



Beechwood Park Homes Association

INCORPORATED

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Recreation Centre:
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Web Site: www.bpha.ca
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FALL NEWSLETTER October 2020

BPHA VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS

President	Sue Edwards	Vice President	Paul Harrington
Past President	Ivy Friedman	Secretary	Steve Kobes
Treasurer	Luke Eret	Program Director	Deborah Morden
Bookkeeper	Shenhui Lang	Pool Co-Director	Christine Valente
Membership Director	Tracey Nairn	Pool Co-Director	Lori Grant
Maintenance Director	Sebastian Roussel	Tennis Director	Mark Baetz
Social Director	<i>Vacant</i>	Payroll Officer	Jason Daly

HALLOWEEN

A number of children in the neighbourhood will be going trick-or-treating this year. Because of COVID-19, parents are asking houses that wish to hand out candy to kindly have a jack-o-lantern or a porch light well-lit to identify your participation. Some families will have tables set out at the end of their driveways with prepackaged treat bags to minimize crowds. Please be safe and follow the city's guidelines.

BPHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be a virtual meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 7:30pm. More details will be forthcoming at www.bpha.ca.

2020 BPHA BOARD REPORT

What a season! We started off unsure if we could open at all. Slowly but surely, we were able to first open the tennis courts in mid-May and finally the swimming pool at the end of June. Despite some hiccups at the beginning with our online sign up and the intense heat, we managed to find a pool access system that accommodated all levels of comfort. While not a perfect system, we did the best we could under the circumstances!

Special thanks must be made to Duane Chris and Bill Ratcliffe for all their efforts in helping get the facility ready to meet the new protocols! Thanks to Jason Daly for taking on the payroll! Thanks to Lori Grant, our new Pool Co-director and Laura Hewitson for developing the online Bronze program that we used very successfully this summer, and even managed to rent out to another Beechwood for use!

The Board thanks Amy McPhee for her work as our Social Director for the last two years and wish her all the best as she moves on from her Board position.

Managed by Victoria Giguere and Shealyn DeCoppel, our summer pool staff rose to the occasion and kept our pool running safely. We managed to keep private swim lessons happening as well as adult aquafit! On the courts, we were able to offer private tennis lessons under the instruction of Marcus Kangur and Hugh McKenna. We thank all our summer staff for their hard work and dedication!

A thank you to all our team of Board members, who managed to come up with a Public Health Approved Opening plan, and that were able to adjust on the fly as conditions and needs changed. It was a challenging year for sure, yet a successful one!

While all our BPHA-planned social gatherings have been cancelled this year, we look forward to planning community events when we are able!

A most sincere thank you to our 2020 BPHA members. Despite an uncertain year with so many unknowns of how we might be able to use our recreation center, you generously renewed your memberships or joined our association. Your support both financially and through volunteering as well as your understanding and acceptance of what we could offer was very much appreciated. Operating an enterprise such as BPHA recreation centre (tennis and swimming), takes enormous quantities of all of the above. The summer of 2020 could not have been the success it was without all of your help and support. To those who felt this was not the year to join, we look forward to welcoming you back next year!

In accordance with the no social gatherings this year, the BPHA AGM will be a virtual meeting held through google meets on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 7:30pm. Stay tuned for more details on how to attend.

Sincerely, *Sue Edwards, BPHA President*

The BPHA Board Needs YOU!

The Board of Directors is a voluntary Board, and we thank all neighbours who give of their time! This coming year, the Board is in need of a new President and a new Social Director. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please email info@bpha.ca.

Hiring for Summer 2021!

Are you interested in a summer position with the BPHA? We will be recruiting enthusiastic staff for a variety of positions! Information about the hiring process will be posted on the BPHA website (www.bpha.ca) on December 10, 2020.

SHOUT OUTS TO BPHA BOARD AND STAFF

Such an outstanding coordination of efforts during the pandemic! With public health's constantly changing protocols, we were very grateful to BPHA for opening the pool and keeping us informed with weekly emails. Every one of you deserves a special thank you for your dedication and hard work and going above and beyond with the extra load you had to carry this summer (news updates, weekly emails, replying to emails, issuing refunds, pool/tennis bookings and cancellations, online Bronze courses, and more). Thank you, *Shelly*

The BPHA community centre was an amazing place to be this summer - so well organized during a difficult time. All staff members were extremely professional pleasant and hardworking! It was a pleasure to play tennis on good quality tennis courts and in such a beautiful setting! My tennis guests really appreciated playing there this summer more than ever. Thanks for allowing guests to use our facilities. I have been organizing women's tennis since before 1998. Thanks again for a great season - I love tennis! Yours truly, *Sherry Hauser*

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- 313 Shakespeare Place: Welcome to Matt Shaffi and Bahareh Samavati and their 4½ year old daughter, Hannah. A baby is due in November. Matt is an Environmental Research Scientist at UW and Bahareh is a Software developer at Manulife.
- 332 Longfellow Drive: Welcome to Steven Roadknight, his daughter Sarah and her partner Callahan and their 2 kids 5 year old Cooper May and a new born named Cohen. Steve has a second daughter Megan. Steve used to manage the St. Lawrence Antique Market in Toronto and collects "Ephemera" in the form of old photographs and letters.
- 93 Amos Avenue: Welcome to Mizuho Jones and Deon James and 10 year old Mia and 6 year old Hana. Deon's mother, Katherine James is also living with them.
- 330 Marlowe Drive: Welcome to Kimberly Tee and Mark Hancock and 3 year old Kennedy and 6 months old Marshall. Kim works for Shopify and Mark is a Professor in Management Engineering at UW.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

