



Beechwood Park Homes Association

INCORPORATED

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Web Site: www.bpha.ca
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SPRING NEWSLETTER

May 2020

BPHA VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS

President	Sue Edwards	Vice President	Paul Harrington
Past President	Ivy Friedman	Secretary	Steve Kobes
Program Director	Deborah Morden	Tennis Director	Mark Baetz
Pool Director	Christine Valente	Co-Pool Director	<i>vacant</i>
Membership Director	Tracey Nairn	Maintenance Director	Sebastian Roussel
Treasurer	Luke Eret	Bookkeeper & Payroll	Shenhui Lang
Social Director	Amy McPhee	Member-at-Large	Gulshan Mnyusiwalla

“There’s always Hope and Chalk” from Katherine Percival’s sidewalk art on Shakespeare Drive.

2019 BPHA BOARD REPORT

This is definitely a different start to the Summer Season than we are accustomed to! The BPHA Board of Directors is continuing to plan for our upcoming summer. As of Tuesday May 19th, Tennis Court 1 will be open for play! We ask that people use our new online sign up that can be found on the website under the Tennis Tab. A list of new guidelines can be found on the website and we ask that members follow them!

If and when the Provincial Emergency Order is lifted and we are given permission to open the pool, we will be ready. Spring maintenance at our Rec Centre is well underway and our pool contractor has filled the pool and we are maintaining the chemical balance. We would like to assure you that we remain in constant communications with the City of Waterloo, Regional Public Health, and the Lifesaving Society of Canada and are monitoring updates from the Province.

We want to thank those who have gone ahead and renewed their membership for 2020! We understand that you may be feeling uncertain about what the summer will bring but we encourage families to register for their 2020 BPHA membership online. **If you and your family are interested in playing tennis, we ask that you pay now, knowing that if the pool does not open this summer members will be entitled to a full refund.** If you are only looking for the pool, we ask that you register online now and take the option to pay the \$475 (Local families) or \$575 (Associate families) membership fee once we have received the all clear to resume use of the pool.

There are no late fees and no deadlines. Any questions about membership can be directed to Tracey Nairn at membership.bpha@gmail.com. For those looking to stay up to date on what is going on, please go to the BPHA Website <https://www.bpha.ca/>, our BPHA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BPHAInc/> and our Beechwood Social Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/beechwoodsocial/>.

In this time of uncertainty, we may not know when our facilities will be fully open, but what we do know is that our neighbourhood is full of Community Builders who help in so many ways, large and small to keep our surrounding area healthy and vital; from maintenance and gardening, to serving on the BPHA board, from defending our interests at city hall, to building playgrounds and sponsoring refugee families. We'd like to congratulate them all at a special pin presentation ceremony when things get back to normal. If you know of neighbours who have given 5, 10, 15 or even 20 years of service to our community, please pass their names on to Sue Edwards at suecross15@gmail.com.

Sincerely, Sue Edwards, President of your Volunteer Beechwood Board of Directors.
"Making Memories since 1968"

PLEASE KEEP YOUR BOTTLES!

Once again this year our plan is to continue to subsidize the cost of the BPHA youth programs using funds raised through bottle drives. While we are not able to schedule a collection at this time, we encourage you to save your refundable bottles and cans. Collections will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

Sincerely, Deb Morden morden.deborah@gmail.com.

SUPPORTING LOCAL

There has never been a more important time in all our lives to support our local communities. It is through these local communities that we build bulwarks against the global events we feel helpless to control. These past few months have motivated all of us to pitch in and help where we can to get through this. From home schooling and keeping our children healthy and happy, sewing masks and gowns for our front line workers, helping seniors in our neighbourhood, providing financial support where it's needed, supporting local retailers, restaurants, and services, and generally being there for each other. Notwithstanding the unprecedented support of our city, provincial, and federal governments, in times like these, neighbourhood associations like the BPHA can play a vital role in knitting neighbours together and helping us all to stay strong. We hope you agree and decide to become members as the BPHA embarks on our next 50 years!

