



Centennial Park— April 25, 2024

### A Message from Your Board

Congratulations to the publisher and editorial staff of our *Grafton Gazette* on this, the fifth year anniversary edition: our community newsletter offers amusing, informative and helpful reporting on the life and times of our condo living together. And likewise, a grateful acknowledgement to the many reporters and writers who have contributed to the success of our local 'Gazette'. Who would resist joining with us all to say 'Thank you' for this achievement.

This is a fine example of one of the ways our community spirit reaches out and embraces all the residents at 5 Ogilvie. We are fortunate to have living amongst us so many talented folks who are willing to share their time and abilities to enrich our sense of community through their contributions to the *Gazette*. Others do the same making the regular coffee hour a success, or volunteering on one of the various committees, or caring for a neighbour in a time of need or distress, or perhaps many other quiet acts of kindness or

courtesy extended to one another.

**The elevator situation.** As has been evident to all with the 'out-of-order' notice posted by the elevator from time to time over the last several months, a major overhaul/modernization of that entire system is needed. After twenty-five years or so of daily service, its working life-span has reached its limit and replacement parts are increasingly harder to find.

Plans are underway for a modernization of the system. A consultant engineering firm, specializing in this type of service, has drawn up a blueprint for the project. Tenders were offered to several companies and one has been selected by the Board on the recommendations of the consultant and our management company. More specific information about this will become available within the next few weeks, once all the details and work time-lines are established.

The job is being scheduled for the fall - the exact time and dates are still being arranged - but the shutdown of the elevator is estimated to take five to six weeks. Yes! This is a long time and will be a major disturbance to our lives; unfortunately, there is no other way to do this. Once dates and times are more clearly established, the management company will share this information - in other words, as soon as we, the Board knows, you'll know. The contractor doing the work has expressed an interest in coming to a community meeting before the work begins to discuss what will be happening.

We, the Board, understand the significant difficulties this shutdown will create and the concern and distress it brings with it. We can only ask for your patience and tolerance for this necessary elevator upgrade. Thank you.

Sheila Richardson,  
Paul Cvetich,  
Gerry Kennedy

**There is one good thing about this world...  
There are always bound to be more springs.**

**L. M. Montgomery Anne of Avonlea**

## OUR COMMITTEES REPORT (OR NOT!)

This newsletter often features Committee Reports. Besides describing recent activities or events, the chair shares their thinking (just as the Board did here) setting out plans and hopes. This is useful for it conveys the spirit & thrust of the activity - but it isn't always necessary!

Some 'committees' consist of one-person, others a small group. What we call 'Committee Chairs' are better considered as hosts or contact persons. Some committees' have meetings, most do not but in a casual way, we do network with each other. Activities are financially self-supporting (note: seasonal flowers for the front door urns come out of the condo's 'maintenance expenses' & the cost of printing newsletters for residents without emails is covered under 'office expenses'.) We all support the Social Committee and contribute to coffee for the coffee morning when we pay for the social events (dinners, pizza nights, etc) they host.

Offerings/activities change over time. One activity might be offered for a while but then stop - especially if hosting has depended on one or two persons. Life gets in the way! Fortunately, coffee mornings, hosted by a floor(s) keep right on going (except during pandemics)! The Community Room can be booked for private events (the booking fee is \$25), but is primarily available for activities open to our condo community. You can set up and host a new activity or event by tabling it on the calendar in the room and posting notices in the elevator and on the bulletin board. [All that's required: to leave the room clean and tidy, with tables set up as they were.]

If you spoke to most contact persons you'd probably find our tasks are not arduous and that you put in the amount of time you want (but of course some roles are more demanding!) At this time we need help and hope you'll get involved! It's fun! But feel no *pressure* either for we know health, family and financial responsibilities come first.

