

CONGRATULATIONS
It's our 10th Issue!!
December 2022

Grafton Gazette

Proudly serving the community of 5 Ogilvie since May 2019

Merry Christmas!
Happy Hannukah!
Seasons Greetings!
Happy New Year!

Editorial

Over the last few months we have been liberated from the terrible covid-related constraints. With a little anxiety perhaps we have allowed ourselves to experience the pleasures of getting together again to celebrate important occasions and revive seasonal rituals. It is wonderful and extraordinary to feel normal again! This issue celebrates this historical moment as well as the gift of living in a non-strife-dominated community where we care for and respect each other. We offer group activities for those who like them but understand that some folks prefer their own company, have health issues and/or other commitments which make participation difficult. We do our best to include everyone but we also respect your privacy and your needs. We specially thank those who contribute to this newsletter. It's not easy to put ourselves out there but we are grateful for your submissions and participation. Your contributions flex our empathic muscles: we see ourselves in your 'sharings' and your stories. We know too that the holiday season is complicated, that merriment and joy is tinged with the absence of loved ones and other difficulties. We wish you all that's good for the holiday season and hope that the coming year is full of golden moments and silver linings.



CELEBRATING—GETTING TOGETHER

Board of Directors 2022-3

Sheila Robinson President
Gerry Kennedy Vice-Pres.
Jean MacKinnon Treasurer

A Message from the Board
Another year is quickly coming to a close and holiday festivities both religious and secular are getting underway. It's a time of wishing each other well, making New Year's resolutions, and perhaps reflecting with gratitude on what we have, especially a supportive and caring community in which we live. In this regard, a very special "thanks" goes out to Catherine, the publisher of our *Grafton Gazette*, and her

editorial assistant, Elaine, on this its tenth edition. It's proven to be a wonderful way to stay connected particularly over the last two years of pandemic restrictions. Who could not show appreciation for the time and dedication it takes to bring the paper to press? (the Board especially is thankful that there have been no editorial comments suggesting incompetence or unflattering editorial cartoons!)

Also, acknowledgement needs to be given to Donna and the Garden Committee for maintaining the front and side gardens, adding to the attractiveness of the building. Donna even arranged with the Hamilton Works Dept. to have the dying trees at the front taken down and replaced (at no cost to us). Thanks to the Social Committee for its work and the effort to organize community suppers and other events during the year. A tip-of-the-hat goes to Bev and Lynn who were instrumental in having the chairs in the community room attended to. By any standard they were looking the worst for wear after many years of service. Ric suggested reupholstering rather than replacing them - a great recycling idea. He has completed the job which will, no doubt give us another twenty-five years of use. The two people critical to the welfare and wellbeing of our building deserve special mention: Simone, our property manager for her commitment and concern that the building is going to "age well", and to Ric who regularly and dependably takes care of the day-to-day ... *(continued overleaf)*

Message from the Board (continued)

requirements of the building's upkeep. To both we extend a heartfelt "thank you".

Other things: if you've been wondering about the driveway maintenance project, you're not alone. It was, as you know, supposed to have started in the spring and be finished long before now. Then it was postponed and the scope of the project reduced due to unanticipated escalating costs (i.e. world events). Then the slow process of obtaining the work permit from city hall meant it could not be completed in the fall before the bad weather set in. It's been rescheduled now for the coming spring.

The budget for the next fiscal year (beginning Feb. 1) is being finalized. The proposed fee increase will most likely be in the 6.8% range. This is higher than is desirable but needs to be due to the inflationary costs of everything. To lower the increase would mean allowing maintenance and repairs to suffer, which is not a wise or viable solution (you'll remember the collapsed condo in Florida that had that mindset.)

As mentioned at the AGM, our fiscal house is in order and moving into the New Year there are no high dollar expenses coming up that are not accounted for in our reserve fund.

In conclusion, we, your board representatives, want to thank you for the trust you've put in us to administer the affairs of the corporation (with Simone's assistance) and we wish to extend to each of you Best Wishes for the Holiday Season: Happy Holidays/ Merry Christmas/ Happy Hanukkah - and a Wonderful New Year.



The Garden Committee

The gardens are now ready for their deep winter sleep until the warm breath of spring awakens them. The garden outside our front entrance, which was replanted this spring, thrived and was enjoyed by residents and the neighborhood alike. The hope is to add more shrubbery and enlarge the landscaping in front of our building each season. The young ginkgo tree which was planted by the City is a welcome addition to our landscape. The Ornamental pear trees in front of the building are nearing the end of their lifespan. As each one dies, the City will replace them with native trees.

I was recently surprised to see a skunk strut down the middle of the garden bed at the side of our building. Just one of the types of wildlife which are attracted to our property.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Committee, please contact Donna Yates, #408.

