



Beechwood Park Homes Association

INCORPORATED

Recreation Centre:
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Waterloo, ON N2L 2R0
www.bpha.ca
info@bpha.ca

Submissions, comments, and other
correspondence are welcome year-round.
Please contact Ivy Friedman (editor) at
ivyfriedman@gmail.com

FALL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

BPHA VOLUNTEER BOARD of DIRECTORS and OFFICERS

Co-President	Deborah Morden	Pool Co-Director	Lori Grant
Co-President	Joanna Cram	Pool Co-Director	Jenna Mooney
Vice President	<i>Vacant</i>	Tennis Director	Neil Malhotra
Past President	Luke Eret	Social Director	Sue Edwards
Secretary	Steve Kobes	Community Relations	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer	Shenhui Lang	Bookkeeper	Laura McNaughton
Membership Director	Marina Gliksman	Payroll Officer	Jason Daly
Maintenance Director	Steve Singer	Program Officer	Laura Hewitson
Program Director	Dana Finestone		

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Halloween at BPHA: Tuesday, October 31. Stop by the BPHA Rec Centre Halloween Night for a special treat! Clare the lifeguard will be at the table and wants to see all of your amazing costumes!

BPHA Fall Rec Centre Cleanup: Saturday, November 4 from 10am to noon. Bring your rakes and other garden tools. Refreshments provided.

City Leaf Collection: November 13-18. Collection is for boulevard trees only and will be collected once during the allotted week. Please do not rake your leaves to the curb before November 12th.

Annual Cookie Exchange: Thursday, December 7. Mark your calendar for this year's Cookie Exchange and Toy Drive! Stay tuned to your emails for more details closer to the date!

BPHA 2023 AGM: Thursday, December 14th at 7:30pm at Conrad Grebel in the Schlegel Community Education Room (2202).

FALL 2023 - BOARD REPORT

As the leaves are falling on our neighbourhood, we say goodbye to another successful year at the pool. It was great to see the pool being used by so many and the tennis courts busy with friendly games and lessons. We had a dedicated group of lifeguards that we would like to thank for their hard work and wish them well in their new school year. We would like to send our best wishes to Patrick Benest, our head guard as he moves on to his next chapter. He has been with us for many years, and we will miss his leadership and friendly face around the pool next year!

As with previous years, we owe this successful year to our incredible volunteers. At last count, there were over 35 families volunteering either on the Board, with the maintenance crew, collecting for bottle drives, organizing, or hosting social events, tending to the ice rink, minding the market tables, or helping with tennis and summer camp events. To those volunteers - you know who you are - we are incredibly grateful for all that you do. For those who are curious to find out more about volunteer opportunities, please reach out to any Board member or by emailing info@bpha.ca.

New this year to the BPHA was the introduction of an online registration system for all lessons, camps, and pool party events at the pool. With the addition of this registration and payment system we have been able to streamline all behind-the-scenes administrative work and make scheduling much easier for our staff. A special shoutout to Laura Hewitson who put in long hours to learn the system and adapt it to the needs of the BPHA.

Continuing with our theme of volunteers, we have two open Board of Director positions for next year. We are asking everyone reading this newsletter to consider whether this is the year to make the next step and become a member of the BPHA Board. We need neighbours looking to become more connected and engaged with the community. Please email info@bpha.ca if you are interested or would like more information.

- **Secretary:** The Secretary is a voting member of the Board who maintains records and ensures effective management of the BPHA's records. This position manages the website and prepares the minutes of Board and AGM meetings.
- **Vice President:** The Vice President is responsible for working with and advising the Co-Presidents. This is a great role for anyone who would like to get a view into how the BPHA functions behind the scenes, with a view to move into the President role in a future year.

We Appreciate our Volunteers! If you have volunteered with the BPHA this year, we would love to have you join us for our Volunteer Celebration Open House! Beverages and light snacks will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there! Sunday November 19, 2023, 2pm - 5pm. Location: 303 Algonquin Drive.

2023 BPHA AGM. Join us on Thursday, December 14th at 7:30pm at Conrad Grebel in the Schlegel Community Education Room (2202). If you have items you would like to add to the agenda for the AGM, please email info@bpha.ca.