- The Hauser Family would like to officially announce the birth of William Jonathan Joseph Zuccala. Born on Sept 12, 2019. Andrea and Matthew are happy. Big sister Eleanor is so proud.
- Helene and Frank Janssen welcomed their first grandchild, Ella Logan on September 17 - 8lb 15 oz. Born to Meghan Janssen and Kevin Bull.
- Nick and Kelly Bailey (Browning Place) welcomed their third child Aubrey on August 19th, a sister to Benjamin 3½ and Cole 2.
- Congratulations to Bennett Ruby, Len and Raegan's son, on beginning his golf scholarship as a freshman at Mississippi State University. Bennett has been one of Canada's top junior golfers for the past several years.
- Congratulations on a job well done to Lily Hallman, Kathleen and Eleanor McKenna, and Aryana O'Halloran who raised \$625 for the Terry Fox Foundation after being motivated by events at their schools. After going door-to-door for donations, the group invited parents, friends and neighbours to run a 3km course through the neighbourhood. They set up a donation station on Sunday, September 20th and at 11am ran the streets for a cause that matters to them. Thanks to everyone who encouraged them and contributed.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ICE RINK

A group of families in the area is hoping to install a skating rink this winter to provide on ice opportunities for the kids of the neighbourhood. The rink is still in the early stages of planning, but if you are interested in helping or want to learn more, contact Patrick O'Halloran at patrickdohalloran@hotmail.com.

YOUTH ADS

- **Online (or in-person) French Tutor** - High school student seeking to help your child ages 6-12 with their French instruction, pronunciation and grammar. \$15/hr, initial 30 min session free. Award recognition in French oral, written and grammar from elementary education at francophone school. Sessions can be French speaking only. Hands on experience with 2 younger siblings. Eager to help your child improve their French language skills. Will wear a mask if in-person. Email Tommy at tommylucroussel@gmail.com or call/text (226) 782-8324.
- **Dog Walker** - Animal lover. Responsible. Hard-working. 11 years old. Rates are flexible. Eager to spend time with dogs in the neighbourhood. First walk free. Email Oliver at theroussels@gmail.com if interested.
- **Eshan Services** - I am a reliable and hard-working 10-year-old boy living on Anatolin Place. I provide the following services over summer, fall and winter or even when you are away travelling: Shovel your driveway, rake your leaves, water plants, mow your lawn, pick up your mail, walk your dogs, play with your pets to give company. I have been offering these services for the past year and a half. If you need references, I would be happy to provide them to you. You can reach Eshan Sanjay at 519-893-7854 or email rashmips2003@gmail.com
- **Snow shoveling** – Are you looking for help with snow shoveling occasionally? Daniel Nairn, age 18 (Marlowe Drive) 519-747-0827 or tnairn@gmail.com.

COVID-19'S IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

Since March, when COVID-19 slowed down life in Waterloo, the people of Beechwood Park have shown tremendous resilience. Students, teachers, professors, and others turned a spare room into an office and became experts at working remotely. Families walked together through the empty streets - a great way to exercise and connect with others. The Produce Stand gave us pre-orders. With winter approaching and COVID-19 continuing to affect so many lives, it's important to stay active and connected. Fortunately, we live in a scenic, close-knit community where we can do that. Please continue to check in on one another and find ways to socialize distantly and safely.

Hiking Killarney

This summer we did a lot of hiking, something a little different from our traditional canoe camping trips, in part because of limited canoe camping availability but also because Alina was keen to go back to Killarney where she'd hiked before. We started with a shorter hike for a few days in Killarney in July and quickly realized that our usual canoe tripping equipment (food barrels and large heavy sleeping bags) weren't going to cut it for a long hiking trip. But we thoroughly enjoyed the trip and came home and booked the entire 80km "La Cloche Silhouette" circle route for the end of August. We bought lightweight equipment, I worked on the art of dried food (another story altogether!) and off we went. This trip was the highlight of our summer! We camped at six sites along the way, each with a private lake and great swimming, and it seemed that each day was more scenic than the last, culminating with walking along the peaks of Killarney Park with views to Georgian Bay, Lake Huron, and over to Sudbury area. We saw a bear (across a bay at a safe distance), raccoon, turtles, beavers, and thousands of brightly colored mushrooms along the trails. Despite sore, tired legs, I was truly sorry to finish the hike and am already planning my return!

In search of just a bit more hiking this season, we tried the Algonquin Uplands hiking trail over the Thanksgiving weekend, and while not as scenic as Killarney, it did make for some beautiful woods walking and we also had a great private lakeside campsite there. Now that camping season is over, we're off to explore the Dundas Valley trails.