PURCHASING LOCALLY MADE FACE MASKS

Many individuals and companies have been stepping into the breach to supply PPE facemasks, shields, and gowns to our frontline medical heroes. Now, as restrictions are loosening a bit and we are slowly getting out more, public health is recommending that the general public also wear non-medical protective masks as a precautionary measure. If you are looking for a reliable place to purchase masks we recommend a local Beechwood source, Dream Power Costumes owned and operated by Sherri and Sarah Woods. They have been making children's costumes for many years and are now using their expertise to produce masks. Just go to DreamPowerCostumes.com and click on Products and you will see their assortment of masks for purchase online.

TWO THANK YOUS FROM OUR FRONT LINE HEROES

Alison Arden, a Frontline Healthcare Worker who lives in the neighbourhood wanted to offer her thanks for the support of her community during this difficult time. For her it makes all the difference in the world!

“Walking around the neighbourhood with my family and seeing and hearing the sounds of pots and pans and people in their driveways cheering at 7:30 p.m. consistently brings tears to my eyes. Despite the physical distancing we are all doing, it won’t break our spirit, and the smiles and nods of everyone we pass by on our walks is a testament to that. It is challenging times for all of us but we can do this! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. #beechwoodstrong

And from a rural Ontario doctor Lindsay-Bowman Matthews sent by neighbour Elizabeth Vernon-Wilson.

“I just want to say THANK YOU to the community, to all who are heeding the advice to stay home, to only come to the Emergency Dept. for emergencies, to practice physical distancing and infection control. You are giving us something immeasurably valuable: TIME.

Time to completely revamp our emergency departments and our inpatient ward spaces.

Time to figure out new ways of doing things.

Time to train ourselves: Nurses, MD’s, and respiratory therapists.

None of this would be possible if we were dealing with our usual patient volumes & workloads, or if the surge hit us sooner.

So THANK YOU and keep it up! We stay at work for you, you stay at home for us.

BEECHWOOD PRODUCE STAND POSTPONED - BUT YOU CAN STILL BUY LOCALLY GROWN FRESH PRODUCE

Dolores, Dianne, and I met recently to discuss this season’s Produce Stand and have decided that in order to maintain the health and safety of our volunteers and customers we are postponing our opening to hopefully coincide with the opening of our Recreation Centre. We will monitor public health guidelines on a weekly basis, and if it is permitted for an operation like ours to open, we will be ready. In the meantime, please consider supporting our locally grown farm community who are facing restrictions on farmers markets and creating new ways to connect with us. Here are a few suggested sources you can try. Some will customize your orders, others are selling a weekly Market Box with seasonal produce.

Thames River Melons (one of our Stand suppliers): <https://thamesrivermelons.com>. (Alex Chesney)

The Sustainable Market: <https://sustainablemarket.ca/>

Bailey’s Local Foods: <https://www.baileyslocalfoods.com/>

Herrle’s Country Farm Market: <http://herrles.com/>

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- We would like to sincerely welcome all new neighbours who have recently moved into our community! This includes
 - Michael and Lisa Stewart have recently moved to 307 Hiawatha and are returning with their cat Tonquin and dog Morse to Waterloo after 5 years of living in Alberta. Michael is an engineer and Lisa an accountant.
 - Sharon and John Sommerville recently moved from the Westmount area into Lisa and Jeff Heaton's old home on 294 Algonquin. They have 2 grown sons Rory and Brendan. Sharon works at St. Johns Kitchen and John is an I.T. Contractor. Interestingly, they drive 2 compact electric vehicles: an original Honda Insight Hybrid and a Swatch all Electric.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD cont'd