On behalf of the BPHA Board of Directors,
Deb & Joanna, Co-Presidents

BPHA POOL AND PROGRAMMING SUMMARY

As the vibrant hues of autumn paint our neighbourhood, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible year that was 2023. It's been a year filled with community spirit, exciting events, and cherished memories. But fear not, for the upcoming year promises to be just as fantastic, if not more so! We're already gearing up for a spectacular 2024, and we want your input! We encourage all of you to share your ideas for the upcoming season. Whether it's a new event, a community project, or a fun activity, your suggestions will shape the vibrant tapestry of our neighbourhood life. You can email us at bphaprograms@gmail.com.

Are you looking for a 2024 Summer Job?

We are hiring! Are you interested in applying for a summer position with BPHA?

More information can be found on the BPHA website at www.bpha.ca.

All applications must be received by November 30, 2023.

What's on deck for next year?

Registration for Summer 2024 programs will officially open on March 1, 2024. If you have scheduling & programming ideas for the upcoming summer, we would love to hear them (bphaprograms@gmail.com).

Visit the BPHA website at www.bpha.ca in early January to learn about the exciting programs and events that are being planned for the 2024 season!

BPHA BOTTLE DRIVE

On behalf of our neighbourhood association and the Bottle Drive team we want to thank all of our neighbours who participated in our multiple Bottle Drives this season to raise funds for our Rec Centre summer programming. In total, we raised almost \$700! As you can imagine, that's a lot of bottles and cans to be picked up, sorted, and returned to the beer store. We'd like to thank Frank Janssen, Gary Hauser, Bill Mitchell, Bob Gibson, Paul Struck and Steve Singer who did all this "heavy lifting". Our last drive of the season was Oct. 25th, and we will be starting up again next April if you'd like to store your empties over the winter. If you wish to participate in our Bottle Drives next year, please contact Steve Singer at stevesinger02@gmail.com.

"MANY HANDS" BPHA ART PROJECT

Have you seen the art display on the fence at the BPHA Rec Centre? If not, it's worth the walk up the steps and along the path to take in the local exhibit initiated by Steve Singer, organized by our resident artist, Denise Strong, and completed with the collaboration of "many hands". Early this year, Steve and Denise applied for and received a City of Waterloo 'Artist in Neighbourhoods' grant. Denise sourced the materials, finding paint that could be used by children but would also hold up to the elements when displayed outside. She drew animal and flower figures on paper, purchased plywood and traced the drawings onto the wood. The wood was then cut by David Pearson and Blair, one of Steve Singer's Special Olympics basketball team members. Then came sanding and two coats of primer. With the help of Denise and pool staff, it was then time to bring in the BPHA kids to paint the cut-outs. As you'll notice, they did a wonderful job creating a very colourful and happy collage. Denise gathered some "retired ladies" to add additional paint and varnish while Steve Singer organized a team of handymen to help attach the cut-outs to the fence. Thank you and great job to all involved!



PUMPKIN FUNDRAISER

Thank you to Steve Singer and Laura Hewitson for organizing the 3rd annual pumpkin pop-in at the BPHA recreation centre. Several families stopped by to pick up pumpkins from our long time produce stand supplier Thames River Melons.

Art by Nora Mooney

BEECHWOOD PRODUCE STAND

The summer of 2023 was the 16th anniversary of the Beechwood Produce Stand, and it was another wonderful season! We were again fortunate to have an amazing crew of volunteers, delicious produce supplied by local farms, very loyal customers, and with one notable exception, almost an entire summer of rain-free Wednesdays. Attached are two photos -- one of our rainy-day set-up at Conrad Grebel University College, and the second of volunteers with our City of Waterloo councillor Mary Lou Roe, who spent an afternoon talking to constituents at the stand.

Our goals continue to be: supporting local farmers; providing convenient access to healthy produce; raising funds for schools, charities and our neighbourhood association; and donating unsold produce to the regional food bank; and, in the process, building community among neighbours and friends.

We are fortunate to have the following people take on leadership roles on our team: Sue Edwards - Volunteer coordinator and order management, Myrna Singer - Pre-order packing, Joanna Cram – Order management, Ivy Friedman – Special vendors, Katie Gibb – Unsold produce distribution, Katie Gibb and Heather Smith – Stand managers.

I have stepped down as Produce Stand coordinator and am very pleased that Katie Gibb and Heather Smith have agreed to share this role beginning in 2024. I also sincerely appreciated their coverage for me this summer when a family emergency prevented me from being present on Wednesdays as often as I had planned.

Special thanks go to our volunteer crews for set-up and take-down, morning packing, afternoon sales, lamppost signs, price signs, product pick-up, apron washing, order formatting and sending BPHA emails.

