

Merry Christmas!
Happy Hanukkah!

THE GRAFTON GAZETTE

Happy Kwanzaa!
Happy Holidays!

A Message from the Board

Merry Christmas!

Happy Hanukkah!

Thank you to the Decorating Group who have made our lobby look so wonderful for the holidays!

Thank you to the Social Committee for organizing the Christmas dinner and bingo night!

We are so fortunate to have all of you working to make our home so welcoming, festive, and cheerful.

The roof project has been completed. The final costs were more than called for in the reserve fund study, due to escalating costs in all construction.

Fortunately the reserve fund is able to absorb the overage. We now have a new roof with more insulation for efficiency and a 25 year warranty. Thank you all for your patience during the project.

We met with Simone from Wilson Blanchard to review the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and we were able to work out a 2.5% increase in condo fees starting in February 2020. You should receive formal notice with a breakdown in a package from Wilson Blanchard before Christmas.

From our hearts to yours, we would like to wish you all happy holidays and warm wishes for you and your families in 2020.

Helene Caron

Gerry Kennedy

Sheila Richardson



We may not all celebrate Christmas but we can all rejoice in its spirit

GRAFTON'S:

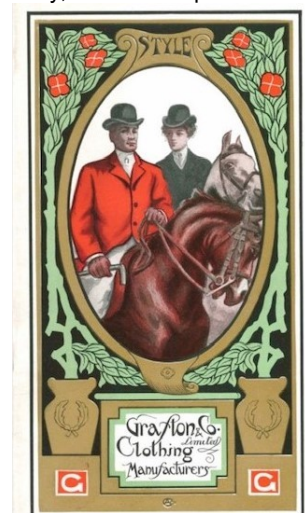
A Remarkable
Establishment

Did you know that our condo (along with *Mickey McQuire's Cheese Shop*) is located on the site of *Grafton's* original dry goods establishment - a retail business which, for 114 years, purveyed hats, bonnets, ribbons, dress goods, men's wear, blankets and house furnishings (and for farmers, grain bags) to grateful Dundasians? A very successful endeavour, it grew from a small 3-storey brick building at the corner of King and Ogilvie in 1853 to a mammoth enterprise consisting of: three buildings closely aligned along 4-8 King St W (now *Grafton Square*), a manufacturing concern across the street (where the *Bike Shop* and *Strawberry Field's* are now); and stables which housed the wagons and horses used to distribute their wares (the *Keeping Room* is there). And all this by 1887! Moreover, by 1905 *Grafton's* had opened 5 other branches in Peterborough, Hamilton, London, Brantford and Woodstock.

Undoubtedly folks enjoyed shopping here. The store made efforts to sell fashionable items (James Grafton often travelled - to Europe? - to suss out trends) and they took pride in manufacturing their own goods trademarked "High Grade". The hours were generous: 7 am to 7 pm on weekdays and to midnight on Saturday—in this way they accommodated their many working-class customers. Probably staff were personable and helpful for workers tended to stay at *Grafton's* for years: indeed the turnover was low and morale high. 'Uprightness and honesty' was the firm's motto: principles which must have meant well for community relations. With respect to the factory, the firm cooperated well

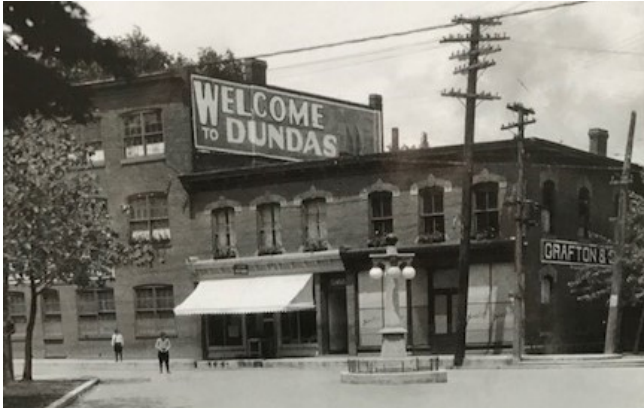
with the garment workers union and there were generous perks for long term employees. Dundasians may also have taken some pride and pleasure in knowing that, however large the company grew, its shop in Dundas remained the most special, indeed it was the company's flagship store.

