

Chelsea Gardens

Newsletter



Editor: Carole Lazar

Contributors: Marie Orton, Jim Parker, Barb Gregg, Gerry Helmer and Margy Jalbert

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A FUN-FILLED FAREWELL TO 2018

Do you remember what it was like trying to get a babysitter for New Year's Eve? The demand was so great that even if you were prepared to pay top dollar you could find yourself out of luck. Given the demographics at Chelsea Gardens, you would think problems like this would be behind us but we still face a similar challenge each year. If we assume that residents are not prepared to get a line of credit on their homes just to cover this annual evening out, how do we find a cater to prepare and serve a New Year's Eve dinner for our smallish group?

It is **Diane Anderson** who takes on the thankless task each year and this time round she got a real winner. The 55 or so guests who attended our New Year's Eve dinner had rave reviews for the spread presented by Coast and Country Caterers.

The only complaint that I heard related to the dessert, a chocolate cheese cake with raspberry sauce. The pieces were large and totally irresistible. Leaving the last bite or two on the plate was not an option.

Fortunately, it wasn't long before our musicians arrived **Sincerely Yours**

took the stage and got our overstuffed diners and the neighbours who had joined them up and dancing.



Most guests made it till the balloons dropped at midnight but **Marie Orton** was played out so she and **Ashley** celebrated the moment a bit early so she could go home to bed.



PENANCE?

I use the same heading for this event every year but really, why else would anyone participate in a polar bear swim? Unless of course that someone is **Joel Hossack** who is impervious to cold and can never say no to a swim. She was the first one in the pool this year but she wasn't alone for long. About 25 hardy souls took the plunge.

The weather was mild and clear and John had raised the water temperature to 86 degrees but still there were another 45 of us who gladly paid for our breakfast rather than get wet.



ROBBIE BURNS SUPPER:

On November 25th we gathered to celebrate what would have been Robbie Burns' 260th birthday. The first of these Robbie Burns memorial suppers was held in 1801, five years after the poet's death. His friends kept notes of the proceedings and the elements and order of events have remained relatively unchanged ever since. What is clear is that the first item of business is to find a piper. This can be a difficult task since on January 25th, pipers are in great demand.

We were lucky because although **Kendrick Rutherford** had performed on CTV and Global earlier in the day and was fully booked for Saturday, he was able to join us at our Friday night event. Kendrick played for our Robbie Burns supper in 2015 when he was only 13 years old. He has continued his training and added some impressive awards to his resume since then.



Kendrick piping in the haggis



KENDRICK WAS NOT THE ONLY STAR.

Laird Don McKenzie did an impressive job addressing the haggis and making those initial thrusts of the dagger as he cut into it. Our thanks too, to **Elaine Galley** for her killer trivia quiz and to **Dave Pritchard** and friends for leading the sing-along that finished off the evening.



CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

The wisteria covered path leading up to the koi pond has got to be one of the most photographed scenes in Chelsea Gardens. Small wonder! It doesn't get any more beautiful than that.

Still Chelsea has other picturesque spots and we know many of you have captured some lovely seasonal shots. We would like a chance to display a few of these pictures on the opening page of our Chelsea Today website. If you have a picture that you have taken sometime in the last five years or so that you would be prepared to share, we would love to see it. Photographers will be given credit for any pictures that are used. Send your submissions to our webmaster at: photos@chelseatoday.org



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SUPER BOWL SURPRISE:

We sure aren't talking about the game results. They were predictably ho-hum. The lead up though was great fun. **Cindy Herbstreit** had entered a contest sponsored by Rock 101 Radio. They wanted to know about their listeners' Super Bowl plans. Well, Cindy must have made Chelsea's informal gathering sound good since hers was one of the winning entries.

The prize was a beer fridge, three dozen beer and a basket of snacks. These were delivered on game day with much fanfare!

Cindy is giving the fridge to husband, Kelly, for his man-cave. She shared the beer and snacks with all of us.

She and Kelly pose on either side of the fancy new

Rock 101 fridge along with deejay, **Willy Percy**.