Proceeds from our stand this summer were donated to the following organizations: Beechwood Park Homes Association, Centennial Public School, Food Bank of Waterloo Region, Food 4 Kids, Nutrition for Learning, Keatsway Public School, Keep Your Head Up Foundation, May Court Club of KW (Food Box Program), oneROOF Youth Services, Pound Dog Rescue, Sanguen Health Centre (Community Health Van), Supportive Housing of Waterloo and Tiny Home Takeout Kitchen. These charities were selected by our volunteers, and we are pleased to support the important work that they do in KW.

Our experience at the Produce Stand this year has again reinforced how fortunate we are to live in such a special community where people are willing volunteers, support local agriculture, and are intentional about their food choices. Please consider whether you'd be interested in joining the fun as a Produce Stand volunteer in 2024. It's a great way to get to know your neighbours! You can reach us at beechwoodproduce@gmail.com.

Whether as a volunteer or customer, we look forward to seeing you again in June of 2024!

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Penner, (now Past) Coordinator, on behalf of the Beechwood Produce Stand Team



WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD!

For those new to the area, we offer a warm welcome to our community and wish you all the best in settling into your new home. We know new people bring new ideas and vitality and we look forward to meeting you. If our welcome wagon hasn't already greeted you, please contact Heather Smith at hsmith23@icloud.com for a welcome package with information about Beechwood Park.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Emily Brubaker-Zehr and her husband, Ryan, welcomed Seth into the world on June 22, 2022. After enjoying almost a yearlong maternity leave, Emily started work as a family practitioner doctor in the Burlington area in May. Ryan works as a lawyer with the Crown Office in Hamilton. Emily was a guard and swim teacher at the BPHA pool during the years 2009 through 2012.

- Mary and Scott Brubaker-Zehr (Coleridge Drive)



Jonathan Mamujee and Amelia Ballak (Shakespeare Drive) welcomed Malachi on May 30, 2023. Congratulations!

We welcomed Ezra Jordan Clancy Dyck on July 17th, the same day as Jess' birthday. He has been a relaxed baby, being kind to these new parents. We have enjoyed our transition to a family of three and are excited for him to grow up in the Beechwood community. – Tim Dyck (Mohawk Drive)

Elizabeth (Lizzy) Susan Steward was born to Lisa and Michael Stewart (Hiawatha Drive) on September 11, 2023. You probably saw Lisa out jogging up until the last couple weeks of pregnancy. Already Lizzy has been to at least 3 running events to watch her dad compete. It won't be long before we see her running with mom and dad through the neighbourhood.



Anne Marie Mingiardi and Stefan Steiner (273 Shakespeare Dr.) are happy to share some news about their kids. Erik Steiner finished his Master of Science in Marketing and Consumer Studies at the University of Guelph this year. He is now a PhD student in Marketing at York University in Toronto. Emily Steiner finished her undergraduate degree in Mechatronics Engineering from the University of Waterloo this year. She is now a PhD student in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California.

Congratulations to Gilad Israeli and Douglas Stebila (348 Coleridge Place) who were married on October 7, 2023, at the Arboretum in Guelph.

DOGS OF BEECHWOOD

After moving back to Beechwood Park, Pierre Bernhardt, who grew up on Shakespeare Drive, took notice of the many dogs that walk through the area. This gave him an idea...and a new hobby. He picked up a camera and started asking to photograph the dogs he met. He then asked the owners for a few details about the pet and gathered the information into a book called Dogs of Beechwood. The book is a work in progress, with a plan to have a hard bound version for purchase in the coming year. Pierre is aiming to highlight 50 Beechwood dogs in the book and would be delighted to hear from dog owners in the area. If you are interested in contributing to Pierre's project, please reach out to him at pmbfrog@gmail.com or on the Dogs of Beechwood facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/1487260798678556. There will also be an IN-MEMORIAM section at the back for dogs who have passed away.



NEIGHBOURHOOD ADS

Dog walking: Do you have enough time to properly care for your dog's fitness? Hi, my name is Isaac Cram, and I am a thirteen-year-old from Beechwood Park. I grew up with dogs and when I am not caring for dogs, I like to play curling in winter and swim in summer. I am available for dog walking on weekends and evenings. Please contact me at joannacram@gmail.com.

Babysitting: Responsible, reliable, caring 15-year-old female, who enjoys entertaining children and who completed her babysitting course is available for babysitting. If interested, email Léa at: lea.king883@gmail.com.

