Beechwood Park Homes Association

INCORPORATED

Mailing Address: PO Box 22016 Westmount Postal Outlet Waterloo ON N2G 6J7 Recreation Centre: 293/5 Shakespeare Drive

Web Site: www.bpha.ca

#### FALL NEWSLETTER November 2017

This Edition of the BPHA Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Josif Pankarican (Dr. Joe) of Marlowe Dr, who together with his family loved spending their summers at our recreation centre.

#### **BPHA VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS**

PresidentDVice PresidentIvSecretaryATreasurerLPayroll OfficerLBookkeeper &JuMembership Director

Dianne Ratcliffe Ivy Friedman Alison Frayne Luke Eret Lisa Heaton Jun Jiang Maintenance Director Social Director Tennis Director Pool Director Don Capes Sue Edwards Mark Baetz Christine Valente

#### KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

- Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>, BPHA Fall Cleanup at the Rec Centre. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup>, Adult Holiday Social and Cookie Exchange. Details to follow.
- Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, Annual General Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Ron and Barbara Schlegel Community Building, Conrad Grebel College, Room #2202.

### **2017 ACTIVITY UPDATE FROM THE BPHA BOARD**

#### 2017 was a busy and successful year:

- We are pleased to report that our membership numbers were up this year, a total of 164 members (last year's total was 153). In fact, we gained a significant number of new and returning members! Attracting new members and retaining our current base are important priorities for our Association it is all part of being a welcoming neighbourhood for all!
- We improved our communications channels with members and staff, including launching a weekly email reminder for members, 'what's up' at the Rec Centre; we resurrected both a Facebook (Christine) and twitter (Ivy) presence and we are spending a great deal of 'behind the scenes time' updating our website. A new look for our upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> year seems appropriate!
- We purchased a new boiler for the Pool (the water was 83° F every morning at 9am for swim lessons!) and Don (Maintenance Director) navigated us through a tricky spring start up with minimal downtime!
- Our very successful series of social events, led by Sue Edwards (Social Director) & ably assisted by stalwart volunteers, were very well attended and well organized. Special mention needs to be made of our

first ever **luncheon for Senior/long-term members,** an amazing group of 'founding' members and neighbours, who shared many fond memories. Some research on our membership has revealed that almost 40% of our local members are 'empty-nester' families! In fact, we discovered we have one family who has paid membership dues every year for the past 50 years! Both facts are fine examples of community spirit! (p.s. We'll tell you who the latter family is next year as part of our 50 Anniversary celebrations.)

- We had an amazing year of children's programming, including our Spring & Summer lessons/camps; led by our 2 Directors, Mark Baetz (Tennis) & Christine Valente (Pool). Their leadership in planning, supervision, and troubleshooting helped us create many positive memories for our children and grandchildren one of our fundamental objectives! Some of the new programming included Harry Potter Night for the young crowd and Friday afternoon Pancake Lunches for kids of all ages! Our investment in higher quality pool toys added loads of fun to the entire summer.
- We had an enthusiastic response from members when we introduced two sessions of Adult Tennis Lessons. Looks like there will be more people out on those courts next year!
- We also want to again thank all those residents who donated time, effort and money to the Clair Lake Playground fundraising & build efforts. The June 3<sup>rd</sup> build day was an amazing sight to behold and the new playground is an important addition to our neighbourhood!
- The activities aren't over yet! You may have noticed that Paul Struck (Tennyson) continues to do a ton of grounds keeping trimming bushes & plants, cleaning eaves, raking, and meticulously working towards improving the appearance of the site. In co-operation with him, Jan & Rob Phillips (Lions Court) have fearlessly undertaken to restore/rebuild the tennis bleachers & benches! They look absolutely fantastic! Work will continue at our Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Clean-up when we plan to 'tulip bomb' the two new front gardens and bag as many leaves & plant trimmings as possible. Later this fall we will sadly be removing three Ash trees, all of which have fallen prey to the Emerald Ash Borer. If we can find the right chainsaw artist, we might be able to create some whimsy out of the stumps!

Thank you to all those friends and neighbours who have volunteered over the past 10 months! There is a legion of people to thank.... too many to list by name in this newsletter.... You know who you are.... People who have just decided to do one or two 'small things', like sweep the tennis courts; take a shift at the produce stand; trim bushes and tree limbs; deliver newsletters; donate plants; bake bread; flip burgers & pancakes, etc, etc ... It is a beautifully long, endless list of 'neighbourliness'. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this community; without you, we would never have been able to achieve such a long list of accomplishments in 2017. We are beginning to think about plans for celebrating our 50th Anniversary and are soliciting members to volunteer for the 50<sup>th</sup> Committee. Please reach out to us at info@bpha.ca to get involved!

