

# Grafton Gazette

Proudly serving the community of 5 Ogilvie since May 2019

Pre-the 4th wave of  
the Pandemic?  
(Hopefully not!)

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD

Dear Residents,  
Seasons greetings to all and a very special welcome to the new members of our community! As we prepare for this Christmas/ NewYear celebrations, there are glimmers of hope that our long ordeal of pandemic hibernation could be ending but the clouds of more to come are still visible. We move ahead cautiously and will continue to follow guidelines around wearing face masks for the safety of our neighbours.

Signs of a return to normal are happening: coffee hour has started again, the Christmas tree decorating in the lobby had great participation, the Gazette is being published; everything is pointing to a “Dickens of a Christmas”. There are plans afoot for the long delayed AGM, if there are no further setbacks, for sometime in the New Year—February or March. The budget for the next fiscal year, beginning Feb. 1 is being finalized.

There have been some important contributions of time and effort, deserving acknowledgement for different residents have contributed to keeping our community spirit alive during the past twenty months of lockdown. The community is only as strong as the members who support and care about it. Special mention to Trish for her egg work, Elaine for Halloween treats, Dekyi for other treats, Lynn & Bev for getting us Santa ready, Trudy for the crèche; the Social Committee for their efforts to keep us connected and for rejuvenating the coffee hour, and, of course to Donna, the Gardening Committee, for the wonderful work that enhanced the front entrance and the north side entrance. It was truly heart-breaking to see the devastation done to the beautiful shrubs and flowers by the landscaping company (due to a misunderstanding) but Donna has been assured they will make good for the damage - only fitting after such an impressive garden display.

A few miscellaneous items: The elevator problems have been fixed, and we hope will stay that way; the air venting and heating system on the roof have also been repaired and is operating trouble free again; with Ric’s assistance flood mitigation measures were put in place after the torrential downpour in August that caused water damage on the first floor - alas, these once in a life time type events will be occurring more frequently.

There is a feature on waste management in this edition. There is some confusion about what to recycle. Hopefully this information will help but the city will be sending some pamphlets soon to help to clarify what goes where, these



Thank you Elves for this lovely tree!

## WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS!

We’d like to welcome some new residents to our ever changing community.

In July **Jacqueline and Gayathri** (Unit 202) are friends who moved here from Alberta. They love hiking and exploring new trails and waterfalls, and are trying to explore all the different restaurants close to us.

In August **Liz Loos** (Unit 305) joined us from the lovely community of Creemore, Ontario. It has taken a while to adjust to the noises of the city but she is getting used to it while seeking out more natural spaces such as the Dundas Driving Park.

In September **Rhiannon and her brother** moved into 506. They are originally from Ajax. She is in her second year of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering at McMaster University. Some of Rhiannon’s hobbies include playing piano, listening to music and embroidery. She

is excited that she will get to know her neighbours over the next four + years.

In December, just a few weeks ago we welcomed **Kasun, Sue (Subhashini)** and young daughter **Sashya Perea** who are in Unit 401. They have come all the way from Sri Lanka to live in our community! We give you all a hearty **WELCOME** & hope you will be happy here. Let us know if we can help you settle in!

**We may not all celebrate Christmas but we can celebrate its  
----- spirit of love & joy! -----**

## THE BOARD’S MESSAGE continued

will be distributed when they arrive.

In closing, we, the Board, wish to thank you for your patience and understanding during these many months of ‘challenges’ we’ve all had to cope with. We want to acknowledge the big contribution Ric makes to looking after the building and for his helpfulness to many of us, Likewise, we thank Simone our property manager for the support and attention she gives us in taking care of the condominium’s affairs.

Best Wishes of the Season to all and may your celebrations whether religious or secular with family and friends bring happiness and joy. May it be a really good New Year for each and everyone of us.

Your Board of Directors.