Once you might have done your shopping at *Grafton's!*





Grafton's The Shop



Grafton's The Factory

But beyond the success of *Grafton's* business enterprise, the owners - members of the Grafton family - made a huge contribution to the Dundas community. James Beatty Grafton, the company's co-founder worked with his brother John Stewart Grafton when Andrew Gregson, his co-founder retired. Their kindness and generosity were well-known: John loved nature, was patriotic and participated in the Methodist Church. Later J. B. brought his son James J Grafton into the business. James had grown up in Dundas, worked in the store from a young age and was very active in the community: i.e. he was a town councilor, chair of the library board, a member of *St. Paul's United Church* and involved with the 77th *Wentworth Regiment* for some 40 years!

James Grafton's involvements led to him making a big impact on Dundas. He donated the site for the *Carnegie Library* (now the *Carnegie Gallery*) which was funded primarily by the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie (with townspeople contributing funds too). He relocated the first log cabin courthouse and jail in Wentworth County to *Dundas Driving Park* and later converted the cabin into a picnic centre. (Alas, this was destroyed by fire in 1967). The *Dundas Driving Park*, however, still benefits from the beautiful stone gates he donated in 1911; while members of *St. Paul's United Church* in Dundas surely appreciate the large stained glass chancel window that he contributed.

After James died in 1938, his wife Sarah M. Grafton took over the business before turning it over to James B's grand-nephew Steward Philip six years later. The company continued to expand but ultimately came to an end in 1976. *Grafton's* had been an important fixture in Dundas and had attracted thousands of shoppers to the town over the years. Residents were undoubtedly both surprised and saddened

when the store closed. *Grafton's* as a business enterprise did not die completely in 1976 but it partnered with another establishment and that development moves us well beyond the story of *Grafton's* in Dundas.

We could certainly do worse than to be haunted by the spirit of *Grafton's* at 5 Ogilvie! This was a highly respected company and family—much appreciated by the community. Indeed the *Grafton Gazette* is happy to pay this tribute to the contribution of these forerunners.

With thanks to Miranda Vander Vliet, Archive Assistant at the Dundas Historical Museum for her assistance.
Bibliography available on request.

Nov 26, 2019 : Latter-day Graftonites

Get Ready for the Christmas Holidays at 5 Ogilvie!



Mina, Inge, Jackie, Donna & Bev (Chief Elf)



Roxie the wonder dog offers Bev her assistance!
Hmmmuntangling the tangle took a lot of work!

THANKS EVERYONE... FOR WE ALL HELP TO MAKE THIS A VERY SPECIAL COMMUNITY

Still, we do thank those who play special roles.... namely

- our *Board of Directors*: **Sheila, Gerry & Helene**
 - our *Social Committee*: **Elaine, Mary Lou & Donna**
 - and **Dekyi-Lee** for her design & printing services
 - our (new!) *Garden Committee* **Donna**
 - our *Orienting New Residents Committee*: **Lynn & Bev**
 - Our *Coffee Captains* **Pearl, Jackie, Deanna, & Donna**
 - Our *Community Room Decorator*: **Trish**
 - and **Evelyn** for her lovely decorations
 - Our *Buyer* for coffee supplies: **Jackie**
 - And thanks to those bringing the coffee morning yummys!
 - Trudy** who updates our coffee morning notices
 - Sheila** who monitors our bulletin board
 - Helen A** who looks after the plants in the foyer
 - Helen A** and **Bob** for their hard work in the garden
 - Lynn** for the welcoming & decorative front planters
 - Trish** who keeps us endowed with fresh eggs
 - Jackie** for donating tulip bulbs which **Donna** planted
 - Trudy** who loans us her beautiful painting: *The Birches*
 - our *Newsletter Committee*: **Jackie, Catherine**
- And finally, all those who decorated for Christmas at #5*
- Lynn** who set up the tree (and brought everything up)
 - Bev (Chief Elf) & Mina, Inge, Jackie, Donna, Joyce, John** (& their supportive spectators: **Lynn, Helene, Roxie** the wonder dog, **Catherine & Jeremy**)
 - Trudy** for setting up & lending her lovely nativity scene
 - Trish** for decorating the lobby so beautifully

Report from the Social Committee

In October, a goodly number of residents sat down together and enjoyed a delicious *Swiss Chalet* Dinner. The menu included chicken or ribs or a vegetarian option. The dessert pies were exceptional!