- Congratulations to Claire and Neil Malhotra (Anatolin) on the birth of their 3rd son Simon in January. Big brothers James and Ben will be sure to have a lot to teach him!
- Congratulations to Paul and Kyomi Harrington (Mohawk Ave) on the birth of their 3rd child on Mother's Day, a bouncing baby boy Kitano; a brother to sisters Mika and Noriko who are very excited!
- For Serge LeVert-Chiasson on Coleridge Place, a Covid Silver Lining was the day his kids realized that school was fun and they miss it. "Vivienne, our 5 year old daughter, told me for the first time yesterday "I'm bored". This morning, she prepared her school bag, signed her school calendar, made her lunch, and came into my home office and said: "Bonjour Monsieur Serge, je vais maintenant faire ma lecture" (translation: Hello teacher, I am going to do my reading now). Wow, kids actually seeing school as fun and useful!
- Long time resident Kathy Chandler on Shakespeare writes; "My son Matt Chandler welcomed a new baby girl with his wife Kira on February 8th. Her name is Eleanor Anne Chandler. Also, I have had a number of neighbours inquire as to the "net" on our driveway at 290 Shakespeare. It looks like we will have to get creative regarding summer activities this year. I love tennis and as the courts are closed I decided to make my own! It's exactly 2/3 the size of a singles tennis court, the plastic net is a garden fence and is regulation height. As soon as the weather improves I will be drawing the lines on the court in chalk and let the games begin!
- Long time resident Judy King on Coleridge writes: "Reg and I spend time checking in on family, friends, neighbours and seniors who live alone and lots of grandchildren on facetime. Reg has finished all the yard work and I have been busy making gowns, masks, and scrub caps for the hospital and community health care. On the cooking front, I have been experimenting with bread making."
- The O'Melia/Down household at 304 Shakespeare wanted to share this good family news: "Shannon's daughter Allison graduated from U.W. with a degree in Biomedical Engineering and has accepted a full time job with Apple in California. Her son Owen completed his first year at RMC in the Aeronautical Engineering program, and is enrolled as a pilot in the Canadian Armed Forces. And daughter Avery finished her 3rd year at Queen's U. Meanwhile, Steve's son Chris graduated from McGill U with an Economics degree. Steve also mentioned he would be happy to help any seniors in the community with grocery shopping or other tasks they need done.
- Anne Marie Mingiardi from Shakespeare Drive wanted to let us all know that "One of the things that brightens my day is the free online exercise classes from Movati Athletic, where I would faithfully go 2-3 times a week back when it was open. They can be accessed by anyone and are usually 30-40 minutes long. Check their website for the weekly schedule. Most of the classes that have run on Facebook are stored so you can workout at a convenient time for you.
- Liz Vernon-Wilson from Shakespeare wants to make you aware of Parkrun, a free, weekly, timed 5 km event that normally runs at 9am each Saturday morning in parks around the world. Here in K.W., Parkrun happens in Victoria Park. Each event is organized by supportive, friendly volunteers. You just register for a barcode online, turn up, get a brief welcome, complete the course, go home and check your results. While Parkrun events are postponed for now, Liz suggests you check out Parkrun.ca for ways to take part virtually. Their motto is "For Free, For all, Forever."
- Mark Giesbrecht, a longtime resident with his wife Tian Kou on Hiawatha, was recently appointed Dean of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo. You can read the article about Mark's appointment at: <http://uwaterloo.ca/stories/mathematics/new-dean-appointed-waterloos-faculty-mathematics>. Congratulations Mark! Tian also works in the Faculty of Mathematics and plays tennis regularly in the women's round robin on Thursday nights.

BRINGING WILL HOME - A HAPPY ENDING

Our son Will has lived and worked in Africa for about 6 years. For the past 2 years he has made his home in Dar es Salam, Tanzania, and that is where our tale begins... After resigning his role with the NGO he worked for, he landed a role with the International Rescue Committee in New York City (<https://www.rescue.org/>) and began making plans to return home. Then came the world pandemic and every plan made by humans got swept aside... In March, he fell ill with COVID like symptoms, requiring him to self-isolate for 2 weeks; then of course, he had to be symptom free for another 2 weeks before he could fly. When he was fit to book a flight back to Canada on April 11th the government of Tanzania announced the suspension of all international flights. After several tense weeks, eventually, the Canadian embassy managed to get Canadian seats on a repatriation flight organized by South Korea. After some suspense, the Tanzania government approved the list of Canadian passengers on May 6th and our son boarded the flight on May 7th. The night of May 8th, Will arrived in our driveway, exhausted, but smiling. He is now in self-isolation in our basement and we are impatiently waiting to hug him! All in all, an anxiety ridden ten week period for our entire family. Having him home, just in time for Mother's Day, is so sweet! Kind Regards, Dianne and Bill Ratcliffe

