

CHELSEA GARDENS Newsletter

2020



OKTOBERFEST 2019

There's nothing that says Oktoberfest like an honest to goodness oompapa band. We were in luck and once again were able to book Edelweiss for this popular event. I am told that MATT GEDAK, KARL SCHINDLER and TONY FURCH, shown below left, are all in their eighties now but like the music they play they are ageless.



Not to be outdone, one of our own octogenarians grabbed a pretty fraulein and proceeded to show the appreciative crowd that he could still boogie. DAWN MILLER tells me she had to step pretty to keep up with BILL CALLAGAN.

The bratwurst, potato salad and red cabbage dinner along with the streusel served for dessert met with universal approval so it is small wonder that many of our guests took to the dance floor to work off some of those calories

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If you have any suggestions, or would like to submit articles or photos for future newsletters, contact
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Our submission guidelines and an online version of this newsletter, in colour, can be found at
ChelseaToday.org

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL

by: Doug McLeod – Chelsea Gardens Emergency Response Program Leader

The Chelsea Gardens Emergency Response Program held a 3-hour mock emergency exercise on October 1st involving approximately 30 volunteer responders (all residents of Chelsea Gardens). We were assisted by about an equal number of “victims” with a variety of problems, to add realism to the event. The exercise assumed a widely felt and damaging earthquake in the Lower Mainland. Due to the likelihood of significant damage throughout Surrey, we also assumed that no First Responders (Police, Fire, Ambulance) would be available to assist, and that we would have to fend for ourselves for a while.

Our seven response teams addressed a variety of issues including injuries, building damage, an apartment power outage, a small fire, broken pipes, trapped and traumatized residents, and lost/injured pets. Everyone learned a lot about how to respond in an emergency, as well as how much more we need to understand, plan and train for such events. We identified many



Valerie Ferland, Joan Piller and Kath McLeod sooth an injured patient.

aspects, such as procedures, training, and equipment, that we will be working on to improve our overall capabilities and effectiveness should a real emergency affecting Chelsea Gardens occur. More volunteers are always needed and welcome, so please consider joining our program. The time commitment is not onerous.

THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

While it's true that some songs, especially those associated with special occasions and seasonal holidays, are ageless, most of our favourite songs come from the same decade or two. You might even say our musical taste is dated.

Brain image studies show that our favourite songs stimulate the pleasure centre in our brain flooding the same neurotransmitters that cocaine stimulates. The more we like a song, the greater the neurochemical bliss. This reaction is particularly pronounced between the ages of 12 and 22 when our brains are undergoing rapid neurological development. The music we loved during that decade seems to get wired into our brain for good creating strong memories and marked preferences for those songs. I thought this was an interesting bit of musical trivia but I'm afraid it wouldn't have gained



me a single point in the lively contest we had at our Musical Trivia event on September 27th.

This was the second time that JACK DEVRIES was persuaded to sit down to the piano and challenge his listeners to name that tune. The winners this time

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round were *Kelly Garland, Diane Moore, Jan Softly, Linda Shepherd, Glen Lewis, Bob Greenwood and Dave and Arlene Dennis.*

Want to bet most of them were born in about the same decade as Jack?

Last time round some of our older contestants complained that the choice of music was too modern. At our third Friday sing-alongs we regularly have songs that date back to the 40's and 50's but most of Jack's tunes are from the 70's.

and 80's. This time Jack said he would try to include some songs for us older folk too so he added Fur Elise, a Beethoven piece from 1867 to his play list. Was he mocking us? Still it was quickly identified. Now none of us were teenagers in 1867 but many of us took piano lessons when we were young. Guess how old the average piano student is when they reach the grade 7 Toronto Conservatory level and learn this popular classic?

Our Hymn Sing is Growing and Changing

The Chelsea Garden's hymn sing is a long standing tradition. It was Dave Pritchard who, with some help from Dick Mc Diarmid, started it. In 2003, they were joined by Al Rozek. Time marches on and now Dave is the only one of the original trio who is still in residence. Fortunately others have stepped in to help carry on. On October 26th organizers, Dawn Miller and Yvonne Brennan were able to recruit a lot of extra talent. Dan Miner, an accomplished pianist and soloist was persuaded to lead the sing-along and also perform. We had to change the date of our event to accommodate him because on the day we had originally planned, he was leading the Vaudevillains in a performance at the Surrey Arts Club.

Dan was joined by some of our local musicians. Jeremy Ferland played a

violin solo and Phil Smith and Dave Pritchard, on saxophone and piano respectively, did a duet. In anticipation of Remembrance Day, Yvonne recited In Flanders Fields and Bill Troughton-Trump followed up on the group singing of O Canada by singing our anthem again but in French.

Given the varied program, the afternoon was over before we knew it.



Jeremy Ferland, Phil Smith, Dave Pritchard, Dawn Miller, and Yvonne Brennan gather around Dan Miner at the piano.