# THE 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF OUR BEECHWOOD PRODUCE STAND

Thanks to everyone in the neighbourhood who helped make our 10<sup>th</sup> year of the stand an amazing success. From Strawberry Season to Squash and Pumpkins (14 weeks in all) we welcomed the surrounding neighbourhood each week to enjoy the fresh harvest bounty of our local farmers. Special thanks to our "inneighbourhood" baker par excellence, Bruce Frayne, who awoke early each Wednesday morning to bake his Black Island Sour Dough loaves for us. In total, we were able to purchase over \$10,000 of locally produced products and provide our community with \$2,500 of financial support including: \$500 each to Keatsway and Centennial Schools, \$500 to our sponsored refugee family, \$500 to our BPHA for a memorial planting at our Rec Centre in memory of our neighbour Joe Pankarican, with the remainder going to local charities. We look forward to our tasty return next summer!

Sincerely, Farmer Steve and Dolores

# **NEW NEIGHBOUR ARRIVALS IN BEECHWOOD**

On behalf of the entire neighbourhood, we welcome the following new families to our community. We know you will enjoy living here as much as we all do.

- 300 Hiawatha: Julie Scott, Stan Swaren, and Julie's children Annie (12) and Sophia (9). Julie and the kids were previous residents in our area and we're glad their back. They purchased their home from long-time resident Mary Stollery who has moved to Calgary to be closer to her children.
- 270 Shakespeare: Dr. Kelly Grindrod and David Cesarini, their 2 children Orin (8) and Brynn (5), and dog Maple.
- 208 Mohawk: Ted Meng and Helen Niu and their 2 children Nathan (13) and Michelle (11). They purchased their home from long-time residents John and Charlotte Holmes (John actually grew up on Coleridge) who have moved closer to nature and Georgian Bay in Thornbury.
- 295 Hiawatha: Yao Yu and Sun Sun and their 2 year old daughter Tia. Both Yao and Sun are engineering professors at University of Waterloo.
- 91 McDougall Rd.: Marina and Ben Gliksman and their daughters Rose (2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>) and Natalia (8 months). Marina and Ben, originally from London Ont., moved here from San Jose California to be closer to family.
- 262 Shakespeare: Wendy Sung and Bii Cheng Chang and their 3 grown children James, Amy, and Judy. They moved here from Vancouver to be closer to their children.
- 207 Mohawk: Kim and Blake Dawson, their 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> year old daughter Ainsley and dog Canoa. They bought their home from long-time resident Ken Gingerich, who along with his wife Lynn raised their 5 children here in Beechwood. Ken has moved to a cottage on Lake Eugenia.
- 300 Shakespeare: Sydney and Ryan Richards and their 1 year old daughter Robyn. The Richards, who moved here from Toronto, bought their home from "original" Beechwood residents Ron and Joan Weiler, who lived in the neighbourhood since 1967 and were members of our Association for 50 years. Sydney and Ryan are loving their new home and community.

# **NEIGHBOURS INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- Denise Strong, a longtime resident with her husband Al on Shakespeare, will be one of 50 curated artists showing her photographs of K.W. historical industrial buildings at the OUT OF THE BOX ART SHOW AND SALE Friday Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> at The Walper Hotel. For details go to <u>www.artspay.org</u>. Denise is also an accomplished fine arts painter.
- Joan Westcott, who has lived on Longfellow since 1999, is an active member of The Zonta Club of K.W. Zonta International, with over 1200 clubs in 67 countries, empowers women locally and globally through service and advocacy. The local club has assembled over 14,000 birthing kits for maternal care programs in developing countries. From November 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> at the Princess Twin Cinemas, Joan's club will be hosting their annual Zonta Film Festival which showcases courageous, powerful films made by women that highlight human rights. This year's festival includes 8 films and you can find the schedule of films, information on each film, and purchase tickets at <u>www.kwzontafilmfestival.com</u>. The festival is one of the club's 3 major fundraisers including an International Women's Day event in March and the Betty Thompson Golf Classic in May.
- Katie Gibb of Longfellow, a volunteer with Pound Dog Rescue, will be part of their upcoming HOWLer Fundraiser at Snyder's Family Farm near Ayr from 10:30a.m.-2:30p.m on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Pound Dog Rescue is a non-profit, volunteer run organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and re-homing stray, abandoned and surrendered dogs in Southern Ontario pounds. PDR has rescued over 350 dogs since 2012 with Katie and her husband Ed having fostered 9 of these wonderful dogs.