Landscaping Services Offered: Nick Suwalski, who looks after the rec. centre lawn is offering his services to the neighbourhood. His business is Tree Wise Man Landscaping, and he offers lawn mowing, outdoor/indoor painting, deck, and fence staining and other indoor or outdoor jobs you might need done. You can contact Nick at nickster.suwalski@gmail.com or 226-750-3382.

Neighbour-recommended Cleaning Service: Preferential Cleaning 519-573-2319.

A TREE IN BEECHWOOD

There is big, beautiful, old, beech tree that lived for over 100 years in the centre of our Beechwood community. This majestic tree, situated near the road on Mohawk Drive, died suddenly last year and is slated to be removed by the City. It grew and survived only because the Reidlinger family, when they built their home, refused to have it cut down and petitioned the city to construct a protective stone well in which it thrived. For many of us, this tree was and still is a precious guardian of our neighbourhood, quietly watching over us. Below are 2 notes to the City attached to the trunk of this tree.

From Kyrie “the kid” to the tree cutters

We are very sad to hear that this Tree will be gone!! It brought us so much joy seeing it and all the animals it sheltered through the years. We vote to keep it.

From Lorraine Stillaway and William Thompson, the owners of the property where the tree is located

Dear City of Waterloo, Tree Care Staff:

This unique and beautiful beech tree is an icon in the neighbourhood and well-loved by many of us. It will be deeply missed. For that reason we would really like to keep a memento from this tree as would a couple of our neighbours. If you can, would you cut 3 “slices” off the trunk for us? Or even just a small piece of the trunk if “slices” aren’t possible?

If we’re home when you come, we’ll come out to say goodbye to the tree and to thank you in person. If we aren’t at home though, we have one other request-could leave the slices/piece near our house so no one takes them. Thank you so much for considering our request.

With Gratitude, Lorraine Stillaway

- Steve Singer (Shakespeare Drive)

Editor’s Note: The tree, on the curve of Mohawk, is still there if you would like to see it in all its glory.



NATURE'S GIFT - A FRUITFUL SUMMER/FALL

It was a spectacular growing year here in Ontario. Just the right amount of rain and sun, no extended droughts, comfortable temperatures, and no early frost to harm the blossoms or our beloved pollinators. How lucky were we and our farmers compared to other parts of Canada! The corn was definitely “as high as an elephant’s eye” this fall and the pink blossoms on our Rec Centre’s apple and crabapple trees were gorgeous, with bees happily collecting their pollen. Our Beechwood Produce Stand was able to offer a tasty selection of local fruits and vegetables all summer long. Our neighbours’ gardens produced so many giant zucchinis, tomatoes, squash, and cucumbers. The



furry critters in our gardens and trees are having a field day this fall collecting, eating, and storing all the walnuts, acorns, pinecones, maple keys, and other tree sheddings for the winter. And if you were a neighbourhood urban forager like me you saw local apple, crabapple, mulberry, and pear trees with bending branches laden with their amazing bounty. My grandson Ezra and I picked and ate mulberries in our greenbelt till our hands and mouths turned purple and stained our clothes. And when we walked, Ezra insisted on visiting his favourite apple tree at the corner of Marlowe and Hiawatha. I made apple pies, apple sauce, peach pies, crabapple jelly and strawberry jam all summer; all with local, unsprayed fruit. It was joyful! Thanks Mother Nature.
- Steve Singer (Shakespeare Drive)

MEN'S ROUND ROBIN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

This year’s tennis tourney took place October 22 on the cold and windy plains of Illium (o.k., the BPHA). The intrepid combatants were fewer in number this year, with 2° temperatures being unkind to the more aged membership of the royal and ancient. Those still willing to vie for the trophy were: Ian “the highlander” McGregor, Steve “stitch me up” Singer, Mike “the wall” Dixon, Luke “cool hand” Erat, Frank “Dutch blitz” Janssen, Bob “six string” Gibson, Tom “the kid” Parashuck, Mark “no re” Baetz, and Karl “the spike” Czekus, Scott “the pulpit thunderer” Brubaker-Zehr and Nizar (Bullwinkle) Moosa. The early rounds were characterized by creaking knees, and devastating drop shots (mostly unintentional). Overhead smashes were egregiously muffed as the combatants battled the sun’s retina-searing rays. With less than our usual contingent, everyone made the semi-finals. By the time the semis were underway, Mark and Karl had to leave to get back to their loved ones. Scott seamlessly transmogrified into Mr. Baetz and Dixon allowed Nizar to replace him in the semis with the understanding that should he win and advance to the finals, “the wall” would once again stand tall. As the semis unfolded, Scott and Ian eventually outbattled Bob and Steve, while Nizar and Frank took down Luke and Tom.