SHARE YOUR COVID STORIES WITH THE REGION OF WATERLOO MUSEUM

Helen Chimirri-Russell lives on McDougall Road and works with the Region of Waterloo Museums. The museum is encouraging our community to share their stories, artwork, video, photos and other objects with them as part of their Help Us Make History project. The project's goal is to archive our recorded accounts of everyday life during the COVID-19 pandemic for future generations. It's called "Rapid Response Collecting" because many of our memories and artifacts would otherwise be lost after the fact if a conscious effort is not made to gather them. So if you would like to be part of this history making Covid Memory Bank, Helen asks that you email her your information to helpusmakehistory@regionofwaterloo.ca with a subject line "Writing COVID-19 History".

AIR BNB HAS COME TO BEECHWOOD

All of us are familiar with Air BnB, the global short term rental company based in the United States. While Air BnB began as a provider of low cost tourist accommodation around the world it unfortunately has also become in recent years a major investment vehicle for individuals and corporations who purchase condominiums, homes, and apartments that are then rented out to strangers. This trend has had unfortunate consequences for many neighbourhoods, including major disturbances in condo towers and communities due to lack of sufficient oversight by these absentee owners. We have all read about these kinds of incidents in the media that are motivating many municipalities to implement and enforce regulations on Air BnB landlords. At this point however, the City of Waterloo does not have a short term rental bylaw in place.

So it is once again up to us as concerned citizens, as it was 15 years ago when absentee university student landlords similarly threatened our area, to be vigilant and ensure that Air BnB does not become entrenched in Beechwood. Currently, we are aware of 2 homes in our area that operate as Air BnB's. While we have always supported homeowners who reside in their homes and rent to individuals to help defray costs, it is not in the interest of our community to allow these short term rentals by absentee landlords to flourish. If allowed to do so they will only become a source of problems for all us.

Our BPHA is monitoring this situation and will be working with city officials on this issue. As well, if you feel strongly on this issue, we suggest that you write to your Councilor Jeff Henry, Mayor Jaworsky and city staff to voice your concerns. In the meantime we ask that if you are planning to sell your home that you please try to sell it to someone who is planning to live in it.

LOOKING FOR A NEW SPORT? HOW ABOUT DISC GOLF

New sports, and variations on old sports, are popping up all over. Many are of the extreme variety that appeal to a narrow segment of the population like Rock Climbing and Skateboarding, both of which are now official Summer Olympic sports. Pickleball, on the other hand, which has taken the continent by storm, especially amongst baby boomers, is a much less strenuous, less risky but still challenging mixture of tennis and ping pong that can be played on any modified tennis court.

Another sport like Pickleball that has boomed in popularity is disc golf, otherwise known as Frolf (Frisbee golf). There are nearly 8,000 disc golf courses in North America, with hundreds more being built each year. The sport is governed by the Professional Disc Golf Association (www.pdga.com).

Our neighbour, Duane Chris, who lives with his family on Hiawatha Drive, has been both an avid player and a leading local advocate of this sport for over 15 years. Winter and summer, Duane plays local disc golf venues at Chicopee Ski Club, Foxwood Country Club and at the University of Waterloo's Columbia Lake, all of which he helped to design and construct. Duane travels throughout Ontario and the United States to competitions and for casual play in summer months. Duane is also the outgoing President of the Grand River Disc Golf Association, which has a membership of about 60 players and is growing rapidly. In September 2019, the GRDGA hosted the Ontario Disc Golf Championships at the Chicopee and Foxwood courses. Duane emerged as the provincial champion in the Men's Professional Masters division (men aged 40+).