# FAMILY MATTERS

- Paul and Dolores Penner are pleased to share the news of the engagement of their son Daniel to Katie Steckly, with the wedding planned for June 30, 2018 in Waterloo. Both Daniel and Katie are UofW students who will be graduating in April.
- Navin and Elana Chand celebrated the birth of their son Ezra on September 20<sup>th</sup>, a brother for Ari. Proud grandparents include Dani and Briana Zur, longtime residents at the top of Shakespeare, where Elana and her 2 sisters grew up.
- Bryan and Malkin Dare were blessed with 3 grandchildren in the past 18 months. "The arrival of our grandkids was like ketchup shake and shake and shake the bottle, first none will come and then a lot will. Our daughter Katherine started things off by presenting us a granddaughter on Pi day, March 14<sup>th</sup>, last year. Cordelia is now 19 months old and so much fun. Then our son Laurie got into the act when he and his wife Natsuko got pregnant via in-vitro fertilization. As often happens with in-vitro, they had twins Julian and Hazel who were born six weeks premature just over a year ago on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The babies are gorgeous and they are thriving!"
- Laura Hare, oldest daughter of Dave and Kathryn on Shakespeare, is engaged to Andrew McClure, with their marriage planned for next July. Laura is in the last year of her PhD in the Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto. Andrew is an IT specialist at BMO and also a member of the Canadian National Dragon Boat racing team that recently brought home 2 bronze and a silver from the world championships in China.
- Eric and Lisa Giguere's (Browning Place) daughter Victoria has had a very busy year so far. She graduated from Waterloo Collegiate Institute with academic honours and a nomination for Athlete of the Year. She then spent a wonderful summer in her dream job as a BPHA lifeguard. In September she was one of only 250 students who started in the Media, Information and Technoculture program at Western University in London, where she is also keeping busy with various extracurricular activities. She's looking forward to seeing everyone at the pool again next summer!
- This summer, Chris and Marjah Copp (Coleridge) celebrated the wedding of their daughter Rosalind to Greg Stewart with family and friends at the Masseria San Nicola in Puglia, Italy.

# REQUESTS FROM NEIGHBOURS

- ONE MONTH RENTAL: My parents will be visiting K.W. from Saskatchewan in April 2018. They are looking for a place to stay, so if you have a self-contained unit to rent for a month, or need a house sitter for April, or know of someone who does, please contact me at <a href="mailto:natashajk@gmail.com">natashajk@gmail.com</a>. Thank you so much! Natasha Krahn
- CHILDSITTING, TUTORING, YARDWORK: Do you need someone to look after your kids? Oscar Judelson-Kelly is a responsible, hardworking, fun, and caring babysitter. He is certified by St. John's Ambulance and is available to tutor school subjects and musical instruments. Oscar is also available for house and pet sitting as well as yard work and snow shoveling. Please contact him at judelsonkelly@gmail.com or 519-342-4764.
- VACATION SNOW SHOVELLING: Daniel Nairn (age 15) is available if you are away this winter and need your driveway & sidewalk kept clear of snow, and your mail taken in. Please contact 519-747-0827.
- CHILDSITTING & PET CARE AVAILABLE. Emy Sanita, niece of Stefan and Anne Marie (Shakespeare Dr.) is in Grade 8 at Centennial and has completed the Red Cross Babysitting course. She is experienced and available for after school, evening and weekend child care, and can also care for pets while you are away. Please contact her through Anne Marie at 519-886-5602 or email <u>emyloo531@gmail.com</u>.
- KNITTING TUTOR: If you would like to help a budding knitter in our community, Kathleen MacGuire, 8 years old and living on Shakespeare, please contact her mom Katie (who doesn't knit) via email at <u>kmacguire@gmail.com</u>.