SANTA WAS KEPT BUSY

at our special Christmas coffee party on December 11th, lots of residents took the opportunity to sit on his lap and place their Christmas orders. Social committee members provided the goodies for this free event and waited on us by hand and foot. They took a moment out near the end of the morning to pose for this group shot.



Back Row: Elaine Galley, Diane Brugger, Saroj Manhas, Kath Mcleod, Madan Gupta, Carol Greenwich, Marie Orton. Front row: Barb Gregg, Ron Plankeel (AKA Santa) Mary Gawle, Terry Hyde, and Barb Parker. Mrs. Santa is just there keeping notes.

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS

They don't get much uglier than this!



Evelyn Bailie won first prize for the ugliest sweater... (see the stylish sweater and toque worn by her prize bottle of wine.

Margaret Sutton and the Children's Make a Wish Foundation were also winners and split the \$288.00 raised in the 50/50 draw.

NO HAYRIDE THIS YEAR

Our winter weather can be notoriously unpredictable and things sure weren't looking good as volunteers prepared for our December 16th caroling. The flat bed and haybails were ready and waiting in front of the clubhouse but that afternoon the wind was tearing at the tarps the hay was wrapped in and the pouring rain was coming down at a 65 degree angle. There was no way that we could chance plugging in an electric keyboard or amps for the guitars. Once the tarps were removed we would also be offering some pretty soggy seating. What to do? Well just a walk around and some a cappella singing seemed to be as much as we could safely manage. The golf carts were festively decorated and tasked with leading those singers crazy enough to attend.

As it was, a good group did turn out because by 7:00 PM, the rain had stopped and we had a lovely evening for caroling. Those who came, sang their hearts out to make up for the lack of accompaniment. The spread of goodies at the Windsor had never been in question and served as a welcome treat at the end of a pleasant walk and sing-along.



BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

An Arctic ridge of high pressure brought a sudden dose of winter weather to the Lower Mainland on November 27th. It was accompanied by winds gusts that went up to 90km an hour and left some areas without power. What a great day to do some outdoor chores.



I caught Ron Plankeel, Norm Reid, Bob Pool and Murray Hill hard at work blowing water out of our sprinkler system and putting it to bed for the winter. Other members of their team were busy elsewhere doing the same job.

HALLOWEEN AT THE GATE:

The weather on October 31st couldn't have been better for our trick or treaters. Our scary volunteers donned their costumes and distributed goodies to about 150 youngsters.



A CHORAL AFTERNOON

The Chelsea Singers kicked off the Christmas season with a choral afternoon on November 30th. The choir performed a medley of songs from Joseph and the Many Coloured Dream Coat and then invited audience participation in a number of Christmas favourites as David Bremner read the story of Scrooge and Ron Plankeel and Carolyn Swayze provided sound effects.

It was a meticulously planned performance so what might they have missed? Well three of our regular photographers were up there singing. No one thought to ask any of our other camera buffs to take so much as a snapshot! Still it was a very successful event and raised \$1,004.80 for our local food bank.

A GIFT FOR ALL

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... Isaiah 9:6



Since it all started with a gift, what better way to celebrate the season than with a Christmas concert that was all about gifts? On December 14th, Chelsea residents gathered around the world's smallest stage to hear stories, sing carols and watch skits about the spiritual gifts of Faith, Hope and Love, the gifts of the magi, Santa Claus and the story behind Rudolph.

Bill and Gladys Zemianski starred in a skit that explored the present-day shopping problems that can overwhelm some of us.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is always a challenge to find a caterer who is prepared to come out on New Year's Eve to serve a group as small as ours but we really hit the jackpot when we discovered Coast & Country Caterers last year. We lost no time in booking them again for New Years 2019 but this time we did not get what we bargained for.

The meal was to begin with appetisers. Those were delicious. There were crudites, several varieties of chicken wings and coconut shrimp. The cheese cake with fresh raspberry sauce was exactly the dessert we'd ordered but the entre was supposed to be baked maple salmon and chicken cordon bleu. How did we manage to get a baron of beef as well? As you may guess, there were no complaints at all.

This year we did not have a live band at the party that followed dinner. Instead ASHLEY ORTON put together a playlist of dance music for us. We were able to start the dance a little earlier and carry on till past midnight without breaking the budget. Lots of our guests took advantage of this and partied on into the new year. And what a start to the new year it was!

The grey skies, icy winds and drenching rains of December 31st cleared completely and the sunshine and warm spring-like temperatures brought out about 40 residents to participate in our January 1st POLAR BEAR SWIM.



ELEANOR MILLS, JAN BERGMAN, CHERITH JOHNSON AND MADAN GUPTA

were waiting to serve breakfast to the swimmers and the many spectators.

There was one small mishap. We were almost finished eating when the tranquility of the morning was interrupted by a small explosion! The cork from a bottle of champagne which we had not used went flying across the room. We had pretty well finished serving mimosas but this meant we had to drink this extra bottle of champagne.

Fortunately, our guests rose to the challenge!



BRIDGE PLAYERS

OF ANY LEVEL!

Stay tuned! Watch for notice of a social get-together later this month.