Joanna Armbruster

Dare Foods

COVID-19 has affected pretty much every aspect of our lives, and naturally there has been an impact on Dare Foods. Dare has, of course, taken all of the normal precautions, such as social distancing, working from home where possible, Plexiglas barriers, and masks. A small number of employees have tested positive for the virus, but so far there haven't been any serious outbreaks in any of the company's 13 locations in Canada and the U.S. – meaning that there haven't been any factory shutdowns. Dare's workforce is working very hard to be able to continue production without interruption.

The pandemic's most notable impact has been on the types of products preferred by consumers. For example, school closures meant a reduction in demand for the Bear Paw. Products which are used primarily for entertaining are also affected because fewer people are entertaining their friends at home these days. Conversely, there has been an increase in demand for stay-at-home and comfort items, such as big family-packs of jujubes and big boxes of chocolate fudge cookies. This shift in demand has resulted in production challenges, since Dare's production lines are dedicated to particular products, and in some cases they were already working at capacity. Dare has also stepped up its donations to food banks to help those who have not been able to work as a result of the pandemic.

Clearly, Dare's problems and challenges pale in comparison with those faced by many other companies (and individuals, for that matter) – and so Dare is certainly not complaining! In fact, the company is proud and honoured to be an important part of the team of food manufacturers who keep supermarkets stocked. *Malkin Dare*

University Experience during COVID-19

I think the repercussions from this pandemic have been hard for all of us, especially for students. I graduated from high school in June, but like many others, I still feel as though not much has changed, since all aspects of university are online. I had planned to attend a university in Japan, with flight tickets already purchased earlier this year. Of course, because of the current situation, I am unable to leave Canada and am taking courses online. The most difficult part of this transition, and as other international students can probably attest to, is the time difference. Japan and Canada have a 13-hour time difference, so my classes start at around 8 pm and end at around 3 am. Despite this, I am grateful that I can have real-time classes with my classmates from all over the world (Kenya, Finland, Mongolia, etc.)! Amidst the current situation, I'm hoping that it will become safe enough for all students to be able to experience the joys of classes in person. *Emily Kerr*

Shop Local

Please think about shopping local. The holiday season is coming up and it is going to be a bit strange this year. Instead of boosting Amazon's profits, you could give friends and family a gift certificate to a local business that may be struggling. Bookstores, restaurants, salons, specialty stores, craft stores, art venues, whatever you think that special someone would enjoy. Ideas our office has offered in the past are gift certificates for sunglasses or contact lenses and we even have stocking stuffers. Think outside the box and love your neighborhood. *Monica Furniss*

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MUSICIANS

Summer Lemieux has published a whole album under the singer/songwriter name WANDRER. The album is *Lost and Found* and contains several songs, including *Feel More* (released first and played on 102.1 the edge and introduced by Alan Cross). Summer's music can be found on several platforms, including Spotify, Apple music and her WANDRER YouTube channel, where you can hear all of her music, see artwork and videos. Follow her on Instagram @ren.wandrер. Any support helps her receive grants to support her music. She received one last year for \$2,500. Follow her on Instagram and YouTube and share any music you like with friends - it would be a huge help. She did have two regular singing jobs lined-up in London before the pandemic started, but now it is much harder to get your music out there.

Rivi Friedman is another up-and-coming singer/songwriter in the neighbourhood. She recently released her first single, *The Magic That You Bring* under the name Rivi F. You can find her song on YouTube, Spotify, Apple and most other music outlets. Follow her on Instagram @rivisinging.

Miriam Stewart-Kroeker is a Beechwood Park resident and a cellist for the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. The K-W Symphony continues to host virtual concerts. Information and tickets can be found on their website, <https://kwsymphony.ca/>. Miriam will also be performing on **October 28** as part of the Conrad Grebel Noon Hour Concert. Normally the concerts are free and open to the public every Wednesday. During COVID-19 the concerts have gone virtual with a new concert released on YouTube every Wednesday at 12:30. The concert on October 28 will be particularly special. It is a piece composed by Dr. Leonard Enns, a resident of Waterloo, and performed by Miriam Stewart-Kroeker. See this link for more info: <https://uwaterloo.ca/music/events/noon-hour-concert-road-peace>. Len is a Juno Award winning composer and conductor and Miriam is an accomplished cellist who has played on stages across North America.

THE 13TH SEASON OF THE BEECHWOOD PRODUCE STAND

Every Wednesday afternoon from June 17th to Sept. 9th, our wonderful group of dedicated neighbours once again ran our community produce stand. I remember how pleasantly surprised and excited our whole community was when they heard that, in the midst of the pandemic, we were going to open! To keep everyone safe, we of course had to dramatically change how we operated, including sourcing our produce directly from our farm friends Tom Pate, Rob Chesney and Ray Oesch rather than attending the Elmira Auction; setting up the stand to abide by COVID-19 regulations; and creating our very popular pre-order system. Dianne and Dolores looked after implementing most of these changes and in the end, it all worked out for the best. We had a very successful year.

We received a lot of heartwarming feedback about the stand from our visitors throughout the season which was much appreciated. Here are a couple of examples; “So sad it all comes to an end next week! Can’t say enough good things about the organization of the market this year. Amazing! Thanks for all the time all the volunteers have put into it!” and “I swear I order just for the outing and ability to walk to get my produce!”