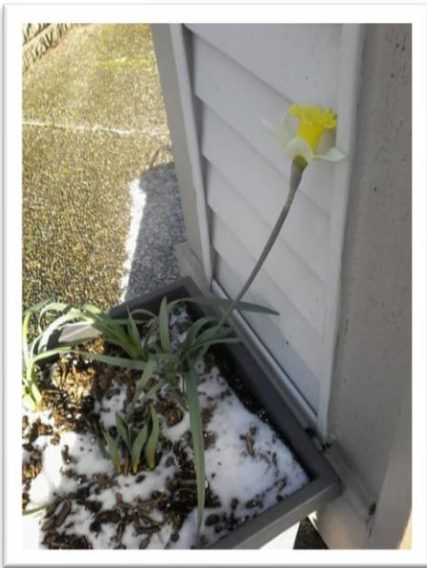


AND ABOUT THE WEATHER!

It was an unseasonably warm January and some of our early spring bulbs got a bit too confident. After a light skiff of snow on February 4th, this daffodil in **Sharon Russell's** planter (TH 213) sought the shelter and support of the garage wall but bloomed on bravely.

What a difference

a week or two made! On February 17th, **Zenon and Margy Jalbert's** granddaughter, Julia, invited younger sister, Nadine, to join her in the igloo she had made in **Eric and Carol Greenidge's** front yard.



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AN EDITORIAL NOTE:

I would like to give a big thanks to **Marie Orton** who so capably produced our winter newsletter. It was a helping hand that I needed desperately.

Many of you have heard all about my vision problems. I am sure I have told **everyone!** I needed cataract surgery. Don't we all at a certain age? But while most people go through this procedure quietly, I was convinced that mine was the most inconvenient and debilitating surgery of all time. My second eye was not done until three months after my first and then there was the healing time and of course it took them close to two weeks to get my new glasses once they were ordered. For all this time, my computer screen was just a blur. Anything I tried to type was full of errors and my head ached from the eyestrain. The only thing worse than my vision was my disposition.

And then Marie came to the rescue! She did such a good job I thought she might like to take over on a permanent basis but she says no, I can have this little project back.

FLOWER POWER DANCE

As guests dug out their driveways and picked their way up the road to the club house on the evening of February 8th, they knew that the title of this event did not relate to present times. Instead they were being invited to remember the 1960's. The music and dress reflected that decade but there was also a forward-looking contest. Now that recreational cannabis has been legalized organizers felt that guests might want to hone their doobie rolling skills.



As you can see, **Ken Thorburn** is well ahead of **Nancy Amaral** in this race. Does that tell us who had the misspent youth? (Please note that the green plant like material provided contained neither THC nor CBD.)

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ITALIAN DINNER:

If you wanted to put on a special Italian themed dinner as a belated Valentine's Day event, what would you serve? How about marinated bocconcini and grape tomatoes, Genoa salami, rosemary ham, prosciutto, provolone, mixed olives, and pepperoncini on a bed of red leaf lettuce with an accompaniment of cheese twists and an assortment of bread sticks? Well that's what we had, and that was just the appetiser.



Earlier in the day, **Donna Carlaw**, who has done this job before at her church, joined half a dozen social committee members in **Carolyn Swayze** and **Barry Jones'** kitchen to form an assembly line and prepare the homemade lasagna and salads. Once again, Veneto's worked their magic and provided the world's best tiramisu. The tables were

festively decorated. **Ray Schneider** and **Ann Brokop** provided background music and of course, there was an Italian trivia quiz.

Guests were appropriately impressed and appreciative. Is it any wonder when we got all this for the price of a BLT sandwich at a family restaurant?

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF WINE:

You won't find our wine club on the events calendar that is published each month nor does it meet on a scheduled basis but if you give **Herman Kluftinger** a call, he will notify you each time he has reserved the library for a gathering.

The meetings usually start with a brief explanation of the history and qualities of the variety of wine chosen for the evening. On January 10th, when I attended one of these gatherings, the group was planning to taste a variety of pinot noirs. Pinot noir is a red wine grape and ranks as one of the oldest grapes in the world. It probably originated in the Burgundy region of France. Cultivation in Canada dates back to the 1930's. This grape is difficult to grow because its tightly packed clusters and thin skin make it susceptible to rot and mildew. This probably explains why it is one of the most expensive wines.