# **REQUESTS FROM NEIGHBOURS (continued)**

- BPHA CHILDRENS' TENNIS COACHES: Last summer our association had 118 children participate in spring and summer tennis sessions in various age groups at our tennis courts. If you know any potential junior tennis coaching candidates for next summer, please contact me, Mark Baetz, BPHA Tennis Director at <a href="mailto:mbaetz5127@gmail.com">mbaetz5127@gmail.com</a>.
- HOUSE CLEANER: Are you looking for a reliable, hardworking, professional cleaner for your home? I live in Beechwood and am offering FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATES. If you are looking for someone to declutter certain spaces in your home and help you maintain an organized, stress-free home I can do that as well. I love to clean and organize. You provide the cleaning supplies; I'll do the work! Email Libby at <u>libbypino@yahoo.ca</u> or Text 519-722-4707.
- WANTED TO BUY: Beechwood family seeks dependable vehicle as backup transportation for conflicting appointments. Suitable for carpools, ski racks, driver instruction. Runs on little fuel. Ideally room for five, i.e. no imported coupes from the 80's or early 90's. Please call Sean at 519-725-5812.

# **REGIONAL UPDATE ON NEW CURBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION SYSTEM**

It has been 6 months since the new curbside collection program was implemented and the new contractor started. Since the changes were launched in March, we have seen amazing results thanks to you. Here are the numbers:

-GREEN BIN: 124% increase!

-BLUE BOX: 13% increase!

-YARD WASTE: 11% increase!

-GARBAGE: 22% DECREASE!

The obvious benefits of these results are that more resources are being collected and recycled, and that less is going into our one-and-only landfill. Thanks again, you are the best!

### AN UPDATE ON OUR BEECHWOOD SPONSORED REFUGEE FAMILY

Gradie and Abigaele, the two teenagers, are continuing their studies at Eastwood Collegiate. Abigaele is working weekends in Food Services at UofW. Yolande finished her high school diploma at the end of October and is looking for full time work. She will soon be applying to universities, to start next fall. Roland is enjoying his studies in the Financial Math program at WLU. He is living in an apartment near campus. Chantale is working full time at the Dare Foods plant in Cambridge.

All in all the family has settled in quite well and is managing to keep their heads above water. Please keep them in your thoughts, as their second year in Canada - their first having to support themselves completely - is a critical one. For those who attended the summer bbq at our Rec Centre they were at, they spoke wonderfully about how much they appreciate our community's support in their new home of Canada. Dave Hare, Chair, Beechwood Park Refugee Group

#### **TWO MESSAGES FROM THE FINESTONES ON HIAWATHA**

- 1. The Finestones would like to thank everyone who came to support their Lemonade Stand Fundraiser on Labour Day Monday. With everyone's generosity, we were able to raise \$179.70 to purchase anti-malaria bed nets and \$150.35 towards the purchase of school supplies, all for children in developing countries via Plan International. That translates to 22 bed nets and school essentials for 9 girls. See you next year!
- 2. Zoe (age 5) and I have a radio show, called Starfish and Coffee, which airs on Sundays from 6:30-7:30p.m. on 102.7 FM. As DJ Starfish and Little Beat, we play kid-friendly tracks from the likes of the Black Keys, Feist, The Jackson 5, and David Bowie together with music from some of the best children's musicians that won't annoy parents, like Big Block Singsong, Parry Gripp, Splash N Boots, and the Muppets. You can also listen to the show online at <u>http://radiowaterloo.ca/listen</u> or channel 946 on Rogers digital boxes. We hope you tune in to the show sometime! You can check us out at http://www.starfishandcoffeeradio.com

#### **OFFICIAL OPENING OF OUR NEW CLAIR LAKE PLAYGROUND**

As you may be aware, our new Clair Lake Playground, located in the greenbelt by Centennial Public School, has been a real hit since it opened this summer. In only one year from conception to creation, a group of dedicated residents from Beechwood Park and Beechwood South, in partnership with the City of Waterloo, have created a wonderful play space that will serve the families of our community well for years to come. Here is an update from one of the creators, Elana Chand.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, as part of the City of Waterloo's Culture Days celebrations, mosaic planters were unveiled at a Community Playdate and Picnic event at the Clair Lake Playground. These mosaic planters, a one-of-a-kind community public art project entitled "Beechwood Beauty", now reside at the entrance to the playground, reflecting the beauty of Clair Lake. Through a collaborative design effort with adults and children in our community, we came together to create 8 beautiful panels featuring trees, ducks, geese, butterflies, flowers and other nature-inspired scenes from our beloved local park. We hope you enjoy them when you visit the park.