On December 17, we held our annual Christmas dinner which was catered by the excellent *Genuine Bakery*. The feast included lasagna, roast chicken, potatoes, salad, rolls and dessert. A rice and veggie stuffed green pepper was the vegetarian option. It was a lovely way to share the holiday spirit with our neighbours and friends. After dinner, Elaine stepped into the role of bingo caller which she carried out with professional aplomb, and a lively game of bingo ended the festivities.

-Elaine, Mary Lou and Donna

And a big thanks to **FLORA** for hosting coffee mornings for floor 4 for so many years (at least 5!) Your quiet competence was much appreciated & your scones legendary (Flora's recipe below). It was interesting to know this recipe was not your mother's but that you got it from a *man* (who ran the Tea Room at a Church where Wayne officiated) ! We know you have to slow down a little now but are happy that you can look out your window & see the road leading up to highway #5 and the area where you grew up! You were a farm girl, your family had a mixed farm producing grain, but also milk and eggs (which your family supplied milk to many Hamiltonians). You must have seen a lot of changes in your 90 years! Happy Birthday belatedly - we wish you many many sunny pleasant days!

Flora's Tea Biscuits*



Preheat oven to 440 - 450 F

Combine together:

2 cups of flour
(can use ½ cup whole wheat flour)
1 Tbsp. of sugar
4 tsp. of baking powder
½ tsp. salt

Into this combination:

Cut in ½ cup of shortening

Beat 1 egg

Add milk to make ¾ cup in total

Add egg/milk mixture to flour mixture

(Currants can be added, if desired)

Form into a ball with hands

On a lightly floured surface

flatten or roll ball into a circle

½ to ¾ inch thickness

With a cookie cutter or small glass

cut the size desired for biscuits

Place cut-out pieces on cookie sheet

Bake 10 to 12 minutes, depending on size

Watch carefully until lightly browned

*Some of you may have this recipe already but as many of us don't; Flora kindly said we could reproduce it here..

GARDEN COMMITTEE NEWS

In the last issue of The Gazette, I asked residents who were interested in forming a garden committee to contact me. To date, I received one call from from an enthusiastic resident, Marlene Buchanan. Regardless, several residents have, for some time, on their own initiative, been working to maintain the exterior appearance of the condo and the grounds in various ways. Lynn and Bev Hayden have contributed the striking seasonal floral arrangements in the urns outside the front door that give the entrance a sparkling and welcoming look. Thanks are also due to Helen Anderson for keeping the plants in our lobby watered and healthy. Helen also undertook the strenuous task of pruning the overgrown and unruly looking shrubs on the corner of the building along with Bob Yates and myself. Jackie donated tulip bulbs which I planted around the pear trees on our front lawn. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that the busy squirrels that scampered around the trees in the fall haven't found them all!

I've spoken to a number of residents about the appearance of the landscaping in the front of the building. The general consensus is that, after many years, it's looking more than a little tired and in need of a makeover. The Board of Directors feels the same way and invited me to a meeting to discuss landscaping improvements. I offered to obtain a number of estimates on the cost of a landscape redesign and to report back to the Board. The Board is looking for a landscape plan that is low maintenance, drought tolerant, salt resistant and attractive all year round. It's an opportunity to consider incorporating an environmentally friendly approach, such as using native plants and pollinator plants to help support butterfly and bee populations. There are also financial benefits to replacing the existing grass with perennial bushes and grasses as this will cut out the need for extensive watering and expensive grass cutting and fertilizing services. Depending on the costs involved and the budget that the Board decides is feasible, it may be necessary to implement the plan in stages. An attractive landscape design will enhance the appearance of our building and the entire street and that will help to maintain our property values. It will also complement the strikingly attractive landscaping beside the Library across the street and outside other buildings, such as *Amica* and the *Creekside* complex. It's time for a makeover!