With that explanation offered it was then time to taste the wines which participants had brought to share. Group members are encouraged to shop with a friend or partner for a bottle of the chosen wine. There is a \$20 price limit.

Score pads and napkins are provided. Many bring some sausage, cheese or crackers to cleanse their palate. Participants are invited to taste and rank the selection of wines. The bottles are tightly wrapped in their brown paper bags and identified only by number. When this blind tasting is completed scores are tallied and the identity of the wines is revealed. It is always a bonus if one of the less expensive choices is given a high rating by group members. What a great way to find new selections for your next dinner party. If this is the kind of evening you might enjoy every couple of months, give Herman a call at 604-507-9644 and he will fill you in on the details.



Sharon Lecluse, Sonja Jones, Herman Kluftinger, Milt Jones and Heidi Kluftinger sample a selection of pinot noirs. Their group is usually larger but on January 10th they were competing with a play of some note which was being performed at the Surrey Arts Centre.

WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOUR IDEAS AND INPUT.

Our newsletter is sponsored by the Chelsea Gardens' Social Committee. The guidelines which explain the type of material we publish can be found under the [newsletter link](#) on this site. If you would like to submit an article for the paper edition, it shouldn't be more than about 200 words but we have some leeway with the online edition. We love getting your pictures. Or maybe you have an idea or a titbit of news. Did something interesting or funny happen at one of our events or around the neighbourhood? Please let me know! My dog is getting old. I don't get around as much as I used to. E-mail materials or suggestions to lazarc@shaw.ca or call me at 778-565-7488.

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GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE CHELSEA TODAY WEBSITE:

Did you know that there are about 90 users who have signed up for the Chelsea Today website but have not registered for the blog updates? Are you one of them? It is about more than just getting notice of social events though of course you will get those in your e-mail if you are registered. We also try to post a blog entry every time we add something new to the website. If you sign up you will get an e-mail when council minutes are available online, when our trash and treasure day or the AGM date is fixed and when pictures are posted. Rather than having to check for new entries, you will be sent a note with enough information in it to let you know whether it is something you want to check out or not. Maybe you have missed the form you have to fill out to get these notices. It's on the opening page of the blog where it tells you that you are registered and can click to see the entries. If you scroll down instead of clicking to enter the blog page, there's a box where you can add your e-mail address if you want to receive our notices.

WELCOME TO OUR BLOG.

To view our blog entries or to leave replies, you must have registered as a member and be logged in. If you haven't done that yet, you will find the form at the bottom of the menu on the left hand side of this page.

Already a Member?

[Then you're in. Just click here.](#)

But before you go...

Does your spouse pick up the mail? Do you miss events because you do not see the posters? Here's the solution. Fill in the form below and receive notice of all events and other Chelsea happenings delivered directly to your in-box.

Name

Email*

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SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER:

Back in 2016, when we had our last Shrove Tuesday supper, **Tim Major** was a member of the social committee and he offered to get some of his fellow Lions in to make the pancakes. Now it doesn't get any better than that. The Lions do about 15 pancake breakfasts each year for school and sporting events. They are used to feeding big crowds and best of all, they even bring their own grill!

Tim has since retired from the social committee but when a Shrove Tuesday event was proposed, he was still the first person that organizer, **Madan Gupta** thought of and we know where he lives. This year again then we benefited from the pancake flipping expertise of **Tim Major** and his fellow Lions, **John Hoefer** and **Terry Rigby**. Fifty odd guests enjoyed the decadence of a dinner of pancakes, sausages and fruit salad without a single green vegetable in sight.



Tim and John cook. Who is the supervisor?

Guests said the pancakes were the best yet. I was surprised to hear them do a quality comparison. How can they remember the pancakes but not my detailed answer to the questions they posed three years ago? What does “shrove” mean they asked. Why do you call it that? Maybe those who asked the same questions this year are newcomers or maybe some of us are experiencing a little cognitive slippage or maybe the 2016 newsletter in which I explained all this was not read prior to being used to line the budgie’s cage.

Whatever the reason we are still getting the questions so let me reprint my explanation.