Blessed with great fall weather, the event also featured our city Councilor Jeff Henry giving away 150 maple trees, neighbourhood band Soulstack providing live music, and the Breakfast Blues and BBQ food truck and Four All Ice Cream keeping everyone fed and happy. It was a wonderful celebration and a gathering that will hopefully continue for years to come! Be sure to visit us at <u>www.facebook.com/clairlakeplayground</u> to see more photos of the workshops, artwork, and event.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this wonderful project and helped to beautify our playground. Elana

Editor's Note: Elana, along with her husband Navin and son Ari, attended this event with her 10 day old newborn Ezra. She is also an accomplished mosaic artist. (Mozaica Designs)

#### **BPHA MEN'S DOUBLES TOURNAMENT SUMMARY**

Fourteen combatants entered this year's melee. Greg, "the kid in the hall" Hallman, Scott "the preacher" Brubacher-Zehr, Dante "the inferno" Pocrnich, Frank "the flying Dutchman" Janssen, Bob "six string" Gibson, Mark "Mr. Ethics" Baetz, Luke "the NSF Czech" Eret, Tom "Kid Galahad" Paraschuk, Yusef, "the spin doctor" Mnysulwalla, Jim "close shave" Wilkinson, Sean "the Safinator" McKenna, Karl "the spike" Czekus, "Shoeless" Joel Blit, and Mike "the wall" Dixon. As is tradition, the early rounds involved random pairings (some more random than others). Each of our heroes played four abbreviated sets with a different partner (some more different than others). Scores were kept, lies were told, games were played, and loud mouth soup was consumed. By the end of the round robin portion eight knights were left standing. The semifinals were to consist of Joel and Karl, playing Frank and Scott, and Tom and Bob playing Mike and Dante.

The antics were frightening. Twice I heard Scott thundering from the pulpit "Frank stop imbibing and start hitting it to Karl instead of Joel". Bob (six string) had seen the Holy Grail - the wooden Bjorn Borg racked that was our trophy. He was a changed man, effortlessly turning back our best serves while Kid Galahad lobbed back with disdain our surefire winners. Dante and I staggered off the court defeated men. Likewise, the Preacher and the Dutchman hung their heads in shame.

And then there were four: Bob, Tom, Joel, and Karl. It was then that Bob informed us that he and his wife had tickets for a play at Stratford, Romeo and Juliette. Shock consumed us and as the mist cleared from our eyes we realized that a replacement finalist had to be chosen. How to do it? It was then we saw my Babolat racket stuck between two boards of the picnic table with the inscription "whosoever draws this racket from the picnic table gets to play in the final". After many frustrated tries, late arrival Mike "can't" Singh from the Land of Coleridge deftly slid the racket from the table with barely a whisper.

In the finals Sir Singh and Tom Kid Galahad laid waste to Karl The Spike and Shoeless Joel. Thanks to Karl for co-organizing, Sue Dixon for the poppers and burgers, Jim Wilkinson for the 'Qing'', Yusef for the amazing Somosas, and Mark Mr. Ethics for supplying balls, booking courts, etc. Once again, a fine olde time was had by all.

### <u>A LETTER TO RYAN GOINS, SHORTSTOP FOR THE TORONTO BLUE JAYS</u> <u>FROM JIM FURLONG</u>

Earlier this year, Jim Furlong, a passionate Blue Jays fan and longtime resident on Marlowe Drive decided to write an instructional letter to the Blue Jays young backup shortstop, Ryan Goins. While Ryan Goins is unquestionably a great fielder, he has struggled at the plate in past years. Perhaps coincidentally or not, this season Ryan had his best hitting season in Home Runs, RBI's, and Slugging Percentage; and hit a respectable .237 in 144 games. The following is the letter Jim sent to Ryan:

Dear Ryan: Your chemistry to the infield defence is awesome regardless of which position you play. Your demeanor while playing is outstanding and represents thorough preparation. I believe this to be, in part, because you move your feet so well. I coached a number of High School sports (not baseball) and I was a Physical Education teacher. Moving the feet efficiently is essential to execute an athletic move. The same goes for batting. In your early career you hit the ball very well and had a significant number of homers. That probably worked against you in the Majors. Your stature is smaller and you have to use it to your advantage. Rather than take the same stance and the big swing each AB, think finesse and playing small ball at all times.