Once again this year, we had a group of amazing teenagers who did such a great job, including Tommy Roussel, Clare Jacob, Rivi Friedman, and A.J. Garland. Here is what Clare had to say about her experience. “Thank you for working so hard to run the produce stand this summer, and for letting us help out! It was so nice to see everyone despite how strange this summer was, and to have a connection to the community even when we were only seeing one another from the eyes up. The sense of teamwork and community blew me away every week. Plus, I think having a consistent goal was good for everyone involved! I’m so sad that the stand on Wednesdays is over, and already looking forward to next year.”

At the end of each stand day our left-over produce was donated to St. John’s Kitchen so nothing went to waste. As well, the money we raised this summer, over \$7000, was recycled back into our local community including \$1000 each to Keatsway and Centennial Schools, \$2500 to our BPHA neighbourhood association, and \$3500 divided among The Working Centre, Grand River Cancer Center in memory of our neighbour Chris Copp, Lisaard House Palliative Care Facility in memory of our neighbour John Brzozowski (John’s wife Maria, has helped run our stand for many years), and Carizon for their support to the Region’s subsidized housing complex at Amos and Churchill. Marjah, Chris Copp’s wife and a loyal stand supporter since its inception, wrote this thank you note to us. “I am so very touched by the thoughtful decision to have some of the proceeds from the produce stand be a contribution to the Grand River Hospital Cancer Centre in memory of Chris. Knowing that this will ultimately benefit local cancer patients does truly warm my heart. This is where you can really see the ripple effect of a community-based enterprise like the produce stand make a difference!!”

Thanks again for a wonderful Produce Stand season! See you next summer.
Sincerely, *Dianne, Dolores, and Steve*

Big Shout-out to the BPHA Produce Stand Members

Thank you to Dianne, Steve and Dolores from the bottom of our hearts! Tommy had so much fun hanging out with you at the stand this summer. You work so hard together to keep that operation running smoothly! Tommy was so impressed with how everything was pre-ordered, and it made things super easy for him to learn. From the time he woke up on Wednesdays, he was eager to get to the stand and when he came home from his shifts, he was full of positive energy and would tell me all about his awesome day. Thank you for that opportunity for him and being a part of those great memories for him! I encourage other kids in the neighbourhood to volunteer to spend time at the produce stand next year so they can gain useful customer service skills and spend time with some very positive and energetic role models. A special thank you to Bruce, for your delicious sourdough bread. *Shelly*

WINTER CYCLING AND BIKE STORAGE

Cycling in winter is a great way to get around and can be fun even if it is more challenging due to ice and wind. A general rule for commuting is have fenders and studs. The fender protects you and your components from freezing and studded tires help with traction when that pesky black ice pops up out of nowhere. The old saying “There is no bad weather just poor clothing” is true. I find dressing in layers (I know we hear that a lot) with a wool base layer helps. The outer layer should be wind and waterproof and you should be chilly when starting. The problem is working hard enough to get a sweat going and not being able to keep that energy level up. When you ease off the level of effort you will cool down quickly and that moisture will make you very cold. The bigger the tire the safer the ride. That is why you see fat tire bikes in the winter.

If you store your bike for the winter, place the bike either inside or under a covered area so snow and wet can't get into the bearings. Wash before storing either the traditional way with hose and bucket or use a wet cloth. You might need a light degreaser to remove old waxy oil from the chain. Isopropanol is a good gentle chemical to remove grease and oil from the drivetrain and frame. To avoid rust, coat the chain with chain lube or any oil. Winter is a great time to get repairs done without the stress of needing it done quickly e.g.: family camping trip in 2 days. Most problems with shifting are as simple as changing a \$5 shifting cable. The knowledge to replace the cable and reset the derailleur is the difficult part.

Contact me for more information or any light repairs. Although I did take a course in bicycle maintenance, I'm not a mechanic, but a friendly neighbor that likes to tinker with bikes in my spare time. *Chris McPhee*,
chrism108@msn.com

2020 TENNIS TOURNAMENT

This year involved a record setting attendance (n=16) at the Annual BPHA tournament! Among the sweet sixteen there were the usual suspects ...

Yusuf (the spin doctor) Mnyusiwalla, Bob (six string) Gibson, Jim (close shave) Wilkinson, Dante (the inferno) Porcnich, (cool hand) Luke Eret, (Let me be) Frank Janssen, Sean (the antenna) McKenna, Mike (the wall) Dixon and last year's winners (Shoeless) Joel Blit, and Karl (the spike) Czekus. Additionally, there were some blasts from the past – former winner Tom (the kid) Paraschuk, and his dad, Alex (the dad) Paraschuk. Paul (lightning) Strucky put in an appearance as did Steve (the high notes) Singer. New to the neighbourhood was Dan (firebreathing) Dragos (claiming to have moved from Toronto, but with a last name like Dragos, Westeros from GOTs is an equally likely candidate.) Finally, rounding out the 16, first time tournament entrant – Richard (Hey Judelson) Kelly.