Most of you are familiar with the forty-day penitential season of Lent which precedes Easter. Shrove Tuesday is the evening before Lent starts. The word “shrove” is not one we use anymore but it is the past tense of the word “shrive,” which means to hear a confession, assign penance, and absolve from sin. It was common in Northern Europe to start the Lenten preparation on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday by going to confession and then making pancakes to use up any leftover eggs, meat and fat so they would not be wasted during the forty days of Lent when these foods were not allowed. Pancake Tuesday is closely related to Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) but it does not last for weeks or have the carnival atmosphere its southern counterpart has. Still, it has its own traditions. In the UK, pancake races form an important part of the Shrove Tuesday celebrations. The idea is to have a large number of people, preferably, in fancy dress, race down streets tossing pancakes. The object of the race is to get to the finishing line first, carrying a frying pan with a nicely cooked pancake in it. Maybe we could try that next year.

To add insult to injury, not only did most of you forget this explanation but the social committee has not, to the best of my knowledge, given any consideration at all to my final suggestion.

Complex Migration Patterns?

On Friday, March 15th we were scheduled to have our usual third Friday pub night and sing-along. Since it was the St Patrick's day weekend, social committee members got together and cooked up great vats of Irish stew. Add some baking powder biscuits and some shortbread shamrocks for dessert and you had a meal anyone would enjoy. So maybe I'm being picky but that brings me to the whole issue of national heritage.

I could not help noticing that the place was awash in shamrocks and leprechauns. And no, it was not just the party décor. Almost every one of the hundred odd guests was wearing the green. What astonished and confused me was that many of those proudly displaying tokens of their Irish roots were the very same residents who on January 25th had claimed to be of Scottish heritage. I came home and checked it out. Well yes, it happens they might not be stretching the truth at all. In the early 17th century, England's King James began divvying up plots of land in Ireland as part of the Ulster Plantation as it was called. The idea was to replace the feckless Irish Catholics with good Presbyterian Scots. Now you add to that to the fact that Canada was settled by immigrants from both Ireland and Scotland and you can see why so many of those living in Chelsea can and do claim both Scottish and Irish ancestry.

Gladys Zemianski must be one of those with a mixed background. The tam-o'shanter that she sported at our Robbie Burns supper was not in evidence at all as she joined friends celebrating St. Patrick's Day



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“When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.” Alexander Graham Bell.

It was the spring of 2012 and **Renata Cheetham** was not a happy camper. Her husband, George, was going deaf and was also having trouble with his speech and memory. He'd become so withdrawn he was even reluctant to attend dinners or celebrations with his own kids and grandchildren. Where in the past Renate and George had spent winters in Hawaii or Mexico, visited extended family members in Europe and taken motor trips around the province in the summer, George now didn't want to leave the house at all.

Renate found that she too was becoming housebound. Still, she took a little time each Thursday to pick up litter as part of the Adopt-a-Block program. It was while she was doing these rounds that she met Mary Daykin. Mary was close to 90 years old and lived in the apartments across 70th Avenue. She thought that Renate looked quite fit and asked if she had ever considered competing in the Senior Games. Mary was a regular competitor herself. Renate hadn't thought of anything of the sort but she was curious. When she got home, she Googled “Senior Games”. She found a phone number and made the call. The rest, as they say, is history.

That summer, she headed into Burnaby with Mary and competed in the 2012 Senior Games. Renate won bronze medals in the 5km and 10km walks. While at the track, she noticed one group of seniors that seemed to be hanging out together and cleaning up in the medal department. She went over for a



chat and was invited to join the Greyhound Masters' Track Club. Since then she has benefited from the training and coaching she has received through this group. She has competed every year in walking, speed walking and running at a variety of track and field events but she is not getting many bronze medals these days. Most of them are gold. She's won 151 medals over the past seven years. Renate's family supported her new interest by coming to stay with their dad on those days when she was away at meets. Her doctor was also a supporter since he felt this interest kept her healthy enough to manage her husband's

increasing needs. Renate was able to care for George herself till earlier this year when he finally had to be moved to a home.

Would she ever have discovered this new passion had it not been for George's illness? Who knows? Have any of you found a new beginning at a time when you were facing loss? We'd love to hear your story.

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