Disc golf is played just like "ball" golf on 9 or 18-hole courses, with par 3's to Par 5's and hole lengths from 200' to 1200'. It is played with a variety of plastic discs that are carried in the golfer's backpack. The discs consist of driver, midrange, and "putting" discs, each of which is designed specifically for things like accuracy, long/short flight, curved flight, etc. There is a launch "tee" area for each hole and a specially designed basket that the disc has to land in. Players seek to get the disc from the tee into the basket in as few strokes, or throws, as possible. Courses can be set up in open fields or woods, on hilly or flat terrain, or a combination, and a round takes about 1.5 to 2 hours to complete. The cost to get started in the game is minimal with discs costing as little as \$10 each.

With its low cost, many free playing sites, creative shot making, and opportunity for year-round outdoor fun, it's no wonder disc golf has zoomed in popularity. If you are intrigued and would like more information on local opportunities in the sport feel free to connect with Duane at duane_chris@hotmail.com or check out www.grandriverdiscgolf.com. You won't be disappointed!

HOMEMADE WHITE BREAD by Judy King

Origin: Dorothy Kern

Prep: 30 min. Cook: 20 min. Resting: 1 hour Makes 2 loaves

Ingredients

5 ½ to 6 c flour
3 T sugar
4 ½ tsp yeast
2 tsp salt
½ cup milk
2 T butter

Directions

1. Combine 2 cups flour, yeast and salt in a mixing bowl and stir. Put water, milk and butter in a microwavable bowl and heat on high in 15 sec. increments until warm (120-130 F) then add to flour mixture.
2. Beat 2 min. at medium speed, scraping bowl occasionally. Stir in enough remaining flour so the dough will form into a ball.
3. Knead on a lightly floured surface until smooth and elastic, about 6-8 min. (This can also be done in a stand mixer until dough comes away from the sides of the bowl). Cover with a towel and let rest for 10 min.
4. Cut dough into 2 equal pieces. Roll each piece of dough into 12 x 7 in. rectangle using a rolling pin.

5. From the short end, roll each piece up tightly. Pinch seam and ends to seal and place seam side down in two 8 ½ x 4 ½ greased loaf pans. Cover with a towel and let rise in a warm place until double in size. About 45 min.
6. Bake at 400F for 29 to 30 min. or until golden brown. Remove loaves from pan and cool on a wire rack.

A POEM BY KYRI FRIEDMAN “WE CALL IT LIFE”

Mother Nature’s giggling son holds a bobbing blue balloon,
He carefully places it around the earth’s shoulders and we call it sky.
Sitting in the sky are cotton-swab puffs floating contentedly along in the air,
Drifting like boats being only gently paddled and we call them clouds.
Papery fingers on twisting arms reach for the sky,
They wear their coats of emerald gossamer proudly, though they speak kindly, and we call them trees.
The trees sit on a soft carpet rolled out on the hills, on the meadows,
Miles of lushly spread malachite green, Earth’s flooring that we call grass.
Mother Nature’s careful breath blows away leaves, blows in gentle rain, blows it away again,
We call it wind.
A white cotton blanket tucked onto the sleeping earth,
Layers of sheets fall down from the giving sky. We call them snow.
Turquoise scarfs layer upon layer flow slowly to crash against beige beads, we call it the sea.
From behind the sky’s balloon, golden threads descend on us.
They warm the air and give the world colour and we call them light.
Mother Nature’s crown reaches into the sky. Purple peaks break apart the clouds,
Remind the world that the sky is not the limit, and these are called mountains.
A bit of growth, a steady glow shines, a blossom emerges. We call it life.

Editor’s Note: What a beautiful poem to lift our spirits. Sky, clouds, grass, wind, snow, the sea, light, mountains and from these come life. Mother Nature will always be there for us. Thanks Kyri.

A LIFE REMEMBERED-CHRIS COPP FROM COLERIDGE DRIVE

Chris would have really liked Kyri’s poem as he was also a poet. In fact, Chris lived right around the corner from Kyri although I don’t believe they knew each other. Unfortunately, last November his wife Marjah and children Emily, Roz, and Alex, lost their “brave and poetic warrior”. And we lost a gentle-man, a unique soul, a valued member of our community for 25 years. In his memory, here is Chris’ poem entitled Photo Albums.

