

CHELSEA GARDENS

Newsletter

SPRING 2018

Survivors of the Waikiki Missile Alert



Sisters, Gladys Bittner, Edie Minnault and Barb Herndier, as photographed by friend, Lil Ottesen

The four of us were up early on our first day in Waikiki. At 8:05 AM we headed out the door of our 18th floor condo for our morning walk and a trip to the beach.

Just then, a startling intercom announcement froze us in our sneakers!

“This is an emergency! This is an emergency! A North Korean missile has been launched and is headed towards the Hawaiian Islands. Stand by for further instructions!”

We had heard no air raid sirens and our TV was off. Our lanai doors were open so we stepped outside and looked down at the street to see people running in different directions.

We stood there stunned!

We knew our stairs exit was right outside our door, but????

Shortly, like in 3-4 minutes, a second announcement told us that the missile alert was not an official one sent out by the Oahu National Defence Headquarters and that we were to “Stand by !” At this point we had no idea what we were to stand by for!

It was 8:15 when we finally got the cancellation of the emergency alert and the news that North Korea had not fired off a missile at all.

We wiped our sweating brows, breathed again, hugged each other and headed outdoors. In the elevator we were told by others that the alert message was already 38 minutes old by the time we first heard it. Cell phone users had the alert right away. Huh? Not us!

Disconcerting to say the least.

Upon our return to the condo, TV news had the Oahu Emergency Team Leader apologizing repeatedly not only for the mistaken alert, but also for the ensuing panic, fear, and chaos it caused. He shamefacedly explained that it was all a human error, a pressing of the wrong button.

But he went on to say the team really felt that it was well- prepared for such an attack——— NOT!

There followed a week of public outrage, fierce criticism, frantic reassessing of defence plans and of course a “reassignment” of the button presser!

Later, we asked ourselves: “Where would we have run to, or run from?”

What a way to start a vacation!

By Gladys Bittner

Guess Who!

The British Columbia Indoor Games were held on April 9th, 2018 in Kamloops. One of our Chelsea residents won 6 gold medals in this competition. Can you guess who it was?
(See the answer on page 4.)

Out with the old, in with the new.

Another year already? They go by in a hurry now. The last social event of the 2017 year was a New Year's Eve dinner followed by a dance and the welcoming in of 2018.



Elaine Scott, Dot Munsie, Ray Arnett and Terry Alscher turn their attention from their appetizers and give us a smile.

The dinner featured honey baked ham and salmon with dill sauce but it didn't attract quite as many guests as usual. We heard that it was competing with a potluck and house party here at Chelsea, a limousine excursion to the Langley Events Centre and special meals being featured by some of our local restaurants. There are lots of options on New Year's Eve.

Many of those who stayed to enjoy the buffet dinner provided here at Chelsea reported that the smaller group made for a quieter and more relaxed meal. That

being said, we wonder if it is time for a change. It won't be easy. Caterers too have a lot of choices on New Year's Eve and if the possibility presents itself, they will choose the large groups and the bigger pay checks. We have considered ourselves lucky in having Kalmar accommodate our needs for several years now. Still, it's a new year so we will be looking for new possibilities.

Sincerely Yours provided live music for the party that followed the dinner and many residents who had chosen to dine elsewhere joined us for this part of the celebration. Given our demographics, male dancing partners are often in short supply. We try to make it clear that dance events are not just for couples. What better way to lead than by example?



Carolyn Swayze and Elaine Galley left Barry and Ron to sit it out and honoured the Chelsea tradition by hitting the floor for a "just us girls" dance.

Is it an act of penance?

Perhaps after all the excesses of the Christmas season culminating as they do with a party that keeps guests up and the libations flowing till past midnight some residents feel the need to start the new year with a dramatic return to their puritan roots.

It's the only way I can explain the popularity of the New Year's Day polar bear dip. Some 37 residents took the plunge. Many of us just joined them for breakfast afterward.

Okay, so the external temperature was 3°, the pool had been heat to 75° and there were no ice floes but it was still enough to make participants gasp a bit as the cold air and water hit them.



Norm Reid looking like he might be having second thoughts about this

Movie Night at Chelsea Gardens

Have any of you visited one of those fancy VIP movie theatres where you can sit back in a comfy easy chair and sip wine while you watch the show? I think just the movie costs \$10.00 and I shudder to guess the price of the food and beverages.

Since October, Ashley and Marie Orton have been hosting a movie night about once every three weeks right here in our own fireside lounge. Our couches and wing back chairs make our seating as cushy as that in the high end theaters. For \$1.00 you get a good movie projected onto a 150 inch screen as well as a bag of popcorn. (Melted butter is an optional add-on.) You can also bring your own food and beverages so if a glass of wine sounds good to you, go for it. It looks like this will become a regular event, usually at 7:00 PM every third Sunday. Watch for posters to confirm dates and find out what movie is showing. Recommendations and requests are also welcome so drop Ashley a line at ashlevorton@shaw.ca if you have a movie you would particularly like to see.



Marie and Ashley are newcomers, having moved to Chelsea just last July. New neighbours bring new ideas. What a welcome addition to our community.

A new twist on an old favourite

For many years we have been fortunate enough to have a group of musicians lead us in a sing-along on the third Friday of every month. Al Rozek and Dave Pritchard were the core of that group until the Rozeks moved away in the summer of 2016. Then this past fall, Dave announced his intention to pack it in. His deafness was making it increasingly difficult for him to hear and adapt to other musicians and singers.

Ray Schneider, Phil Smith and Ann Brokop had been active with the Chelsea Band but were a little overwhelmed at the prospects of leading the group. Since no one immediately stepped up to assume responsibility for the event, we missed out on a couple of our sing-alongs.

But discussions were taking place and the parties were giving it some serious thought. What they decided was that though Dave and Al had played together for so long they could just wing it, those taking over would feel more confident if they could practise some of their pieces in advance. So that is what they have started doing. You will notice our third Friday sing-along is back on the calendar.

This practise time has also opened up new possibilities. The group has always welcomed new players and singers but existing members are hoping that giving those who might be interested a chance to play with them without an audience will encourage new people to give it a try. If this idea appeals to you, give Ray or his booking agent, Arvilla, a call at (778)593-2525.

Oh, and by the way, Dave thought that a practise might help with his problem too. With a little preplanning he would not have to play it by ear so much so he's decided to give it another try. The addition of his expertise will help smooth out the growing pains for our new sing-along leadership. As the McCain ad says, "It's all good."

The Chelsea Gardens Newsletter is sponsored by Chelsea Gardens Social Committee

If you have any suggestions, or would like to submit articles or photos for future newsletters, phone Carole at 778-565-7488. Our submission guidelines, and an on-line version of this newsletter can be found at www.chelseastrata.com

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It's a brave new world:

25 years ago could you have imagined how the world of technology has come to dominate our interactions? The learning curve has been a steep one but most of us have at least learned how to browse the Internet and use e-mail. We are hoping to lure you into exploring the digital world a little further.