The round-robin portion of the tournament involved random pairings via Dixon's excel program. As usual, 15 players questioned the randomness of said program with accusations flying like clay pigeons at a skeet shooting contest. The early rounds of play were characteristically competitive - lightened up only by the annual downing of Dixon by a ferocious forehand – this time by Joel (the blight) Blit. There was some spectacular play early on – Dante in particular played like a Covidiot Savant – winning all four of his sets to earn the top seeding for the semis! When the dust settled the elite eight emerged and were randomized. On court 1, Jim and Dante played Joel and Karl; on court 2, Bob and Richard played Dixon and Yusuf. Swords were splintered, shields were shattered, shouts of “enough with the alliteration” filled the air. Ultimately Dixon and Yusuf headed into the final against an all too familiar pairing – Karl (the spike) Czekus, and shoeless Joel (the blight) Blit. With the score deadlocked at 3 a final game was to decide the fate of the neighbourhood. In the end, El Dixione and the spin doctor could not cope with Karl (Jung Frankenstein) Czekus at the net. He loomed large (taller far than a tall man) and ate Dixon's feeble attempts to pass him for lunch.

After some skullduggery (involving an Irishman stealing the awful-looking trophy and hauling it to Joel's in an attempt to sew marital discord), the hardware once again ended up at Chez Karl. Sherry's wails of dismay could be heard all the way from Fischer-Hallman "COVID-19 I can handle – but not another year of looking at that..."

Thanks to Dante for organizing, Sue for the victuals, and to the BPHA board for allowing the tournament to take place in these crazy times. Congrats once again to Joel and Karl. To the 14 losers (and Sherry) – remember there is always next year... Humbly submitted by *Mike (the pick of the illiterate) Dixon*

THE SPIRIT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

There is a lot happening within the boundaries of Beechwood Park that play a role in the preservation of our family friendly community. While walking or driving through the neighbourhood, take a moment to appreciate what's around you and help maintain the uniqueness of Beechwood.

Longfellow Drive Reconstruction Project

When Abe Wiebe created Beechwood Park he had a visionary idea: to build homes in the midst of a forest and create a park-like setting. He was revolutionary in deliberately choosing not to reshape the landscape to fit the development, and instead built the development around the landscape. Roads were drawn up to minimize damage to the natural landscape and houses nestled among the trees. In 1966, he received the award for "Best Subdivision Developer" in Ontario for his design of Beechwood. Anyone who walks into our neighbourhood instantly sees that it is different, unique, and exceptional. It truly is a park – with varied topography and homes that intermingle with giant trees. We are so lucky to live in Beechwood Park!

But with that privilege comes the responsibility of caring for the heritage that has been bestowed upon us and for our beautiful natural landscape. That is why so many of us have been asking the city to acknowledge that our neighbourhood is unique and to work with residents to find a creative solution that facilitates pedestrians, wheelchairs and bikes, while preserving our landscape. We are not just fighting for Longfellow (our inquiries started well before then) but for the neighbourhood as a whole, since city planners have told us that city policy is to install sidewalks whenever a street is reconstructed. We are fighting for the character of our neighbourhood, for our heritage, and for our canopy; we are fighting for the vision of Mr. Wiebe.

You may have walked along Longfellow and seen the 34 mature trees with orange and red ribbons. Our neighbours have placed these ribbons to show which precise trees, according to city plans, would be cut down (red ribbons) and which would be affected (orange ribbons) by a proposed reconstruction of Longfellow drive that includes two sidewalks. In addition, the city is planning to undertake major regrading of the soil, to put in bigger curbs, and to build somewhere between 45m and 140m of retaining walls. In short, the natural landscape would be irreversibly scarred and an important part of our heritage would be lost.

A large group of us have been fighting these proposed changes. We have proposed designs that facilitate active transportation while maintaining the natural landscape but these have not been given consideration. Most recently, we have drafted a joint letter to city staff and city councillors that was supported by 96.5% of residents in the original Beechwood development and 100% of Longfellow residents. We are cognizant that we face long odds because the city seems to only be interested in cookie cutter solutions. But we remain determined to continue advocating to preserve the character of Beechwood Park.

If you would like to help, or simply want to send your encouragement, please email us at: longfellowheritage@gmail.com Joel Blit, on behalf of the team

Additional information can be found on the city's Engage Waterloo website: <https://www.engagewr.ca/longfellow-reconstruction>

Street Parking

The street parking at the bottom of Shakespeare where it bends around to meet Keats Way has concerned me for over a year. The parking on the inside of the curve creates a blind corner with trees from the green space hanging over the road. A school bus often parked on the other side reduces it to one lane and is very dangerous, especially in the wintertime. If you are interested in this issue and want to help find a solution, please contact me. *Erin Rakita*
erin.melissa.smith@gmail.com

Beechwood Park Memory Book

There are a few copies left of the BPHA 50th anniversary book entitled Beechwood Park Homes Association: The First 50 Years. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please contact ivyfriedman@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Safety Reminder

Please remember to secure your homes and cars, by closing garage doors, locking house and car doors and keeping valuable items out of sight of passersby. We live in a safe neighbourhood, but there are occasional thefts throughout the area. Locking your cars and house serves to remind us all that locks discourage opportunistic theft. While we do live in a wonderful neighbourhood, we still need to be vigilant about security as this has been an ongoing problem for many years. If you should have a break-in (even minor), please report it to the Regional Police (519-570-9777).