## 'THE COMMITTEES REPORT

**THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE** wants you to know the next **Pizza Night is on Friday May 31 at 6 pm** in the Community Room. See notices (elevator, bulletin board) for details. Other events will be announced in due course. **The social committee needs help to organize social events!** If you are interested: please contact Elaine [#308] or Donna [yates94@gmail.com] Thanks!

**GARDENING COMMITTEE** According to Donna, our Garden Guru, the garden has reached that happy stage where the basics are in, now we simply watch them grow! - (Photo Donna showing how to watch plants grow)



**THE NEWSLETTER** Catherine produces, Bev proof reads, Dekyi coming on board.- Everyone contributes! Thank you!



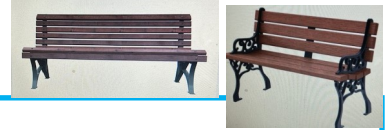
**BULLETIN BOARD:**  
Elaine (but all can post)

**THE GRAFTON GAMERS** Bev writes: we met in the Community Room mid-March on non-Coffee-Morning Tuesday afternoons. We came with board games, cards & cribbage boards but decided on Mexican Train. Elaine bought the game years ago but never played it. Deanna plays regularly so coached us on the rules. It was a lot of fun. However, the Game's limit was 6 players and the rules were a little complex and confusing. Due to other circumstances, we disbanded in April.

We are amending the format to be more inclusive and completely easy. Once the Grafton Gamers now we're **THE GRAFTON SOCIAL CIRCLE OF FRIENDS** on the same alternative Tuesdays, beginning **June 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm**. Bring your knitting, crocheting, needlework, or just yourselves and sit for an hour or so of socialization! This set-up will accommodate many of us who wish to come with absolutely no obligation to being 'productive'. Bring your own refreshments & relax! There will be notices posted closer to June 4<sup>th</sup> but mark it on your calendar now.- Bev, Sheila.



## DONNA'S DREAM



### RECOMMENDATION

Wouldn't it be wonderful to step outside our building and be able to sit down and soak up the sun for a few minutes or read your mail without stepping off our property? I feel that a bench or two would be a most welcome improvement to our quality of life here, which is pretty good already.

One ideal spot for such a bench is behind our building on the grass island under the tree. The bench should face the wooden fence to provide a view of the trees on the other side of the fence. There may be other suggestions for the placement of this bench. I hope that this dream of mine can become a reality in the not distant future.

\*back page has more photos of the space where a bench or benches could go.

Grafton—the place where some dreams come true....

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW RESIDENTS

**Jane Bonham (#201)** moved here from far-away Vineland! Jane is thrilled to be here - not least because she had lived in her bungalow there for over 50 years and never knew the likes of a 'walk-in closet' and an 'en-suite' bathroom. We agree! This is luxury personified! Jane has two young grandchildren (6, 8) in the neighbourhood. We know they will soon be busy grandma-sitting! Jane loves reading (and having the library nearby is her idea of heaven!). She loves watching sports - especially the Buffalo Bills and Toronto Maple Leafs. Time permitting, she hopes to get back to playing a little golf! We're sure you'll be very happy here Jane, Welcome!



### **Gay Stanley (#203)** has

lived in Dundas 30 years & even before that she zig-zagged between here & Hamilton! Gay moved here for the A.C.! Yes, like many of us she dreads the thought of the summer heat & hopes to stay cool. Gay is pleased to be a little closer to DVSA (though she was pretty close on Park Street, where she lived before). She takes classes there periodically & is very art-aware! She is also active in the community: volunteering in the kitchen at a senior's centre in Ancaster [The Ancaster Seniors Achievement Centre ASAC55+]. Gay says it's a fun place & offers some interesting programs. Different to Dundas55+, some of us might well be interested! [Bunka anyone? Quilting? Pickleball? Tai chi?] We're happy to have you here Gay!