Sheila & Gerry

~~Merry Christmas!~~~ Happy Hanukkah!~~~



### GARDEN COMMITTEE UPDATE

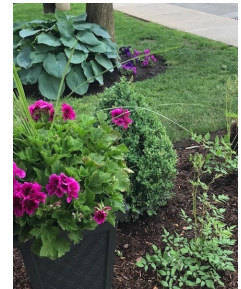
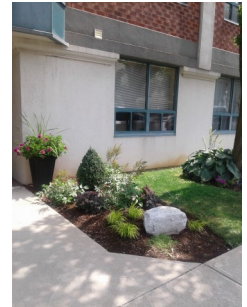
In May of 2021, the entrance area of our building was enhanced with new landscaping, designed by Donna Yates and paid out of condo fees. Ric, our Custodian, removed the turf, and Jill of All Trades brought in the topsoil, mulch and did all the planting. The perennial grasses, flowering plants and shrubs greatly improved the “curb appeal” of our building and drew the enthusiastic approval of both residents and passersby. Our hope is to gradually add more shrubbery to the front of our building. Unfortunately, we were robbed of a fall display when on Nov. 4, all that beauty was destroyed by the crew of the lawn maintenance service who thought their job was to remove all leafy vegetation. All is not lost as the owner has admitted their mistake and promised to replace any plants which don’t survive in the spring.

We decided to fill in the bare spots in the front lawn with grass seed and strips of sod. Elaine Carr, Barbara Austin and Donna Yates kept the seeds and sod watered for 2 weeks, hauling heavy watering cans until we were able to obtain a water hose which made our task a breeze..

We applied for a free tree from the City of Hamilton’s tree planting program and in the spring the City will plant a columnar Ginkgo tree in the spot where an ornamental pear tree stood before it was removed a few years ago. Ginkgos live to be more than 100 years so it may outlive our building. lol

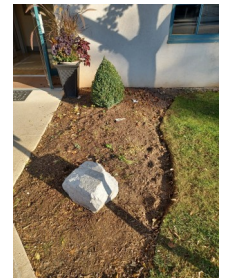
Donna started the side garden a couple of years ago as a personal project when she could no longer endure looking at the bare earth that was just begging for plants. The beds are now full with donations of plants from gardening friends and residents. The garden draws many compliments from residents of the other condos in Grafton Square who enjoy the colourful display. Mickey McGuire, of the renowned cheese shop, was so impressed with the result that he donated \$100 to the project. His gift was used to buy shrubs and annuals. Mickey is a darn good neighbour!

Donna Yates  
The Garden Committee



**Warning!** Some readers will find the following images disturbing

(Reproduced for historical purposes only)

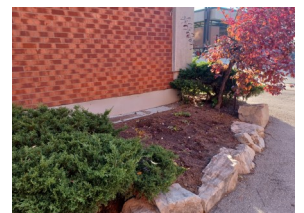


**To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow!**

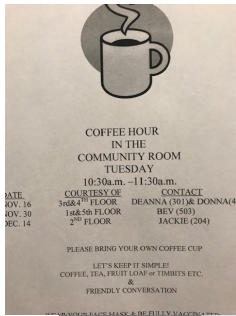


**Your mind is a garden -Your thoughts are like seeds**

**You can grow flowers or you can grow weeds!**



**Thank you Mickey McQuire!**



Were we glad to see this notice up!

**Thank you to the Social Committee for reviving our Coffee Mornings!**

**And most of us made it!**



### SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

It was so great to see everyone at our 1<sup>st</sup> coffee hour since the pandemic put a stop to our regular gatherings. Everyone looked so young! You could feel the excitement in the room! We have missed the easy banter, the jokes, the companionship and the sharing that makes these mornings so important to our feeling of community. We still need to remember to keep safe by practicing hand hygiene, wearing masks and keeping our distance. We want to continue getting together with our 'condo family', and hope to eventually return to those wonderful communal suppers.....

The community room is again available to residents to book for personal use at a low fee of \$25. The fee is used to buy supplies for our coffee mornings. Free coffee, tea, milk, sugar, plates, serviettes, etc.

**Elaine Carr, Mary Lou Collett & Donna Yates**

### \*\*DECORATING FUN FOR OUR CRAFTERS!

Elaine hosted a 'let's make some decorations' morning on Dec.7th—this was a great success! Courtesy of *Dollarama* she bought some kits which were used for creativity & fun! Christmas music added to the spirit! Thank you Elaine. (More crafty treats coming up?)



**FAREWELL!** We have seen a number of people leave during the past year. We were sad to see them go and wish them well as they move onto another stage of their lives.

**Gail Connor** (previously 305) who is now in Burlington and closer to her daughters.

**Wayne Irwin** (previously 401) has moved to Oakville to be closer to his son. But we'll welcome Wayne for our coffee mornings - he still work here in Dundas!

