

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Sheila Robinson

**Treasurer:** Gerry Kennedy

**Secretary:** Helene Caron

## MEET YOUR PRESIDENT

I hope everyone has enjoyed this summer, although I do appreciate the cooler fall weather!

First, I thank Doug Brunton for his insight and leadership on the Board. It was a pleasure working with Doug as I learned about the responsibilities of board membership over the past year. I am very excited to begin my tenure as your new President of the Board of Directors. I look forward to working with Helene and Gerry and our property manager, Simone Richards.

Going forward, I intend to continue managing our operating finances efficiently and thoughtfully. The financial health of our condo corporation is something the Board takes very seriously. Over the past year we have had to make up a deficit in the operating budget, and a number of house-keeping projects were cancelled as a result of that deficit. As noted at the AGM, our operating budget is working its way back into the black, and now we are in a position to review the projects that were put on hold. We will work as a team to consider and implement the requests made at the AGM, while keeping an eye on costs and benefits to the community as a whole.

I also intend to develop a stronger working relationship with the Boards of Directors at the Main St and King St buildings. I was deeply troubled by the thefts in the garage and the lobby for this impacted us in all three buildings. I will arrange a meeting with the boards to see how we can keep our neighbourhood safe.

Please note my email address is sarichardson66@gmail.com [this was incorrect on residents' address list]  
Sheila Robinson

\*See Gerry's lovely tribute to our former President-Doug Brunton on p. 2



*Thank you Lynn for beautifying our front entrance this summer.*

## MAINTENANCE MATTERS

**Roof work** –is scheduled to start Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> and may take 4 to 6 weeks, weather permitting. After careful analysis of quotes obtained, the Board decided on a traditional “hot roll” roof, which means hot asphalt will be used on the rooftop. Thus, the make-up air unit which brings fresh air into our corridors will be turned off for the project’s duration to prevent extra asphalt fumes from coming into the building. We understand that the odours and noise might cause some inconvenience to residents; we ask for your patience during this time.

**Other Maintenance Issues (which had been on Hold):** As Sheila mentioned, our condo corporation’s operating budget has been stretched (due to reallocation of electricity bills for the underground garage ramp between 2 Main, 1 King & 5 Ogilvie St.) Finally we are in a positive financial operating cash flow situation so we are able to address maintenance items that had been pushed back. First, **the underground garage will be power-washed** in the Fall (Sat. Sept 7–Sun. Sept 8). Second, **the hallway carpets will be cleaned** after roof work is complete (date TBA). In addition, the Board is looking into options for improving the floor in the basement corridor.

**See anything amiss?** Call Simone Richards, Wilson Blanchard [905-540-8800 ext.385].  
Hélène Caron

## It's A Fire Alarm WHAT TO DO?

**(Now it may be just 'burned toast' but if it's not—you could be toast)**

-Fire alarms generate panic: try to stay calm, use this to identify what you need to do

**-EVERYBODY: call 911** if you hear an alarm or have a fire in your unit (the authorities don't mind *lots* of calls)

**Then.. DO YOU STAY OR LEAVE?**

**IF YOU HAVE A MOBILITY OR MEDICAL PROBLEM, STAY.** \*The board has a list of persons needing help from firefighters in case of fire [ensure the Board has your name if this applies to you].

**OTHERWISE if your door is not hot & there's no smoke, exit the building** –use stairs, never the elevator;

-do not congregate in corridors, front foyer or lobby: this impedes the movement of the fire authorities

-do not re-enter the building until told to do so by the fire department

-if you do find smoke in the stairwell, do not go upstairs [smoke/heat rises], take the other set of stairs

-if there is smoke in that stairwell too, return to your unit

**Do not risk being overwhelmed by smoke:**

-if your door feels hot, stay in your unit, call 911 & tell them you are there

-(do not try to leave your unit a long time after the alarm has sounded for if there is a fire, the longer you wait the more chance there is that heavy smoke will have spread into stairways and corridors.)

**NOTE: WITH A HOT DOOR AND SMOKE, EVERYBODY SHOULD**

-wet a large towel and lay it along the bottom of your front door

-use duct or packing tape to seal the sides of the door

**If smoke enters your apartment,** —move to the balcony & tell 911

-wave a towel or sheet at authorities!

-wait for rescue or an all clear signal.

## A Tribute to Doug Brunton, Our Past President



Photo: Marlene Buchanan

At our last AGM Doug stepped down from the Board of Directors after nine years. Those who served on the Board with him know of his full commitment to the well-being of our community and the work of the Board. Under his leadership as President, the Board undertook some important projects vital to the comfort, security or safety of the community: to mention a few, refurbishing the lobby and hallways, the challenge of changing management companies, renovating the garage (in cooperation with the other two condos) and, of course, dealing with all the other unexpected problems that invariably arise over time. As President, Doug needed, at various times, to play the role of facilitator, mediator, referee and perhaps even enforcer to keep the Board focused and goal oriented.