“At first came books in a crayon scrawl, handmade photo albums, dedicated all.
To home and to family, the times we shared, the art of my daughter, how much she cared.
They’re here with us still, all stored on shelves, ready to be opened, to remind ourselves:
It’s moments we live, and how soon they go, lament not their passing. They ebb, they flow.
Look at this page, how young we all were!, We blinked for a second. It was gone in a blur!
I could leave for the coast or journey offshore, but I wouldn’t find peace or be loved any more
Than I feel sitting here, these snaps in my lap, remembering those days and taking me back.”

“It’s dark out, but I’m grateful, So much easier to end with grateful.” Lin-Manuel Miranda.
Take care Chris and stay Forever Young Mr. Tambourine Man.

Dr. Venkatary Muzumdar M.D. F.R.C.S. – Keeping our Immune Systems Healthy

Below I have reprinted an excerpt from an article I wrote about Dr. Muzumdar in the Spring 2014 Newsletter. I thought it might be very relevant to all of us, during this global health crisis, to read once again Dr. Muzumdar's unique perspective on maintaining the health of our bodies and its immune system. Dr. Muzumdar lived in our neighbourhood since 1976 and passed away this winter at the age of 94.

"Maintaining a healthy immune system is the key to long life." Here is Dr. Muzumdar's prescription for keeping our immune systems healthy, a prescription he practiced faithfully every day:

- Do not ingest toxic chemicals if at all possible.
- Be socially inclined with a good web of friends to interact with. Social interaction induces the brain to produce endorphins which latch to our immune cells making "powerful soldiers" in fighting bacteria, viruses, and cancers.
- Exercise regularly. Exercise releases growth hormone into the blood which the liver converts to growth factor ILGF that strengthens muscles which in turn burn calories much more efficiently.
- Don't overeat. Before you feel full at a meal stop eating. Overeating produces too many Free Radicals which latch onto cell walls with harmful effects. Not being overweight is essential to a healthy immune system.
- Take natural supplements daily including Ginko, Fish Oil, and Vitamins D3 and C.
- Maintain your mental acuity by exercising your brain. His exercise included reciting the romantic poetry of Keats, Coleridge, and Longfellow; ironically the names of streets in our neighbourhood that he often walked.

TAKING BACK THE STREETS - WHATS OLD IS BECOMING NEW

We all have had a lot of time recently to think about how much our lives have changed in only two months. In many ways it seems to me that we are living in a time warp going back perhaps 60-70 years ago. The pace of life has slowed dramatically, giving us time to connect with old friends, think about what's really important, and change our habits; perhaps picking up a telephone more often, a new exercise regimen, cleaning our own houses, baking bread and trying out new cooking recipes, mulching our flower beds, taking an online course, or changing the way we work or our jobs or both. Parents are home with their children, creating unique opportunities to live, play, learn, and connect together. Neighbourhoods are teeming with life during the day once again. Many of us have created home based workplaces just like we had long ago. No frantic commuting and frayed nerves trying to complete our To Do lists. Our cars get "3 weeks to the gallon". Home deliveries of many things have become the norm, just as in the "good old days" when Eatons, Simpsons, and Hudson's Bay all had parcel delivery. Car traffic has dwindled, extracurricular programs are shut down, and parks are closed so we are back to playing on the streets, the sidewalks, our backyards, driveways, and creeks; neighbours are holding driveway happy hours; outdoor basketball nets are popular, as are obstacle courses set up by driveway skateboard daredevils, while tennis and football are being played in the streets as we yell "Car" from time to time, and kids are getting soakers exploring our local streams. We are reading more, doing more puzzles, playing more board games, bicycling more, doing more art on paper, windows, sidewalks, rocks, and telephone poles, noticing more wildlife, watching more movies and listening to more music, writing more poetry and stories and generally doing more living and creating and less completing. We are nicely blending the use of modern digital technologies with retro habits to Zoom with our families and friends, You Tube Stratford plays, and shop online locally. Will some of these new/old habits remain and become part of all our "New Normals". Only time will tell.