**Kathy and Patrick Conway** (previously 303) have returned to live in New Brunswick

**Helen Lilko** (previously 501) is waiting for a place at St. Joseph's Villa (after a fall and a hospital stay). She is presently living at the Aberdeen Retirement Home.

**Helen Anderson** (508) is now living with her daughter near Brantford.

(We said good-bye to **Helene Caron & Adore Estravillo** (506) in April. See their update below.)

**You all contributed to making our community as great as it is! We thank you and miss you!**

Sadly, **Jeremy Woodley** (previously of 405) died in May. He had moved to Wentworth Lodge 16 months earlier. He was an accomplished man who made many contributions to terrestrial and marine biology. We still miss his quiet cheerful presence here. Condolences to Catherine.

**Pat and Kathy Conway** (303) would like to thank the residents of 5 Ogilvie for their cards and good wishes on our permanent move to New Brunswick. We are grateful for the people who took our surplus goods -to avoid being put in landfill or another trip to the thrift store! We will miss Dundas and our friendly neighbours. Kindest regards **Kathy & Pat**

**Helen and Ador** who left in April are happily settled in Vancouver. Fortunately they have not been directly affected by all the climate crises (and survived the heat dome reasonably well). They send their best wishes to all!



**Catherine Woodley** (405) was grateful for all the condolences & support she received when Jeremy died.

## FEATURE

**Worried about Climate change? So are we!  
Want to do something? So do we!**

This article looks at:

**How Our Stuff and Waste Management Habits Affect Climate Change**

**There is a lot to learn!**

**Take it easy!** If this is new to you, read then think about where you can start—one thing at a time. After a couple of weeks, start another thing. Don't panic!

We are all learning. *Me too!*

**Items in red are the important ones!**

*We're all in this together! And we can do it!*

**If you need help, ask a neighbour! Or the City! Or Me (Catherine, 405)**



**PLASTICALLY CONFUSED? WE ARE TOO!! Bulletin Board has Info.**

## LITTER Is Everyone's Problem!

-You may not have tossed that chip bag or candy wrapper away but **pick it up anyway & dispose of it**

-80% of the items in our oceans comes from these ordinary items which get blown into storm sewers & ditches and are ultimately washed into streams, rivers, & waterways en route to the ocean.

-*What you see on the ground now may be killing an innocent animal tomorrow & toxifying the ocean*

-Only 20% of the waste in the oceans come from shipping & fishing sources [mostly because fishing materials are expensive and much effort is spent conserving them]

-Canadians are as guilty as everyone else - this is not 'other peoples' problems)

**TRASH: The Truth About Landfill** - why vigilance is important for stuff that goes down the chute

-Landfills depend on municipal facilities transporting and burying our waste in the soil

-Landfills are specially built - **if they leak, ground water (which we all need) gets contaminated**

**\*so no food waste (it gets liquidy fast) should go in our trash - compost that instead**

-Landfills are designed to prevent (slow down) degrading/breaking down of materials (If it all broke down or broke down quickly, the land would become highly unstable)

but still methane is released: this greenhouse gas is vented into the atmosphere

**so this is another source of air pollution and emissions (which we need to reduce)**

-(in a few places, these gases are used to generate electricity)

-Still landfills accumulate tons of materials & they all break down *EVENTUALLY*

**\*Important: send as little as possible to landfills - they aren't the solution**

(note: dead plants & flowers, soil and garden waste from your unit has to go here)

*also: your shredded confidential papers (in a clear plastic bag) go to landfill*

**RECYCLE - Nature wastes nothing - Everything is Recycled - We Need to do that too!**

-any food waste or grunge means the whole bin is contaminated & has to go to landfill

-so soiled 'convenient' paper plates' are not convenient at all for our environment

(if necessary use plastic plates which you can reuse and reuse and reuse)

\*shred only confidential papers -put in a clear plastic bag - this goes to landfill (see above)

**Blue Bin for Plastics, Glass, Cans: clean items only** (they don't have to be sterile, just wash & dry)

-huge machines empty the bins - they cannot handpick individual dirty items

-so anything dirty contaminates everything & it all goes to landfill

\*cling film & zippered plastic bags are *not* recyclable

\*which plastic? see <https://www.hamilton.ca/garbage-recycling/blue-box-recycling/what-can-be-recycled>