Donna



JUST IN!

The condo dinner was a huge success!

Congratulations



(Help! We need a photographer! Please let Catherine or Jackie know if you're interested!)

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride? *A Holly Davidson!*

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? *A Christmas Quacker!*

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? *Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!*

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? *They always drop their needles!*

Concerned about the planet? The lives our children's children will face? One expert says we seem more fearful of *changing our behavior* than we are of climate change... *What can we do?* Here's one easy thing: go meatless on Mondays (or make another day *your Monday!*)

Support the Sweet Potato Project!

An initiative generated right here in Dundas!

LESS MEAT = LESS HEAT

Want a positive, doable way to fight climate change? Eat less meat. **The Sweet Potato Project**, two Dundas high school students and a senior, encourages you to take a simple action: go **Meatless on Mondays**. Go to our pledge which asks you to skip meat on the first Monday of the new year: January 6.

Or pledge to skip meat every Monday in 2020!

Find pledging pages on the bulletin board & at <http://bit.ly/2X19dGm>. (Pledging facilitates knowing we are not alone but, increasingly, that more and more of us are choosing to *care...*)

Ideas for meatless meals! Eggs, fish, *Beyond Meat* or try this

BEAN BURGERS

2 cups cooked beans [lentils, black beans, etc] (Best slightly overcooked or tinned; note 1 19 oz tin = 2 cups beans)

1 carrot, diced

1/4 onion, diced

1 Tb herbs*

1/2 cup bread crumbs or ground almonds or cooked grain

sea salt to taste

toasted nuts or seeds

to bind: 1 beaten egg [optional]

1. Mash beans
2. Mix ingredients together and form patties or small balls
3. Fry or bake at 350 until browned [approx 30 mins]

***HERBS:** lentil, black, aduki: coriander, cumin, ginger

black, lentil, kidney: sage, thyme, oregano

lentil, garbanzo, split pea: dill, basil

pinto, kidney: fennel or cumin

MERRY CHRISTMAS ~ HAPPY HANUKKAH

May 2020 bring you many special moments with your loved ones and bring us all the hope of *hope* ~that humankind will come into a consciousness allowing wisdom, kindness and love to prevail.

SURVIVING THE SEASONAL PAPER BLIZZARD

Do you routinely feel *overwhelmed* by all the extra paper that comes in over the season - cards, calendars, wrapping & packing paper (besides the usual ton of newspaper, notices, magazines, etc..)

If you do, here's some tips:

-**save** anything with pretty visuals (cards, calendars, gift wrap, magazines, etc) for them to use for crafts at Wentworth Lodge [note: remove personal notes in cards] *Collection box in Community Room

-**reuse** brown packing paper & newspaper for gift wrap -decorate with markers, crayons, string.... (It's fun to gift wrap with cartoons!!)

-bows (often made of plastic & paper) & ribbons (fabric) until they've had it, - then discard as garbage

-**recycle** appropriately—paper ribbons ok for paper recycling & tape on gift wrap is okay

-shredded paper must be recycled in transparent bags

-**garbage:** paper that's metallic, glittery, velvety or 'photographic'

don't forget to compost paper contaminated with food

place any shredded paper in a transparent bag

GIFTS Most of us know that the very best gifts, the priceless ones cannot be bought, yet we may *still* find ourselves looking for that perfect (affordable) something for someone special... The following came from England so we have to rethink it in terms of Canadian \$\$ (rather than British pounds.) We may not be ready for this just yet but...

CRAP-FREE CHRISTMAS GIFT BUYING GUIDE



Suggestions ~ contact these folks to hear more....

Marilyn (905-627-5425) seeks folks interested in Board Games (e.g. Bingo, Scrabble)

Donna: (905-627-0878) suggests we swap, sell or recycle to each other - post needs & offers on bulletin board

Catherine (905-627-0393) what about a craft club?

Thank you to The Board; Bey; Donna, Mary Lou & Elaine; Marilyn, & Jackie for their contributions to this edition of the *Grafton Gazette*. Your ideas & comments always welcome... Catherine #405.