Despite young Tom’s defeat, there was a moment of transcendence in his match. As Scott was bleating about the wind pushing his lobs long, young Tom was overheard saying, “mostly hot air from the other side of the court”. Play stopped, and a number of us looked on with the pride of fathers in their dotage. We all recognized that our boy had at last become a man.

The finals we thought were set when Frank dropped a stunning act of altruism and ceded his place in the finals so he could BBQ sausages for the cold and hungry members!!! Trophy be damned thought he – I will take the higher road. Dixon could only bow his head in shame and reflect on the error of his ways at this magnanimous gesture.

As the cold descended, Nizar and Dixon battled Ian and Scott in the finals. Nizar gamely battled through a strained oblique muscle, while Dixon’s shoulder was so bad, he had to serve while barely lifting his right arm. Eventually, the pious duo of Scott and Ian vanquished their unworthy foes and were duly crowned champions. Thanks to Frank for providing the sausages, Sue Dixon for the Jalapeno poppers, and the members for their high-quality insults and jibes. The tournament always delivers - thanks to all for the comradery and laughs. Like fine wine – we, and the tournament, get better with age!

-Mike “the wall” Dixon

Editor's note: We have a very active community in Beechwood Park playing a variety of sports (volleyball, disc golf, running, etc). If you would like to see your favourite sport highlighted, please email me at ivyfriedman@gmail.com with your submission or idea. I'd love to include it in a future newsletter.

PICKLEBALL

A Growing Sport That Attracts People of All Ages – A Multigenerational Phenomenon

In recent years, Pickleball has emerged as one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States and Canada. This sport, often described as a hybrid of tennis, badminton, and ping pong has captured the hearts of individuals across all age groups due to its accessibility, ease of play and numerous physical and social benefits. I have personally witnessed the transformation of Pickleball from a recreational and social activity into a highly competitive and rigorous sport that has become a favorite among racquetball enthusiasts.

The growth of Pickleball has been nothing short of remarkable. According to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), Pickleball participation in the US nearly doubled in 2022, increasing by 85.7% year over year and by an astonishing 157% over three years. The sport's popularity and participation numbers are also on the rise in Canada. A recent survey conducted by Pickleball Canada revealed that 1.37 million Canadians now play Pickleball at least once a month. These growing participation numbers are not limited to older adults or snowbirds; in fact, the sport is gaining popularity among university students and youth under the age of 18 (sirc.ca).

There are several benefits to Pickleball as it caters to all ages. In 2016, I organized a multi-generational Pickleball event that encouraged grandparents, parents, and kids to play Pickleball together. In addition to family bonding, it's great for physical health, social interaction, mental well-being, and community building.

There are numerous places in Waterloo where you can play. Below is a list of indoor and outdoor locations to try out:

Indoor:

- Rim Park
- Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex
- Greystone Racquet Club
- KW Badminton Club

Outdoor:

- Bechtel Park - Waterloo
- RBJ Schlegel Park – Kitchener
- Forest Heights Community Centre - Kitchener
- Carwood YMCA- Kitchener

-Nizar Moosa (Longfellow Drive) works in Sport and Tourism

THERE'S SO MUCH HAPPENING AND SO NEARBY, HOW DO YOU CHOOSE?

We live in an area so rich with cultural and enriching events, it's certainly worth taking the time to enjoy a taste of all that's offered. If you have the time, here are some local events (some a short walk away) worth checking out:

- **Noon Hour Concert Series:** Conrad Grebel Chapel – Wednesdays 12:30-1:30pm September-March. Further information at uwaterloo.ca/music/events
- **Hagey Public Lecture:** Free annual public lecture inviting the community to be involved in scholarly and creative discussion. This year's lecture was on October 5, but mark your calendar for next year and watch for other public events happening at the University of Waterloo.
- **Perimeter Institute Public Lectures:** Free occasional lectures on current research designed for the general public. Further information at perimeterinstitute.ca/public-lectures

IN SUPPORT OF MUSICIANS

Last month the KW Symphony filed for bankruptcy and cancelled all upcoming events. This is a terrible upset to the region. This affects the musicians and music lovers. Mark Vuorinen, the Artistic Director of the Grand Philharmonic Choir, continues to engage the individual musicians whenever possible. He recently gave a concert with the members of the former orchestra. It was the first time they had been back together since the collapse of the KW Symphony and he said, "it was an emotional time for them. It's been a difficult few weeks..." