

Chelsea Gardens' Newsletter



2022

THANKS TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Last edition we forgot to report on the results of our Christmas food bank drive. Well, the figures are in. We were able to donate 444 pounds of food and \$615.00 in cash or cheques. Did you know that in 2021 Chelsea Gardens residents gave \$5,780.00 as well as many boxes of groceries to the Food Bank? We know too that some of you give elsewhere so the true total is probably much higher. Special credit should go to Ron Plankeel, Zenon Jalbert, Bob Hyde, Ken Thorburn and Robert Fraser who power washed driveways and patios for residents throughout Chelsea and then donated all \$2,870 of their earnings to the Surrey Food Bank.



SURREY
FOOD BANK

So how much do we know about our local food bank? For instance, did you know that:

- ◆ The Surrey Food Bank is an essential service in the community, operating in Surrey since 1983
- ◆ They provide food assistance to upwards of 12,000 low-income residents of Surrey, Cloverdale, and North Delta monthly
- ◆ 41% of their clients are children under the age of 18

- ◆ 20% of their clients are new immigrants to Canada
- ◆ They distribute over \$25,000 worth of product every single day
- ◆ They provide food to between 120 and 150 families daily
- ◆ They rely solely on the community for funding as they receive no primary government funding
- ◆ They are the second largest food bank in British Columbia. Over 90,000 British Columbians relied on a food bank in 2020
- ◆ They rely on more than 20 volunteers each day to run their operation
- ◆ They also deliver over 100 food hampers to individuals with severe medical issues through their Hamper to Your Home program

THE YEAR OF THE MOUSE:

It's not like there has never been the occasional Chelsea homeowner who's had to deal with a few mice in the past but this year the little critters seem to be everywhere! Townhouse residents, whether they are in ground floor units or are upstairs, have been finding the telltale droppings in shoe closets and in random corners. We have even had reports of mice seen scurrying up the stucco on the sides of an apartment building which would explain the droppings one homeowner found on the window sill of her 4th floor condo. For some the problem is more serious. Insulation from around the dishwasher is being carted away to be used

for nest building we are guessing. Scurrying noises in the walls raise fear for the integrity of electrical wiring.

John and Val are doling out mouse traps of various sorts and Atlas Pest Control has become a regular visitor. A clerk at the local Canadian Tire, when asked by a beleaguered Chelsea homeowner where the mouse traps were displayed, advised that in the half hour the store had been open that morning, this was the 8th time she had fielded this question. It was a common enough problem that neighbours could be found on the streets stopping to share tips; Yes, we did try stuffing our vents and the area around our drain pipes with steel wool and mothballs. No, it did not seem to work for us.

It was enough to make many of us start thinking about getting a cat. But wait, our cat aficionados tell us that not all cats are mousers. Could you try one out in advance? Somehow, I doubt that the SPCA is going to be impressed with a proposition like that. Would it be possible to just borrow a cat? Well that too has been tried with mixed success.

Gatsby, who is normally resident at Townhouse 127, was persuaded to do a couple of overnight visits at a neighbour's home. He was a wonder on four paws! He immediately stationed himself at a spot in front of the dishwasher staring at it intently. There he remained for the better part of the afternoon. Over the course of the next two days he gifted his hostess with several fine mousy specimens. There were also suspicious munching sounds in the night. (Our hunter having a snack to keep up his strength, maybe?) By the third day, Gatsby was played out and just wanted to snooze. The grateful homeowner packed up his belongings, took him home and went back to enjoy her mouse-free residence.

Word of Gatsby's accomplishments spread and he was in high demand. What people failed to take into account, however, is that though he is a formidable mouser, first and foremost, Gatsby is a cat.



Like most of his kin, he does not “do” predictability. When taken to visit different neighbours, he simply wasn't interested in their mice. Here he is seen taking a few minutes out from working on the family jigsaw puzzle to look down at the floor. Though we have been assured that there was plenty of sport available for him down there, he was not impressed, and soon began yowling because he wanted to go home. Dull mice maybe?

- War does not determine who is right—only who is left.
- Evening news is where they begin with ‘Good Evening,’ and then tell you why it isn't.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
- A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
- Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.



WORDS OF WISDOM

The clock of life is wound but once,
And no one has the power, to say just
when those hands will stop,
At short or early hour.

Now is the time:
Live, love, toil with a will.
Place no faith in tomorrow for the clock
May then be still.

Our thanks to Yvonne Brennan who sent us
this excerpt from the wise words penned by
Robert Smith in the poem *The Clock of Life*.

sliders don't need much space in the winter. When temperatures fall, turtles enter a state of sopor, during which they do not eat or defecate, they remain nearly motionless, and the frequency of their breathing falls. (What we refer to as hibernation in warm blooded animals is called brumation in reptiles.)



Come the beginning of March, Jack DeVries, our turtle guy, decided it was warm enough for our turtles to be released back into the pond.

Once again, they have been attracting all sorts of visitors. Keen observers will have noticed that Scooter is missing and has been replaced by a colourful female. While caretakers had been confident that the sides of the turtles' winter shelter were high enough to prevent any escape, it seems that Scooter made it over the edge and perished during our late December cold snap.

That's the story, anyway. Some of us suspected foul play. Did he climb out of his comfortable winter digs or was he given a boost? When you are a lone male and thoughtless humans confine you with Thelma and Louise can anyone really be surprised by an ending like this?

Perhaps realizing the choice of names for our first two females turtles might have led them to have some attitude problems, our new female's name was chosen with a lot more input. Suggestions were collected and then at our taco dinner Diane Moore won the draw and got to choose

THEY'RE BACK---MOSTLY:

Our resident turtles have been returned to the pond. Their winter accommodation



was a partially covered fibreglass pool liner equipped with a heater. It might have seemed cramped but red eared

from the names that had been submitted. So now that you know the story you really should drop around and meet BELLA our new addition.

A TASTE OF MEXICO:

Did the Covid restrictions with their expensive testing requirements and constant uncertainty scupper your winter travel plans? Well not to worry. Since we couldn't go south a bit of Mexico came to us.



Joyce Doyle, Eileen Krukowski, Donna Carlaw, Mary Gawle, Yvonne Brennan and Carolyn Swayze are seen here doing the advanced prep for the tacos that were the main feature of our Taco Night Dinner on March 25th. The dinner was a sell-out affair with almost everyone electing to attend in person.

In addition to its usual offerings, the bar featured strawberry and lime margaritas. A few discerning customers may have felt compelled to try one of each.

In addition to choosing a name for our new turtle, dinner guests bid farewell to the frog that had been hanging about in our waterway for many years. We'd never bothered to name him and his nose was quite out of joint. That being said, he did

suggest that if anyone wanted to rub his nose, it would bring them good luck. Still, unable to compete with our turtles, he's decided to retire to the south.



There was another noteworthy retirement. Lucie Walker, seen sitting to the right of the bouquet above, has not renewed her Serving It Right ticket. She's decided that 20 years as a volunteer bartender is enough.

Barb Parker presented some flowers and a big thank you from all of us.

It will take us awhile to recognise Lucie when she is not hustling around behind that bar but if anyone has earned the right to sit down and put her feet up, it's Lucie. Maybe we will even get a chance to chat with her now.

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