Contacting the City about Problems

If you have questions, concerns, complaints about City services (i.e. trees, roads, leaf pickup, sidewalks, sewers, ice, garbage, etc.) don't be afraid to contact the appropriate department so they know what your issue is and can deal with it promptly. Just call the main number 519-886-1550 and ask for the appropriate department. Also, keep our city counselor, Jeff Henry, in the loop at jeff.henry@waterloo.ca.

Stopping Junk Mail Delivery in Our Neighbourhood

For many residents, the bundles of flyers tossed onto our driveways can be unwanted litter that heads straight for our blue bins for costly recycling by the Region. Sometimes these bundles sit on driveways for days if our neighbours aren't around. If you want to stop your delivery or request a vacation suspension, call Metroland Media (the K.W. Record) at 519-894-3000 and ask to have your address removed from the delivery list. A final note that for those who make use of flyers, you can access them online at www.save.ca or www.flipp.com.

Leaf Collection

The City has announced that our neighbourhood is scheduled for curbside leaf collection during the week of November 16th and 21st. The City also wanted to remind us that "the purpose of this program is to prevent leaves that have fallen from boulevard/street trees from clogging up sewers and clogging up the stormwater system." So please only rake those leaves to the curb.

MyHEAT Pilot Project

The MyHEAT Pilot Project is the most recent Beechwood Park inspired initiative. The results of this pilot project will be used by other municipalities across Canada to tackle energy conservation and transitions to emerging energy sources in suburbs. This initiative is part of the Waterloo Region's 80% CO² reduction by 2050 objective. Over 70% of all urban Canadians live in suburbs, it is critical for us to be part of the solution in managing climate change. This pilot project is a start. Discover your home heat loss by checking our private website at www.myheat.ca/climateactionwr. Learn how you improve your comfort and home value by reducing heat loss.

NEXT50: BUILDING MOMENTUM

NEXT50 is a multi-year project to develop understanding on what improvements to the facilities, programs, events, and activities would entice more neighbours to join the BPHA. The project is a work in progress! Ultimately, our task is to develop a **common vision for community building in our very own Beechwood neighbourhood**. All based on input and ideas of the people who live here!

What was accomplished in 2020

Despite COVID-19 throwing a wrench in the team's plans for face-to-face discussion sessions this summer, great progress has been achieved on many other fronts (please visit www.bpha.ca and click on the NEXT50 tab for full details):

1. We have surveyed members and local prospects and used ZOOM to share the findings. A key learning in this survey was the focus on community building evident in our history. These events are viewed as part of BPHA but are, in fact, separate community initiatives which are Board supported. Of particular interest is the affinity shown for the Produce Stand. Before COVID-19, the Produce Stand was the most highly rated aspect of the BPHA's total offerings. It is one of several community building activities that have 'spun out' of the BPHA over the years. Others include producing a neighbourhood history book (2019), organizing the sourcing & planting of 50 trees throughout the neighbourhood (2018), neighbourhood wide bicycle safety clinics (2016), sponsorship of a refugee family (2016), working collaboratively with Beechwood South to fundraise & build a local playground (2017), planning & construction of a neighbourhood 'little library' (2014 & 2019), Clair Lake dredging & rehabilitation (2008 -2015).
2. We involved UWaterloo Engineering experts in pool concrete and tennis wall assessment (a 2nd, more in-depth inspection is planned for the Spring of 2021).
3. We collected more ideas from members.
4. We were successful in an application to the City of Waterloo, Neighbourhood Matching Fund (NMF) and received a grant of \$2,000.00. This was used to create a 'launch kit' for the project, which we distributed to every mailbox in the catchment (the kit included information about the BPHA and the objectives of the NEXT50 project, plus a small gift of a pen).
5. We are currently in the process of assessing our eligibility to obtain charitable status with CRA. Hopefully, we will be able to report our outcomes of this assessment as part of the upcoming AGM.
6. We worked with the UWaterloo School of Planning to design a course for 4th year planning design students. The course focuses on possible site and program designs for the NEXT50 project. It is currently underway. These design concepts will be finalized by December 2020 and shared with community members during 2021. They will serve as exciting stimulus material for dialogue.

2021 – Concepts for the future of this community

Essentially, we have a much-loved community association (Board and volunteers) that is Beechwood Park. As we move forward, let us discover how to engage our whole community.

As we move through 2021, members and non-members alike, will have several chances to share their views on the future of this community. In addition, the design concepts & ideas provided to us by the UW Planning students will provide an exciting opportunity for discourse. As the world looks to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are focusing on **'building back better.'** In many ways the timing for our NEXT50 project could not be better.

Next Steps:

- ✓ Learn more about NEXT50. Visit www.bpha.ca, NEXT50 tab.
- ✓ Share your thoughts about the future of our community.

HOME GROWN BUSINESS

Hi, I'm Mike (Rakesh) Singh from 325 Coleridge Drive. For those of you who don't know me, I grew up in this neighbourhood, and have called Beechwood Park home for over 43 years. After studying in Québec City, I returned to Ontario in 2002 and after the passing of my mother, Priscilla Metzger, moved into my childhood home with my young family.

My business partner Scott Venton and I grew up on Coleridge Drive and after our families moved here in 1977 we became friends. We both ended up moving away after high school and didn't see each other for almost 30 years. We reconnected a couple years ago after the death of his father, long-time resident, Gary Venton.