That's all for the Spring Issue of our Newsletter. We hope you find it both informative and enjoyable and we encourage feedback on anything in this issue or ideas for future issues. Once again, a big thanks to our amazing newsletter editor, Tracey Nairn, and to all the volunteers who deliver it to the nearly 400 local homes in our community. Sincerely, Steve Singer, BPHA Newsletter Editor, singercutt@golden.net

Why create a better BPHA?

It pays in many ways!



SPRING 2020 SURVEY RESULTS

Early in 2020, the BPHA Board announced the formation of a new and exciting project. It's called '**NEXT50**' and we've added a tab on our website www.bpha.ca explaining the 'What; Why; and How' details! This is a long-term planning project spanning 3-4 years, culminating in changes to our programming and our rec centre that will carry our association into the next 50 years of its lifespan.

The first year of this project is devoted to prompting ideas and input for what our future could look like. The next 5 months will give us opportunities to share different ideas and to work toward generating a **common vision** for community building! We look forward to an avalanche of ideas (go to the **IDEAS page** in our NEXT50 website tab) and to engaging discussion and debate over the summer of 2020.

The NEXT50 is about RE-visioning a loved and valued organization and an aging rec-centre. The BPHA is the steward of lands that are zoned recreational property in perpetuity. Whatever we do is passed on to future generations. This is our opportunity to design the future we want. In March all 2019 members and local non-members were invited to share their thoughts and feelings about the BPHA in a survey that focused on **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT)**. Our sincere thanks to all those local members (62%), associate members (60%) and local non-members (4%) who took the time to participate!

TOPLINE SURVEY LEARNINGS: For a look at the **FULL report** go to www.bpha.ca and click on the NEXT50 tab.

1. The BPHA is much loved for attracting, energizing and nurturing **community building, both at the Rec Centre and within the neighbourhood** (e.g. adopting a refugee family, the new playground, Clair Lake rehabilitation, support for local farmers, tree planting, butterfly hatching and the community newsletter). These activities are part of the **shared value of the organization**. Preserving and building on the current **perceived value** is paramount to maintain the benefits to members and to attract and engage others.
2. **Programming** inside and outside the rec-centre is highly valued and appreciated. There were many suggestions for the future that include expanding programming beyond swimming and tennis, **especially more year-round adult programming and more activities on the courts**.
3. **There is universal support for upgrading & renovating the Rec Centre.**
4. Members are aware of **the financial challenges** associated with managing an aging facility with declining income. Exploring ways to **finance** our organization is viewed as integral to our next 50 years
5. There is **huge support and optimism** for this project: two comments that sum it up: *"I am so excited that there is a long-term vision in motion for BPHA. I'm nervous about community involvement and the cost involved, but I'm hopeful too."* & *"It opens a pathway for us all to be actively involved in shaping our future"*.

NEXT STEPS:

1. **Two webinars will be hosted** to review the survey results and answer questions. **The webinar dates are:**
 - **Monday, May 25, 12 noon – 12:40 & Tuesday, May 26, 7 pm - 7:40 pm.**
 - To register go to www.bpha.ca, go to the NEXT50 Tab, use the Eventbrite link and register for the date that suits you best.
 - **This webinar is open to all members and all non-members.** Everyone is **welcome**.
 - **Advance registration is required. Please register early.**
2. We have got some great IDEAS from this survey, but we want to encourage MORE. Go to the website and give us your IDEAS... BIG & small!
3. Discussion sessions/Zoom webinars – during the summer months - where we will dig into all the actual IDEAS submitted and start to synthesize some possible concepts. (Dates TBD June/July/August).
4. Developing a Vision and 2 or 3 possible concepts for testing in 2021. (October/Nov).

YOU can **design** the kind of BPHA **programming and meeting place** that **YOU** want to join.

Go to www.bpha.ca click **NEXT50** click **IDEAS**.

We want to hear from members & non-members alike!

Don't wait - CREATE - the future BPHA **YOU want to join.**

Get involved, today!