### **In case you need help—here are some people we recommend:**

**Oliver Battrick**—dependable, quiet, careful handyman. Rec. by Sheila & Catherine: Text: 905-870-8216

**Jeff Craddock**, *Greensville Maintenance*, has truck & trailer; will move items occasionally, primarily a handyman: skilled but not certified in electrical & plumbing work. Rec. by L. Roy & Catherine. Text: 905-512-1121

**Lena Azizi**, is setting up a cleaning company, already works for Dundas people. Text: 905-537-0843

## FAREWELL FRIENDS...

**Mary Lou Collett (#203)** had a bad fall last year & after her hospital stay moved to *The Georgian*, a retirement community. Mary-Lou was very active here: she served on the social committee for several years & made many contributions to the *G.G.* Mary-Lou has a large caring family - and 8 great grandchildren who live all over Canada! We miss Mary Lou and wish her all the best.



Mary Lou

**Margaret Koblyk (#204)** lived here for many years but moved to *Amica* because she had an accident & incurred a brain injury. She loved living here, enjoyed our social activities & takes fond memories of #5 Ogilvie with her. Margaret has a daughter nearby & a son in Mississauga, & each have a lovely (grand)daughter! Margaret will miss living here. We wish her best of luck in her new home.



Margaret



Kasun

**Arlene Kearn (#406)** Our 'Blue-noser', left in April, after 9 happy years & moved to the *Grand View Retirement Home* in Stoney Creek where she's enjoying the pool & numerous activities! Lucky Arlene has a penthouse unit on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor & lives just minutes away from one daughter. When Arlene moved to Dundas she missed the volunteering she had done in Aurora. She worked with Seniors for 11 years, then a women's shelter & a Women's Centre. Arlene knows how much women's lives have changed over the years. She left us with her mother's recipe for ginger cookies, Her mother lived in a tiny community in N.S. & folks there knew what to do with recipes like this - do you? [It is not detailed!] We miss Arlene. Enjoy your new home!



Arlene



Subhi



Jean



Nehansa



Sashya

**Jean MacKinnon** didn't live here but her mother did & knowing our Board needed help, Jean pitched in, assuming the role of treasurer. When her mother's unit was sold, Jean resigned but we much appreciated her helping.. Thank you Jean!

**Matt & Cheyenne (#307)** Good-bye! All the best! Enjoy your town house!

**Kasun, Subhi, Sashya & Nehansa Perera (#401)** Some of you may not have met this lovely family from Sri Lanka. They have only lived here 1 year but are returning to Colombo, S.L. at the end of May. They love Dundas, especially here at #5 Ogilvie. Sashya, 4, has many friends in the building & has often given us her lovely artwork for this newsletter! (Thank you Sashya). Her baby sister Nehansa was born in December. Kasun & Subhi plan to return to Dundas in a year - so we look forward to seeing them here again or close by! Safe travel and come back soon! To #5 Ogilvie if possible!

**APRIL 8, 2024**

**A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN**

The ancient Chinese believed eclipses were caused by celestial dragons attacking & devouring the sun so people made loud noises to frighten the dragon & save the sun...

In West Africa, the Tammari people of northern Togo & Benin believed intersecting celestial bodies represented human feuds on Earth....



Many ancient civilizations saw total solar eclipses with fear. They didn't understand what was happening. They saw it as a possible negative sign from the gods or that dangerous mythical creatures were on the attack.

**Today...** We know a total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun & Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. People viewing the eclipse from locations where the Moon's shadow completely covers the Sun — the path of totality — will experience a total solar eclipse. Total eclipses aren't that rare: one occurs roughly every 1.5 years. But their path varies significantly so it's exceedingly rare for a given location to experience totality. *But we did: & it was historic*

**THE ECLIPSE - IT WAS NO MIRACLE**

Lynn and I awaited in great anticipation for the chance to see one of the global astrological wonders right in our neighbourhood. In fact it turned out to be right from our own balcony. We took advantage of the free glasses as soon as available and marked the time with eagerness, reading everything we could.

Yet April 8<sup>th</sup> dawned cloudy with showers and disappointment began to set in, in spite of my inner feeling that all would be well. And so it was; just as the Eclipse began its journey the skies cleared and the sun was visible.

We were spellbound. Could hardly believe what we were seeing, right up until we could remove our glasses during the total Eclipse. The sky grew dark, street lights lit up, a few stars were visible and the temperature dropped considerably. And then the reverse until it was completely over. One would tend to think of this as a true miracle.

During the total Eclipse we could see our Earth all around us, the Moon and Sun all at one time. These Eclipses were forecast by ancient civilizations. They knew their astrological heavens.

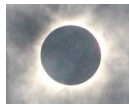
Author Lucy Maud Montgomery, in her Journals recounts having seen two total Eclipses from her Uxbridge Ontario area home, using glass smoked from a kerosene lamp. They knew then not to look at the sun directly. One Eclipse was in 1925, the other in 1932 and she said Astrologers predicted the next in 99 years. Off by a little but known.

I can fully understand why people follow the world's Eclipses around the globe, I was so sorry when it was over and wanted to see it all over again.

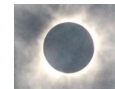
Other than childbirth, the Eclipse was the most marvellous event in my life. It was mystical, hardly believable and spiritual. It re-inforced the fact that our Universe works in an ordered, predictable clockwork pattern. The only screw-ups are us, the human race!

Bev Hayden

**IT WAS  
AWESOME**

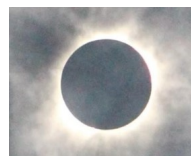
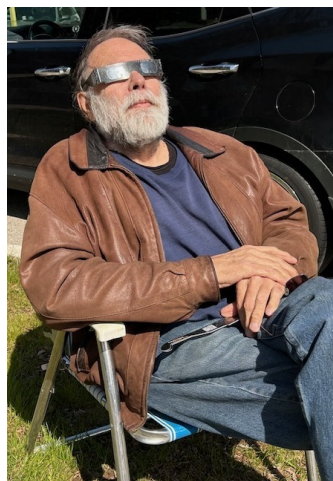


**WE WERE  
AWESTRUCK**



### **How an Eclipse made Einstein a Celebrity!**

Six months after the end of WW2, Frank Dyson and Arthur Eddington (English astronomers) conducted observations of a solar eclipse from the island of Principe off West Africa. As the moon covered the sun, Eddington photographed stars visible around its covered edge. On the basis of this he demonstrated, precisely as Einstein's theory predicted, that the light from these stars had been bent by the spacetime curvature caused by the mass of the sun. Newton's theory did not predict the starlight would be bent to this degree. Einstein was vindicated and overnight became an international celebrity.



*Astronomers Anonymous* were collecting used eclipse glasses for the use of children in Chile who would be experiencing a solar eclipse in October.

**THANK YOU FOR DONATING YOUR GLASSES**

We gave 18 pairs to our local contact, *Apothecary Kitchen* (at the Hamilton Farmers Market). They were very grateful.

## THE FUNNIEST THING

When I returned to teaching, I was blest by being offered the wonderful job of teaching Junior Kindergarten. Nothing compares to the innocence and inquisitiveness of a three and a half or four year old.

There I was sitting on one of the small chairs, overseeing the fantastic art work of some of the students when along came Neil, chubby cheeks, blonde hair and blue eyes. He climbed right up onto my lap and we began to have a conversation. Out of the blue, he grabbed my right breast and said, "Is that real?" Can you imagine the look of horror, the look of shock that must have been on my face? That wasn't the end. He let his little hand go down my back and said, "Oh, you wear one of those things too, meaning my bra. He jumped down and went about his business leaving me in gales of laughter. When his Mother came for interview night, I couldn't resist telling her about the episode. She understood perfectly because she said, "Just look at me, I'm as flat as a pancake and when I go out sometimes I enhance my bosom. Leave it to Neil who notices everything so one night I had to explain it to him that they weren't real." We both had a good laugh for we understood the questioning mind of a four year old who wants answers.

Trudy Collis.