Donna

The Craft Committee

Craft get-togethers happen when the spirit beckons! Mostly they are oriented to holidays and celebratory days. We create (and play) with Dollar Store goodies and folks come ready for anything! We had fun preparing Halloween decorations and at our last session we made Christmas decorations (of course!) The goal is simply to get-together and have fun! The charge (minimal) covers the cost of supplies. We hope you will join us sometime.

Elaine

By the way, it may interest you to know that 2 artists who reside in our condo have pieces of their work on display at the Art Gallery of Hamilton in the exhibit titled, *The Bigger Picture*. The show runs till the end of December and entrance to the Gallery is free every Thursday all day. -Donna

The Social Committee

The Social Committee would like to thank everyone for attending the Swiss Chalet dinner. It was a big success. We had 22 for the Swiss Chalet meals and 2 who brought their own vegetarian meals.

Our next venture will be our **Chinese Christmas dinner on December 20**. This promises to be another delicious evening shared with our 5 Ogilvie community.

In January we will start our first Friday of the month **Pizza Night**, starting with **Friday January 6**. More details as the time gets closer.

It's a wonderful feeling to sit and enjoy a meal with friends and then take the elevator back to our homes!

Best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year!

Donna and Elaine



This was our first evening get-together since the February 2020 Valentine's wine & cheese social! Easter Dinner 2020 was cancelled due to Covid. *Note: If you were there on Nov 8th but don't see yourself in the photos it's because photos with backs of heads only were omitted.. Sorry!* Photos by Dekyi (thank you)

OUR COMMUNITY

WELCOME JEAN



Welcome Jean MacKinnon! Jean is Bernice's daughter and so has a special interest in what happens here but - and this may be a surprise to many - she has her own history with our condo, having invested here and already served on our board several years ago! Indeed, she cares very much about maintaining the quality of life at 5 Ogilvie and is happy to be helping Sheila and Gerry whom she knows have been working hard to keep the ship afloat, particularly over the pandemic years. Retired now, Jean lives with her husband in Dundas and travels occasionally. She's very well qualified in business and finance, has a CPA and more - I'm sure you'll agree there's no better person to take over the treasurer's reins! Many of us haven't met her yet so she kindly gave us this photo so you'll have a clue who she is when you see her!



The Grafton Community is immensely grateful to Paul and Trish for equipping our Exercise Room. Their very generous gift will make/is already making a huge difference to many of the residents. This is truly the gift that goes on giving. Thank you very much.



Thank you for setting up this creche every year Trudy



REMEMBERING IVAN

As you might know Ivan and I have been living here at Grafton Square for the past two years. On Sept 16, 2022 Ivan passed away after a short illness. We enjoyed living here in Dundas for the past 61 years. We raised our family, three girls - Sandy, Liza and Paula. We travelled through Europe, the United States and Canada. Ivan was an excellent swimmer, sports enthusiast (especially the Tiger Cats and his home soccer team: Udinese, in Italy). But most of all Ivan loved riding the Dundas and areas trails and a memorial bench at the Dundas conservation area has been placed in his honour. I miss him very much but I have such happy memories - we loved to dance and I will carry our love for joyful movement in my heart always. I am so happy to be living here at Grafton's, with the support and kindness of the residents here. It will get easier in time. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year.

Lydia (Zecchini)

WELCOME LESLEY

Hello everyone at Grafton Square,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Lesley Cumming and I have recently moved in and live in #507. I was born and raised in Dundas and also raised my own family in Dundas as well. I mostly lived on the outskirts of town and desired to be right downtown so I would have a lifestyle of walking everywhere. I am so fortunate to now be here and deciding on a condo was the perfect fit for me! I enjoy how friendly everyone is, how quiet the building is and how I can hear the hum of the downtown and be able to walk it often. I am curious how many are original Dundasonians? I remember when this exact spot used to be a parking lot, with a large shoe store, The *Thirsty Cactus* went through many transformations but used to be a vacuum store when I was little! I love the history of this valley town. I look forward to seeing some of you at social events soon. Very best wishes,
Lesley (Cumming)



Sashiya, 2, is ready for Christmas!



**Congratulations Stephanie & Pierre-Nicolas
Toutes nos felicitations!**

Photos: Donna (thank you)



**Clement, 2 weeks!
(Not ready for Christmas)**

Mary Lou Thank you for all your work on the Social Committee. It was much appreciated.





**EVERGREEN - THE SYMBOL
FOR LIFE**



AND HERE'S OUR BEAUTY!