Decide where you want to hit the ball each AB and change your stance to accommodate that alignment. The placement of the lead foot determines the direction of the ball and an open stance allows the hips to rotate easier. Shorten up your swing and choke up an inch or 2 and keep the wrists loose. You have excellent handeye coordination and this will improve your ability to have your eye follow the ball to contact. You will hit the ball where you want and have more walks because you can wait that split second longer before swinging and avoid the effect of the sliders and changeups.

If you change your mind set and become a finesse hitter your batting average will be .300 plus because you are an awesome athlete. If you make this your goal, I will be watching you in the World Series - wouldn't that be special?

Take care, Jim Furlong

#### NEWS FROM KEATSWAY SCHOOL

Keatsway Public School is wrapping up their fall fundraiser and wishes to thank everyone in the community who has supported us and helped us reach our \$10,000 fundraising goal! This money will go towards a variety of school activities and projects including a new GaGa Ball pit (a fun outdoor game played in an octagonal enclosure), school council operating costs, subsidizing field trips, home reading materials, Silver Lake camp and graduation, phys-ed supplies, and the principal's discretionary fund for students in need. Having reached this fundraising goal, additional funds raised this year will go towards a new playground. Sitting at \$30,000 we are already half way there. What many people may not know is that school playgrounds must be entirely funded by school councils. There is no funding from the province, school, or school board. Our current playground is almost 30 years old and is used not only by Keatsway students but all neighbourhood children.

Direct donations to the new playground will be matched by a generous anonymous donor! There is a link on the Keatsway PS website <u>https://kea.wrdsb.ca/</u>, which takes you to Canadahelps.org, where you can choose Keatsway from a drop-down menu to donate online. If you prefer, you may also drop off a cheque in person at our school office. Tax receipts are issued for amounts greater than \$15.

There are more ways to give including:

- Preprinted card inscribed with "a donation has been made in their name to the Keatsway PS Playground fund.
- Buying merchandise or gift cards at your favourite retailers through **Flipgive**, with a portion donated to our school. Go to <u>https://www.flipgive/teams/53711-keatsway-school-council</u>.
- Keatsway's second annual **Winter Marketplace** the evening of Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Local vendors and artisans will be selling clothing, baked goods, home décor, and more.

# **KEATSWAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Our nutrition for learning snack program needs volunteers. Key times needed (but let us know if you are available at different times) include:

- Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:20-10:00a.m.
- Mondays and Tuesdays for an hour between 12:30-4:00p.m.
- If you are at home with a little one, they are welcome to come with you.

Email <u>keatswayschoolcouncil@gmail.com</u> if you would like more information on how you can help.

Thanks very much, Christine Valente, Mohawk Dr.

### ERIC GAWMAN

In the 15 or so years that I have written and edited our newsletter I have never written about the passing of one of our neighbours. Today, I am breaking this rule and I ask for your understanding. Eric Gawman, who grew up on Coleridge Drive, and lived and worked almost his entire life in our area, quietly touched the lives of so many people who live or used to live in our neighbourhood. By profession, Eric was a landscaper and horticulturalist who beautified the homes of so many people in Beechwood for over 25 years. While his work was superb, and he took great pride in it, this wasn't what made Eric special to those who knew him. Rather it was the sense of comfort, togetherness, neighbourliness, and friendship he provided. When you saw his little white pickup truck parked in front of a home on Coleridge, Hiawatha, or Marlowe, and other areas of Beechwood you felt that all was right with the world. And if you approached and saw him bent over gardening away in his blue jeans in someone's front yard with his radio on you knew he was there to talk to if you were so inclined and were not in a rush to get on with life. Whether it was politics, or the Blue Jays, opera, or gardening Eric and whoever happened to be passing by on the sidewalk would enjoy a chat. And when I really think about it, I guess this is why I'm writing about him today. In this fast paced, digital world of today, Eric was a throwback to a different and perhaps simpler time and place where you lived in the community you were born in and where knowing the people in your neighbourhood was just how it was.

*NOTE*: There will be a gathering for Eric for those who knew him at:

Richard and Sasha Judelson-Kelly 288 Hiawatha Drive Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. You may bring drinks or small appetizers to share if you wish.

That's all for the Fall Issue of our Newsletter. We hope you find our very local news informative and entertaining and encourage feedback and input on anything in this issue. Once again, a big thanks to our amazing newsletter editor, Tracey Nairn, and to all the volunteers who deliver this newsletter to the 400 homes in our community.

Sincerely, Steve Singer, 269 Shakespeare Drive, singercutt@golden.net