Even though Doug lived out of town, this did not deter him from serving on the Board. He viewed this as a volunteer commitment done for the good of the community. He generously invested his time, energy and enthusiasm into looking after the affairs of the condo. We want to express our gratitude to Doug for all that he has contributed to help make our community a place where friendly and neighbourly relations flourish and residents are delighted to call it 'home'.

For all of those years of loyal and devoted service to our great community, we wish to say 'Thank you so very much, Doug.' Your presence here has made a difference.  
Gerry Kennedy

Doug knew how easy it was to panic when the fire alarms sounded. Our feature this month is based on his concern. Staying calm means being prepared and knowing what is best for you to do in the circumstances of a real fire.

**\*See some reassuring details about our Fire Detection System and our corporation's policies and practices on page 4. Also there: a note on how you might avoid dithering & being indecisive when the alarm goes & your plan is to 'get out of there'!**

**FIRE PREVENTION AND US** Most condo fires are caused by cooking, dryers, faulty wiring & electricity use. Alas the most vulnerable people in fires are over the age of 70.

### FIRE PREVENTION 101

- keep your kitchen safe*** –ensure your stove area is clutter-free
- have a pot lid on hand to smother burning oil (*never* use water)
  - wear short or tight sleeves when cooking
  - turn pot handles inwards & unplug appliances not in use
  - never* leave cooking untended (use noisy timers if nature calls)

### ***and your laundry***

- clean the dryer's lint tray after every use
- don't overload your dryer or leave your unit with the dryer on ***other:***
- don't overload electrical outlets –better: good surge protectors
- have an electrician replace worn electrical cords
- place nothing combustible (curtains, tablecloths etc.) less than 1 m. near a heat source like a space heater or a candle
- never leave candles unattended; place on a level surface

**DRYER LINT** Dryers don't look dangerous. Alas, they are the cause of many fires: regular cleaning is crucial.

***Get Rid of Lint*** which builds up in the lint trap and inside the dryer vent and ductwork, reducing air flow and drying efficiency. **Importantly: Lint is combustible & dangerous.**

**Clean the dryer's lint trap after every load.** Remove the lint from the screen and wipe the edges. Note that dryer sheet residue can clog the screen—if this happens, submerge the lint screen in hot water and scrub with a soft brush to remove built-up fabric softener.

With the lint filter out, use a long-handled flexible brush in the opening to gently loosen the built-up lint.. Don't force the brush if you meet resistance but clean surfaces as much as possible. Remove any chunks that come out with the brush. (To eliminate smaller pieces, replace lint filter, run the dryer on air only for a cycle: this pulls lint into the filter (or blows

**(Dryer sheets: do we really need them?)** Dryer sheets are polyester sheets covered in fabric softening chemicals and chemical fragrances which are irritants to many. These rub off the sheet & coat clothing in a slimy layer that helps clothes feel softer. But these chemicals vent off into the air & rub off onto our skin. Many are toxic & some are known allergens. Some even contain volatile organic compounds which cause respiratory irritation. *Do we really need this exposure to toxic chemicals?*

*Safer: Woolen dryer balls—we can make these ourselves!*

*It's easy! Let's do it!!*

**I snuck up on my dryer  
Scared the sheet right out of it...**

**REPORT FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

In the late spring Elaine Carr, Donna Yates and I took over the responsibility for planning extra social events for our condo building.

It was great fun planning the June social complete with strawberries, shortcake and whipped cream. It was a wonderful success. We had a party room filled with happy people.

As I write this report, we have just put on another great social on Tuesday August 27th featuring peach crisp and ice cream.

We will be hosting a Swiss Chalet dinner on October 8th to celebrate Thanksgiving. When you sign up you can specify the kind of meal you'd most enjoy: chicken, ribs or vegetarian.

Thank you for participating in our socials. It wouldn't be the success it is without your support and help. We appreciate you all.  
 Mary Lou, Donna and Elaine

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



*Yard work courtesy of Helen Anderson and Donna & Bob Yates*

**HELP! WE NEED A GARDEN COMMITTEE!** Over the years a number of industrious souls have worked in and around the garden for the condo. We thank them enormously for their labour has made a real difference to the pleasure we experience living here. Indeed, we thank Jackie Beevers and, over the past year, Lynn Hayden, Helen Anderson and Donna and Bob Yates who have been working outside on our behalf. (Do you know of others who have helped?) This work has proceeded ad hoc but there is a real need for a committee with a specific mandate from the Board (along with some funding) to develop and maintain the garden. If you are interested, please contact Donna Yates who is the liaison for this development.

Fyi this work will probably be seasonal! Not too many of us would be willing to hustle out there on a wintry morning! Still if you like the idea of working with Mother Nature, contact Donna at 905-627-0878 or [dyates94@gmail.com](mailto:dyates94@gmail.com). Thank you. She will be happy to hear from you.

Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh how beautiful' and sitting in the shade.... Rudyard Kipling

*\*Do you have any announcements for the Grafton Gazette? Information you think we'd find interesting or something you'd like to know more about? Things you'd like to sell or pass on? Things you'd like to share? And what's wrong with a little gossip—if it comes from a generous heart? Contact the editor at 905-627-0393*

**Congratulations** to our busy Secretary who nipped off to Vancouver, BC August where she obtained her 2nd degree Black Belt at the *Wado Kai Karate Invitational (Championship)*. Besides this she won the kata competition for women over the age of 40. Very well done indeed!



**And congrats** to Jeremy Woodley whose work in Jamaica in the 1970s (where he discovered traces of a Jamaican iguana thought to be extinct) led to local efforts which have effectively brought back to almost abundant life a species otherwise doomed. He has been recognized for this work before but two recent articles have drawn attention to the success of the work with iguanas! *More announcements* —>



**Love  
 Our  
 Socials!**



The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large tray of peaches. A sign posted by a nun on the peach tray said: "Take only one. God is watching." ....Further along, at the other end of the table, was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. One child whispered to another: "Take all you want. God is watching the peaches."



Thank you to all our amazing volunteers....  
 The meaning of life is to find your gift  
 But the purpose of life is to give it away.  
 ..Shakespeare

**\*FIRE ~ WE CAN ALL FEEL A LITTLE SAFER HERE BECAUSE**

-It's not legal to smoke *anything* on our premises  
-Our corridor, floor & outside doors are heavy & self-closing  
-Exterior vents (dryers, etc.) are cleaned by the corporation  
-Our smoke detectors & alarm system are checked annually [Each year all fire systems are tested: the fire protection company provides a report on all components (smoke detectors, sprinkler heads, emergency lights, etc.): deficiencies are noted and quotes are provided for the repairs. Costs get approved by our Board and the repairs are done. So: our system is maintained in tip-top condition.]

**WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU HAVE SMOKE (BURNT FOOD) IN YOUR UNIT?** If you do *please do not open the door to the hallway*. Smoke should be contained in your unit. You can turn exhaust fans on and open windows & balcony doors. If smoke gets in the hallways, it can set off the main fire alarm and then fire department will come to investigate.

**IN THE RARE EVENT THE BUILDING MUST BE EVACUATED**  
The Fire Department/Captain will provide instructions. The most important thing is for the Board to know you will need assistance. As mentioned before, be sure the Board has your name & knows what type of assistance you need.

The Fire Department gets this list—it's kept in a Fire Safety Plan Box which they can access at any time (they have keys). They will send a crew member to your unit if evacuation is needed. *You will get the assistance you need.*  
(Information courtesy of Simone Richards, Wilson Blanchard).

About.... **THE GRAFTON GAZETTE**

*Thank you for suggesting names! We had 25 entries: 4 with Grafton, 3 Ogilvies, 4 number '5s', 7 News and 6 which were too diverse to fit into a category. We have a special connection with Grafton's Department Store (see next issue) & we liked the ring of **The Grafton Gazette**—hope you do too!*


**Web references** for notes on the Dryer: <https://www.thespruce.com/dryer-vent-lint-fire-hazard-2145839>;  
& Dryer Sheets: <https://www.ecowatch.com/why-you-need-to-ditch-dryer-sheets-18817146754.html>.

**Credits:** Catherine, editor gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Jackie Beevers, Marlene Buchanan, Trudy Collis, Mary Lou Collett, Ador Estravillo & Donna Yates; also our Board Members: Sheila Richardson, Gerry Kennedy & Helene Caron; & our Property Manager: Simone Richards. She thanks *everyone* for their support & is grateful to all those who suggested names.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED**

**NEEDED URGENTLY: A PARKING SPACE** Contact Jenny Chen via Marilyn Waters, Unit 402. Thank you.

**INTERESTED IN BOARD GAMES?** Don't be bored this winter; call Marilyn at 905-929-5425— would be fun. (By the way Marilyn had a birthday recently and her charming 8 1/2 year old granddaughter Paige brought her the most interesting & exotic balloons this side of....??)

**THANK YOU** to all those folks kind enough to pass on their no-longer-needed glasses to the *Jamaica Society for the Blind*. Your glasses will be put to good use for the society has equipment which allows them to match glasses closely to individual's needs — and the need  is very great indeed.

**THE ALARM SOUNDS....BUT YOU'RE DITHERING?**

Sometimes we're not sure we really want to leave our valuables, photos &/or special documents

**BEING PROACTIVE HELPS** -store important documents in a safety deposit box, a fireproof box, a memory stick (on your key chain), scanned into your phone or even hardcopy (via a portable 'virtual shoe-box' -ask the editor if you're interested)

-store photos in the cloud, in your fireproof box, on your phone or memory stick, or ask friends or relatives to store copies for you

-re jewellery & other valuables: place these in a safety deposit or fireproof box or just left them go: *your life is worth more than everything...*

The fires in the Amazon ...gone from the mainstream media? *Can we help save trees?* See the next **GG!**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYBODY**

I Can No Other Answer Make.... But Thanks....  
And Thanks..... And Ever Thanks. *Shakespeare*

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