A COMMUNITY TRADITION
*many thanks to Bev & Lynn &
Decorating/Spectating Elves:*
Arlene, Catherine, Diane, Elaine,
Inge, Jeet, John, Marlene, Mina
& Sheila



Diane, Inge, Mina, Marlene (behind), Bev, Sheila, Elaine

MARY LOU'S GRAND'MA'S EASY SHORT-BREAD

- ½ cup corn starch
- ½ cup icing sugar
- 1 cup sifted flour
- 1 cup butter

Method

- Mix together corn starch, flour, icing sugar & butter.
 - Form into round balls, put them on a cookie sheet - no need to roll at all.
 - Press a red or green cherry in the middle, then
 - Bake at 300 degrees for 20 -25 mins until edges are slightly brown.
- (Best results if mixed with a hand mixer)

CATHERINE'S EASY ROASTED CHESTNUTS

(Open fire nice but not necessary!)

Ingredients - a heap of chestnuts [get Italian if possible; fresh if they are firm & can't be squeezed]

-water

Instructions Preheat oven to 425°F (218°C).
Place oven rack in middle of oven.

- Lay chestnut flat on cutting board & use a serrated knife to cut an incision lengthwise (down middle on the long side.) Hold chestnut firmly, be careful not to cut yourself: the shell can be slippery. Be sure to cut deep, right into the flesh]
- Place chestnuts in pot of cold water. When water begins to boil, remove chestnuts with a slotted spoon and place on a shallow baking pan.
- Arrange chestnuts with the flat side down & cut side up in a single layer in the pan.
- Roast in the oven for about 15-20 minutes. Shake pan periodically!
- Once perfectly roasted (exposed flesh will be brownish) remove from oven & wrap in a clean tea towel. Let chestnuts sit for 10-15 mins, then peel, serve & eat! Yum!

What did Mrs. Claus say when Santa asked about the weather? "It looks like rain, dear."

Why does Santa use a chimney? It soots him.

Where does Santa store his suit? In the Claus-et!

TRISH'S EASY TORTILLA RECIPE for wraps, pizza crust, Mexican food, etc.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups Nutri flour,
- ½ cup oil,
- ½ cup Greek yogurt,
- ¾ cup water.

Method

- Mix ingredients,
- Knead for 2-3 minutes,
- Let rest for 30 minutes
- Then roll out in corn flour,
- Fry in slightly oiled pan.

Makes 8 large wraps. Enjoy!

*Robin Hood® Nutri™ Flour Blend is a blend of unbleached flour and ground wheat bran. It tastes like white flour, it provides the same amount of fibre as whole wheat flour and bakes up light and golden!

Note: Difficult recipes also welcome!

"Probably the reason it is easy to go hay-wire at Christmas with the endless unrestrained and often silly buying of gifts is that we don't quite know how to put our love into words."

Anon.

The Legacy of a Matheson Christmas

My Mother was born in the small town of Matheson in 1910. With no roads to speak of, and at the end of the northbound railway between Cochrane and Timmins, all necessary goods were shipped to the station. (Much later the line was extended north to Cochrane and Moosonee). My grandfather was an English immigrant, an entrepreneur with his hands in many pots; including a perennially unproductive gold mine still in the hands of family heirs who were not wise enough to dispose of their shares. Years of taxes and assay surveys shows that the large gold deposit is impossible to mine.

The family survived a 1917 forest fire that swept through Northern Ontario, spending three days in a nearby lake covered in wet blankets. The acrid air was unfit to breathe. But their house was one of the few that survived. Snow for washing was collected and boiled on a woodstove, as well as for drinking. A track to an outhouse was well worn. This was all normal for the times in a harsh and long winter climate followed by weeks of spring mud. My grandmother placed an order twice a year from the Eaton's catalogue for clothing and household items. Christmas was a simple affair, as it was likely wont to be in those days but my mother remembered the fresh apple and orange with relish, and a piece of clothing.

At age 16, my Mother was sent to live with a Toronto Aunt while attending Shaw's Business College. My Grandmother was one of 13 children so it was a large, social family with cousins galore, colourful Christmases and lots of small wrapped parcels. Any thoughts of returning to the isolated Matheson were quickly forgotten. But the Christmas fruit was still memorable for my Mom in old age as it was so rare and exotic. We can buy papaya and mango, starfruit and bananas plus a never ending list of foreign fruit and vegetables year round so it's hard to imagine the simple apple and orange leaving such vivid memories in her mind. Unless, perhaps, you'd shared one of her Christmases in Matheson.

Bev Hayden



Two Christmas Secrets

Many years ago, I worked for Bell Canada in Operator Services. One Christmas, all 52 operators agreed to give one needy family a great Christmas. Many presents, food, and gift cards were collected for a family whose name we got from a local social services agency. My friend Barb and myself were chosen to deliver those gifts, and we went to her apartment two days before Christmas. She invited us up for tea after we delivered the gifts. As we were sitting there making small talk, both Barb and I had an increasing sense of unease. Back in the car, we started talking "Did you notice that expensive mountain bike in the corner of the room?... the ring on her fingers?... the furniture that is much nicer than anything you or I have" We came to the conclusion that this woman had probably 'scammed' the system, but we decided we would not say anything to our co-workers about it. We reasoned that it would discourage the sense of generosity in others. We made it our secret.