(\*further details re plastic will be placed on bulletin board - (see comic above: can be confusing; proceed at own pace)

**Green Bin for Food waste: wrap in newspaper or compostable bags and place in green bin**

-food waste includes all foods, peelings, etc. also coffee filters & soiled paper towels

-use paper towels to clean fats & oil from pans/plates (put no fats down the drain)

**Small white Bin:** batteries, light bulbs

**Toilets:** pee, poo and (toilet) paper only (see: <https://www.hamilton.ca/home-property-and-development/water-sewer/>)

**\*It takes a long time for things to break down in landfill:**

LEATHER 25-40 yrs

ALUMINUM CANS 80-200 yrs

GLASS up to 1 million yrs

PLASTIC—depends on type 10 yrs to centuries

**& If you're unsure,**

it's better to put

things in trash

(down the chute)

rather than in the

blue bins.

**\*Most of us are experts on recycling our Stuff—having downsized once or twice.**

**Thrift stores:** will take clothing, furniture, durable household goods, etc.

**Freecycle:** this site will help you find things you need & enable you to pass on things you don't

**Thrifting for gifting:** there are many sites oriented to sustainable shopping practices (not online? Folks who are will help!). Etc.

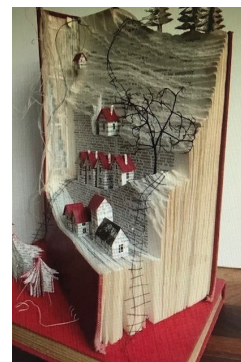
**REUSE: remember WWII? this is a war against stuff: conserve & reuse every item until it's DONE**

- reuse everything -including single use plastic bags(!) yogurt containers, etc.
- cut up old clothing or textiles for dusting & cleaning rags; use old toothbrushes- scrubbers
- use old clothing, magazines, plastic bottle tops (etc) for crafts, etc.
- refashion 'old' clothing; use old books for art work (paint right over the pages), etc.

**\*\*your ideas welcome - what do you do? send them in for our late April-May issue!**

**REDUCE: buy items in bulk wherever possible & take your own containers**

- take your own containers for takeaway food (it's worth waiting an extra minute or two!)
- \*if we ask restaurants to do this often enough they will oblige (tell them why you're doing it)
- seek and purchase items that are refillable
- reduce demand for plastic items as much as poss. (use bar soap, cloth bags, metal pens, etc)
- reduce demand for paper items as much as poss. (use hankies, cloth napkins, fabric scraps)
- reduce demand for everything - do we really need more stuff? Give consumables



!!!!!!

**REFUSE: single use plastic of any kind, straws, cutlery, junky takeaway containers (esp. styrofoam)**

- supermarket plastic bags (use mesh or cloth bags),, plastic junk - pens, non-durable plastic toys & other items
- avoid glitter & dispose carefully (sealed, in trash) this is highly contaminating microplastic
- tell charities not to 'gift' us with junk

**PROTEST: Write to manufacturers - complain about plastic & overpackaging**

- Complain to the manager of your supermarket about overpackaging
- Insist restaurants use takeaway containers that aren't black & aren't single use

Fyi \*Plastic production is the hidden side of the fossil fuel industry:

\*90% of plastics come from chemicals derived from oil, natural gas & coal production  
(We produce 300 million tons of plastic per year, this = total weight of human population)  
(It's estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean)

**We hope this helps you see that what we do to manage our waste makes a difference!**

**Let's all make protecting the environment a priority for 2022! We can do it!**



**WE NEED TO GET MORE CRAFTY! DO YOU HAVE SKILLS TO SHARE?**



**~~ MERRY CHRISTMAS! ~~ HAPPY HANNUKKAH ~~**

**~~HAPPY NEW YEAR ~~**



**The Newsletter Committee** thanks everyone who worked so hard to get their contributions in on time! This was much appreciated—thank you Sheila, Gerry, Jackie, Donna, Elaine & Mary Lou! Thank you Donna & Catherine for photos; Jackie for comics & the Welcome & Farewell articles. We appreciate & welcome *your* ideas for the newsletter. Please submit ideas by April 30th for our spring issue. (Do you have any ideas for re-using items? We'd like to hear them!) Stay safe, enjoy the holidays!

**Your Newsletter Committee: Catherine (405) & Jackie (204)**