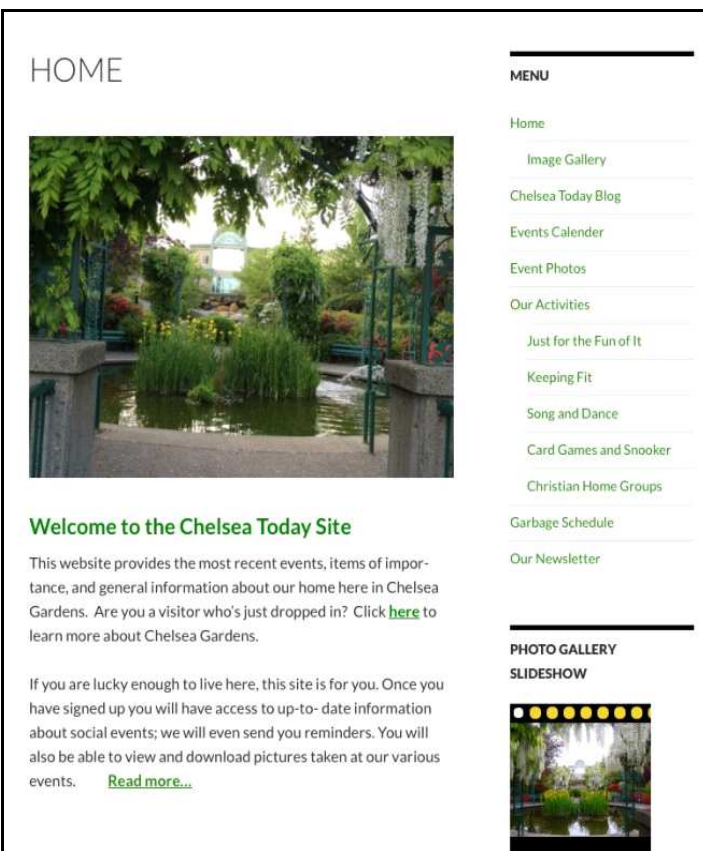
We now have two Chelsea Gardens' websites. The first one, which has been active for a decade or more, is maintained by Crossroads Management and provides you with minutes, both current and historical, by-laws and rules, contact information for council, our 2017 depreciation report and finally our social events calendar and a copy of this newsletter. You can find this webpage at www.chelseastrata.com.

So why, since we have a webpage, would we decide to start second one? It was because we try to watch the budget. Our official website is professionally managed and if we wished to add more content or make frequent changes, we would have to pay more for this service. Our new, Chelsea Today site is managed by a couple of your fellow residents on a volunteer basis. You can find it at: www.chelseatoday.org


What does our new site have to offer? Well...

1. It includes details on all those activities that are listed on our events calendars together with contact information for the leaders.
2. Some of you used to access our event photos online until that service was discontinued because the server we were using quit providing free web space. Those photos are back online. Did you see a nice shot of yourself on the clubhouse bulletin board? You can download it and send it out to friends and family in an e-mail or you can have it printed so you have a hard copy.
3. Traditionally, we have relied on posters to inform residents of upcoming events and of course we will continue using those. Still, we often have people complain that they missed seeing a poster. They tell us that they usually access their condo from the underground parking and only use the lobby when they visit their mail box. We get complaints about their less social spouses who just pick up the mail and tell them nothing! On our Chelsea Today site you have the option of registering for e-mail notifications of all events. Even before the posters are up, the relevant information will be delivered to your in-box.
4. And there are other important things too...like the garbage pick-up schedule, and of course a copy of this newsletter. Because the site is self directed it is likely to be a growing operation with more content to come. If you sign up for notifications you will be advised of each change.

So that is the good news. Since in accessing either of these sites you are entering the brave new world of technology, there is also a small start up issue you will have to address. Because we value your privacy, both of these websites allow only limited access to the general public. To access the material we have described you need to register. When our webmasters have checked your identity to assure that you are a Chelsea resident you will receive notice and have full access to the sites. (Because the two sites are administered separately, you will need to go through this process for each of them.) It may take a day or two before you hear back but we hope that you will find the convenience provided by the sites makes it all worthwhile.



HOME



Welcome to the Chelsea Today Site


This website provides the most recent events, items of importance, and general information about our home here in Chelsea Gardens. Are you a visitor who's just dropped in? Click [here](#) to learn more about Chelsea Gardens.

If you are lucky enough to live here, this site is for you. Once you have signed up you will have access to up-to- date information about social events; we will even send you reminders. You will also be able to view and download pictures taken at our various events. [Read more...](#)

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PHOTO GALLERY SLIDESHOW



And the winner was...

Renate Cheetham

or as her fellow competitors called her, "Wonder Woman".