What was a hobby for me, brewing beer, and a part of Scott's career, a corporate lawyer, who also represented breweries, ended up becoming a business venture: IX Poets Brewing. IX Poets was named after our neighbourhood street names: Shakespeare, McDougall, Longfellow, Tennyson, Marlowe, Browning, Keats and of course, Coleridge. Samuel Coleridge's most famous poem was, The Rime of the Ancyent Mariner. From this, we named our first beer, The Hazy Mariner, as a tribute to growing up on Coleridge Drive.

Our first beer, a cloudy IPA, has been accepted to the LCBO and will be in stores in a couple weeks!

BEECHWOOD PARK NEIGHBOURS SHARING RECIPES

Pumpkin Bread - You will love it!

Ingredients

1 2/3 cup (210 grams) all-purpose flour	3/4 cup (150 grams) granulated sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda	1/2 cup (100 grams) light brown sugar (packed)
1/2 teaspoon baking powder	1/2 cup (120 ml) oil (I used melted salted butter and eliminated salt above)
1/2 teaspoon salt	1/4 cup (60 ml) buttermilk (I substituted sour cream and milk to make buttermilk)
1 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon	2 large eggs
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger	1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg	
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves	
1 cup (250 grams) pumpkin puree	

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C). Spray a 9x5 loaf pan with nonstick cooking spray, line the pan with parchment paper, and set aside.
2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and cloves until well combined. Set aside.
3. In a separate large mixing bowl, whisk together the pumpkin puree, granulated sugar, brown sugar, oil (or butter), buttermilk, eggs and vanilla extract until fully combined.
4. Combine wet and dry ingredients and mix them together until just combined.
5. Pour the batter into the prepared loaf pan and spread it around into one even layer. Bake for 50-60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. If needed, cover loosely with foil to prevent excess browning on top of the bread.
6. Cool in the pan for 20 minutes then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

The Idiot's Guide to Nana's "Queen's Pickle" aka. "Queen of Pickles"

On Labour Day weekend, my grandmother, Joan Lange, died shortly after turning 90. She lived on Old Post Road for over 35 years and it is to her that I owe my love of Beechwood – growing up taking swimming lessons at the Beechwood II pool, going for long walks around the duck pond, looking forward to chance meetings with Monica Furniss' gorgeous dogs, and introducing me to the produce stand! This is one of our favourite family recipes that she used to make. I've looked through countless farm markets for a comparable "store bought" equivalent but nothing comes close to this chunky recipe. So, I love to share it with anyone looking forward to the next barbeque season. We used to make it together at the end of the summer and it makes great Christmas gifts with red ribbon tied around the mason jars.

I wrote this version out in 2018 because her recipe card was totally unintelligible to me, having limited canning experience. The end result should be very chunky with cauliflower, gherkins, and baby onions that barely fit under a hamburger bun. She told me that this recipe has been adapted over time with modern conveniences...historically, those tiny pickled onions would have been fresh and you would have had to peel them all yourself! *Erin Rakita*

Veggies:

3 field cucumbers (chopped fine)
3 or 4 Spanish onions (diced)
1 head cauliflower (small florets)
3 green peppers (diced)
3 red peppers (diced)
2 jars small pickled onions (5 C)
2 jars small sweet gherkins (5 C)
2 small cans baby corn (optional)

Sauce:

7 C white sugar
5 C white vinegar
1 C flour
¼ C dry mustard
1 tbsp celery seed
1 ½ tbsp turmeric
1 C mustard seed

Chop all veggies. Small gherkins can be broken in half. Leave small pickled onions whole. Place veggies in a very large pot. In another large pot, mix ½ C coarse salt in water and boil to make brine. Pour brine over veggies to cover. Weigh veggies down in brine with a large plate. Cover and soak overnight. Sterilize about 14 medium sized mason jars by baking jars on cookie sheets at 250°F for 15 minutes. Boil NEW lids in a small saucepan of water. Mix up the sauce ingredients in a large pot and bring to a boil. Drain brine off veggies and pour into sauce. Boil mixture for about 10 or 15 minutes, stirring frequently. Pour into jars up to ½" from brim (use canning funnel). Put lids on and "loosely tighten". Cover with water and boil jars for 15 minutes in "cold pack canning" pot. Remove with canning tongs and check if lids pop in, then tighten a bit more. Sealed jars may keep up to 2 years.

LEAVES

by Elsie N Brady (a Scottish Poet)

How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below
To wait, like children, for the snow.

A beautiful poem that could have been written to describe a walk through our beautiful BPHA streets!!

Cherry and Al Watson of 213 Mohawk Drive - A Lifelong Love Affair

Over sixty years after meeting Al for the first time aboard the Stirling Castle passenger/freight ship travelling between Southampton England and Capetown South Africa, Cherry Watson still firmly believes it was not chance but preordained fate that brought them together. She was the 25 year old Nursing Sister, Al the 27 year old Ship's Surgeon, working together as the medical team 7 days a week during their 6 week voyage, treating the 500 passengers and crew aboard ship for a variety of ailments that spanned smallpox vaccinations, appendix surgeries, and broken hips. Cherry vividly remembers seeing Al for the first time, formally dressed in his threadbare but well starched ship's uniform, a very handsome, dark haired, Irishman. Though as she explains, it wasn't love at first sight. Rather, she first fell in love with Al's medical skills and his kindness towards everyone on board regardless of their station in life. As she puts it, "working so closely together for 6 weeks we each were able to do a good check of the other's character." They must have passed their character checks with flying colours for a year later in 1962 they were married in a small family ceremony in Essex which they paid for out of their meagre savings.

