing Grey Cup party was held in the clubhouse. You could hear the shouts of the happy Calgary fans all the way to the mailroom. There were two long tables of appetizers for guests to enjoy. Hot chili with tasty toppings served over rice was sold at half time at a cost of \$5.00 per cup or \$7.00 per bowl.



Ann Brokop wore her number 7 jersey and she could be seen jumping up, fists in the air when Calgary scored. The Calgary Stampeders beat the Ottawa RedBlacks 27—16.

## Christmas Choral Afternoon

It was standing room only for the December 1st Choral Afternoon which started off the Christmas season at Chelsea Gardens. Both the pub and the upstairs area were filled with an excited audience.



The women singers wore their glistening finery and the men were handsome in their suits. They filed in one by one to their places on the stage at precisely 2:00 pm. Dave Brennan began the afternoon telling us of the many events that were to be held during December. Ashley Orton cued up the music and the concert began with a Phantom of the Opera Medley.

While the singers took a break, a skit called "Santa of the Opera & the Mrs." was performed. It was written by Margy Jalbert and starred Don McKenzie as Santa, Terry Hyde as Mrs. Claus and Bob Hyde as the elf who told the story of Santa's loss of confidence and his inability to perform his Santa gift giving duties.



(Hint: a stately dance helped break Santa's funk.)

The Chelsea singers returned to lead in a sing-along of traditional and modern Christmas carols and songs. Next, they performed, a number of Christmas songs including one sung in Latin.



Barb Gregg drummed to "Let All the World Hear Music".

After the performance Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted the audience as they left the fireside room and gave each one a candy cane. Cookies were provided by the performers and coffee by the social committee.

The goodies were laid out on the pool table and the choir and audience were invited to partake. Everyone formed a happy line for their turn of the delicious, Christmas goodies and a nice piping hot cup of coffee or tea. The social committee placed small tables in the Fireside Room for the guests to have a comfortable place to sit, eat their treats and chat with friends.



Thanks to the generosity of the audience at this event we were able to make a donation of approximately \$1,300 to the Surrey Food Bank.

## Christmas Coffee Morning

The room was abuzz with joyous chatter at the Christmas Morning Coffee on December 12th. The social committee put on a large spread of sandwiches and sweet treats for the people who regularly attend this get together. A little something was available to add to the holiday coffees to make them more special. The three boxes of Sandwiches and all the sweets that were leftover were taken to the "Front Room" so that the homeless could enjoy a welcome holiday treat.



Santa, Ron Plankeel, and Mrs. Claus, Carole Lazar, were on hand to help Barb Gregg who was taking guest photos with Santa.

## Hayride Christmas Caroling

Let it rain, let it rain, let it rain...It was a dark and stormy night for the hayride and caroling. The wind was blowing the tarps around and allowing the rain onto the musical instruments. No one would be staying dry under the wagon cover so the decision was made to abandon the wagon and save the instruments. Meanwhile, the carolers took to the road on foot armed with hooded jackets and umbrellas. The wind threatened to turn the umbrellas inside out but it didn't dampen our spirits. We followed the wagon route singing carols and enjoying the twinkling lights on the townhouses as we passed by.

The troop eventually ended up at the Windsor where we were greeted with warmth, smiles and the scent of hot chocolate and mulled wine. There were sweets galore as well as savory snacks. We were all relieved to be out of the rain and wind and had a great time enjoying the hosts of the Windsor Apartments. In spite of the changes caused by the weather everyone had an enjoyable time.

## RCMP Talk on Senior Safety

The RCMP's December 19th presentation on pedestrian awareness and safety, and frauds and scams was followed by Christmas carol singing.

## Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

Everyone wore their ugliest, most hideous Christmas sweaters to the December 21st Cash Bar Pub Night. For \$5.00 they received a choice of 3 large slices of piping hot, pizza.

A group of Chelsea singers sang wonderful Christmas carols in the lobby which increased the excited feeling of the approaching special day, Christmas.

The cash bar was open until 8:00 pm. A special rum & eggnog drink was served with a cinnamon stick on a swizzle stick to stir the creamy mixture.

Sadly I didn't win the 50/50 draw but it was a whopper judging by the joy that was evident on the winner's face when the money was placed in her hand. She generously donated some of her winnings to the cause so at the end of the evening we were able to send \$211.75 to the Children's Make a Wish Foundation.



*Ann Brokop in her truly ugly sweater*

There were some real doozies when it came to the guests' attire. Not only did they have ugly Sweaters, but some had really ugly pants as well. One party-goer had an ugly vest, and ugly pair of long underwear under an ugly pair of shiny, red shorts. It didn't stop there because she also had on a rather unattractive Christmas t-shirt.

But the real winners of the Ugly Sweater Contest were Ann Brokop and Bill Callagan. Ann wore a multi-coloured sweater which included several strange tails hanging from behind. Bill wore the faces of several residents claiming that they were ugly so therefore the sweater was also ugly.



## Pond Scum Cleaners



Herb and Diana Klein, Chuck, Elsie Scully, Carolyn Swayze and Barry Jones.

These six Chelsea residents, aka Newton Pond Scum, regularly take their trash bags and grabbers over to the Newton Pond. They collect litter of all sorts and once even picked up a full-sized surf board!