Art  
by  
Sashya

## From Arlene: **Arlene's Mom's Nova Scotian GINGER COOKIES**

(as it was written - 'you'll know what to do' she says!)

2 teaspoons shortening

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup molasses

$\frac{1}{4}$  tsp salt

1 tsp soda dissolved

1 tsp ginger or more

1 tsp cloves

1 tsp cinnamon

Enough flour to make a soft dough -I just put in enough until dough is stiff enough to handle - probably 3 cups or more but you can tell

Cream sugar with shortening, add molasses, stir in soda water, and spices and flour

Press in flour to make soft dough... set in trays Bake at 350 til done!

When my daughter was about seven years old, she asked me one day what I did at work. I told her I worked at the college—that my job was to teach people how to draw.

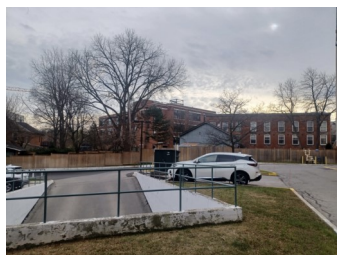
She stared back at me, incredulous, and said, "you mean they forgot?" Howard Ikemoto.

## YOU NEED TO KNOW

Our very own *Spectator* Carrier **PATTI McGHIE** is an amazing quilter & maker of very fine teddy bears. If we are very lucky we will get to meet her & see her work at the forthcoming *Hamilton Quilters' Guild 2024 Quilt Show: Quilts in Bloom*. It's on at the Ancaster Fairgrounds Fri May 31 (10-6) & Sat June 1 (10-4). You don't have to be a quilter to appreciate this art form - come & see how diverse & exciting quilts can be! (Adm. \$10—Cash only). See you there!

### Re: THE PHOTOS BELOW

consider the site for the bench from two directions  
Photo #1- possible placement of bench, Photo #2 shows the view from the bench.



**Bob Yates' striking entry -  
WINTERBLOOMS—Carnegie Gallery  
Jan 25-28  
[Art-inspired Floral Arrangements]**

## TEXTILE RECYCLING

Thank you for donating your textile waste in April. Our contribution of 10 bags was the largest single donation for the April collection at St. Andrews' Church in Ancaster. We all know it is important to recycle rather than loading up landfill. So save your worn, stained, unsightly, etc fabrics or scraps for the next collection..

There will be one this fall (date t.b.a) Please bag your textile waste, label bag 'textiles' & either store it or place in the huge brown box at Parking Bay 17. For more information about this textile drive google St. Andrews' textile drive. [No pillows please] Unusable textiles are made into rags or rugs.

**Coming up a FREE POSITIVE AGING WORKSHOP SERIES in Dundas: Thursdays 1.30-3.30 at AMICA  
June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 4, 11**

Everything you need to know to age well—for more info.& to register: phone Shelagh 905-920-7721 or do it online at [www.coahamilton.ca](http://www.coahamilton.ca) [Ham. Council on Aging]

**With gratitude** to the contributors for this issue: the Board (Sheila, Paul & Gerry), Arlene, Bev, Donna, Elaine, Fiona, Sashya and Trudy.

...to The Board for their kind words; & to Bev who wrote: "I would like to thank Catherine and her Teams for five years of excellent editorialship, interesting articles and beautiful colour photographs. We have learned more about our very interesting neighbours than one would ever have suspected. Thank you."

...to Jackie: for helpful editorial advice; to Simone for helpful information.

**Apologies:** to Diane for getting her surname wrong in the last issue: her correct name is Diane Baugh; to Donna for omitting her bench recommendation in the last issue; to Kim for naming him incorrectly in the last issue; to Marlene for not including my gingerbread cloud recipe in this issue.

**Photo credits:** Dorothy Pawluch (cherry trees), Fiona Turpie (eclipse scene), Fran Hicks (Catherine), Deb Hopwood (Nehansa), Khursheed Ahmed (eclipse photo).