Al and Cherry's family histories couldn't have been more different. Al was an extrovert who hailed from Dublin Ireland, his father served in the British army, and he attended Trinity College Medical School. Cherry on the other hand was on the quieter side, raised in the small English village of Crawley, a carriage stop on the train line between London and Brighton. Her father was an actor with a British film company who played piano while her paternal grandfather was a master organ builder. Al was the middle child of 3 boys, while Cherry had an older sister and a twin brother. Each of them had to overcome traumatic family experiences during their early lives. Cherry was 4 ½ years old when her mother passed away in 1939 and later lost her brother suddenly to illness in Malta at the age of 20. Al's father died in a boating accident in India when Al was 4 years old. Cherry remembers vividly as a young child the war years when the flames of a burning London could be viewed from her village and she and her siblings had to be evacuated to a safer haven. Both raised in single parent families where financial resources were sparse, Cherry and Al overcame this early adversity to become hard working, caring, self-reliant individuals with a shared sense of adventure. Al became a family doctor, working summers in Scotland building the Hydroelectric tunnel, while Cherry achieved a 4 year degree in nursing from St. Bartholomew's Hospital (circa 1123) followed by stints in obstetrics and midwifery as well as a year working at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City on the polio ward. A kind family who owned the local pharmacy in her village, where she worked and babysat their children, were great supports to Cherry during this time in her life.

Their first major decision as a young married couple was where to live. Cherry had no desire to move to Ireland nor Al to England. Instead they indulged their love of the unknown and emigrated to Australia with 200 dollars in their pockets, where Al set up a family practice in a small town 50 miles outside Sydney. It was during their 10 years in Australia that they had all their children; first Susie, then John, and finally Simon. Al worked night and day in his practice while Cherry literally raised the kids as a single mom. At one point, Al even wanted to join the Flying Doctors to serve in the Australian Outback but this wasn't to be. Instead, after 10 years, with no chance of ever being accepted as true Australians and with very little savings they set off on the next stage of their life together, emigrating to Canada. Their children were 9, 7, and 4 at the time. After writing his Canadian Medical Board equivalency tests, Al began his family practice at the Frederick Street Plaza in K.W. and shortly thereafter in 1972 the family settled into their home in Beechwood. They've never left.

Al and Cherry have lived fulfilling lives here in K.W. By all accounts Al was adored by his patients and was awarded the twin honours of A Notable Physician by his local peers as well Physician Emeritus by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. After 20 years of family practice, Al and his family began yet another adventure, moving to Cardiff Wales for a year in 1990 to become certified as a Dermatologist. Al "scratched out a living" as he put it, in this field until he retired from medicine in 2016 at the age of 82! In his spare time, Al loved to play tennis at the Beechwood Courts and Waterloo Tennis Club and operated the Rainbow Canoe Trip Company out of his home for almost 10 years, taking patrons on guided trips into the Canadian "Outback". In fact his entire family has inherited Al's love of the outdoors from the numerous trips across Canada they took during their formative years. Cherry has been active throughout as well, putting her considerable talents to good use. She worked in Al's medical practice for many years and in her spare time was a librarian at both the Kitchener Library and at her Cambridge based Doll Collecting Club which has been a lifelong passion. Cherry also has spent considerable time volunteering at her Anglican Church including their annual Christmas Pudding Factory Fundraiser, continues to nurture her love of classical music and books, and idolize women like Eleanor Roosevelt and Ruth Bader Ginsburg who devoted their lives to the betterment of the common good.

They have 7 grandchildren who they adore and to this day when Al greets Cherry he refers to her as "my lovely and beautiful" as two love birds should. And oh yes, they still live in their home on Mohawk 48 years later.

THANK YOU TO STEVE SINGER FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

After almost 20 years of keeping all of us in the know, Steve has decided to transition out of his role as Beechwood Park's neighbourhood news source. On behalf of our entire community, I want to say a heart-felt thank you to Steve for his dedication; for taking the time to hear our stories, for being a beacon and warm welcome to new residents, for congratulating our achievements, for being the voice of advocacy and activism, and for leading us in the importance of community connections. Though stepping away from the editorial side of the newsletter, Steve will continue to add anecdotes and articles and he'll always be that curious neighbour sure to find our idiosyncrasies.



I am very excited that Steve has asked me to assume responsibility for the newsletter. If you have a story, advice, or an idea for upcoming issues, please contact me anytime. I look forward to hearing your story and learning more about this one-of-a-kind neighbourhood. Thank you to Steve for staying on as a contributor and advisor, thank you to Tracey Nairn for continuing to edit and for the many volunteers who deliver the newsletter to almost 400 homes in Beechwood Park.

Sincerely, Ivy Friedman ivyfriedman@gmail.com