A few years later, it was again coming up to Christmas. A friend of mine, Tereza, had very recently lost her husband in a tragic accident. To make matters even more difficult for her, she had a 3-year old daughter and was financially destitute. Of course, her daughter Jazmine did not grasp this tragedy - all she knew was that Christmas was coming. It was the year the Cabbage Patch dolls were the rage, and all Jazmine wanted was a particularly difficult to get and very expensive doll - a gift far beyond what her mother could give her. Well, when my friend Barb (from the first story) heard this, she pulled out all the stops, and spent the next two weeks searching until she found this child's dream doll. She asked for my help, after beautifully wrapping this gift - she wanted to leave this gift anonymously. So, we both snuck into Tereza's apartment and left the doll. Barb made me promise never to tell the child or the mother, and this was extremely difficult to do. Tereza kept commenting "it is a Christmas miracle," and asking who was behind it. Well, I kept my promise for the next 35 years, and the only reason I tell it now is because both Tereza and Barb have passed on. But in my heart.....

Liz Locs

My Hero

I didn't have to look very far to see who was my hero!

His name was Uncle Ted but his official name was A.E. Le Page. He was the founder of one of the greatest real estate firms in Canada. When my dad was discharged after the war, he returned to our family in Toronto with very little money. We lived in a one bedroom apartment behind a store. Dad drove street cars to make ends meet for his growing family of six.

When Uncle Ted found out our situation he offered dad a salesman's job and a car and a home. Dad eventually paid off his debt and became a successful manager in the Toronto west end office.

Uncle Ted recognized a true salesman and Dad didn't disappoint him, in fact he eventually became one of the owners of the company when Uncle Ted sold the business. Uncle Ted and Auntie Florence had no children and our family became his children. His photos live on the wall of my bedroom and I will never forget him or his generosity. He absolutely is my hero.

Mary Lou Collett



AND THANKS ALL TO OUR HEROS/HEROINES

Our Board: thanks to Sheila, Gerry and Jean we don't have sleepless nights worrying about condo business. We specially value your calm competence & good-natured efficiency.

Simone Richards: we are grateful that you know exactly what to do to maintain our building—and us!

Our Coffee Coordinators: Bev, Jackie, Deanna & Donna who make sure we get to enjoy our biweekly get-togethers

Jackie: who actually buys the coffee (& other vital supplies)

Trudy: who loans us her husband's art for the lobby, sets up the creche at Christmas & updates the coffee morning elevator notices

Our Committee Folks: Donna (Social, Garden) Elaine (Craft, Social, Newsletter), Catherine (Newsletter) for doing what they do

Elaine who, besides everything else, decorates the lobby and community room, takes bookings for the community room and maintains the bulletin board in the corridor.

Bev and Lynn: for ensuring we celebrate Christmas with a lovely tree (& many other secret things that they do)

Trish: who makes sure we have delicious fresh eggs to eat (and who is owed a **big thank you** for her work as the Social Committee before the present committee took over!)

Ric: who keeps our common areas clean, safe & in excellent repair—thank you—and upholstered our party room chairs.

The Condo Angels who drop parcels at our doors and make sure packages don't linger outside in the entrance foyer

The Waterers: who water the garden and/or plants in the lobby or floor windows: Barbara, Elaine, Bob Donna & ..you?

All our newsletter contributors: your stories, photographs, book/movie recommendations, recipes, poems, ideas, and especially: sharing of yourselves **make** this newsletter! **T.Y.**

*Note: contribute anonymously to the newsletter if you wish. Also feedback of all kinds welcome! **Make us better!**

[Sincere apologies if your contribution does not appear here. We aim to toot everyone's horn but sometimes it's good to remember that "He (or she) who tootheth not his (or her) own trumpet, the same shall not be tooteth!". Tell us please!

Photos in this issue provided by Dekyi, Donna, Elaine, Kasun & Subi, & Catherine—thank you!

Our next issue: April/May 2023. Submissions best by April 20. Give to Elaine (#308, 905-627-7277, laine5@cogeco.ca) or Catherine (#405, 905-745-8854, chopwoodiv@yahoo.com)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS! JOYEUX NOEL! HAPPY HANNUKAH!
HAPPY SOLSTICE! HAPPY NEW YEAR! BONNE ANNEE!**

How many letters are in the Christmas alphabet? 25. There's Noel.

Where do mistletoe go to get famous? Holly-wood.

What do sheep say at Christmas? Merry Christmas to ewe.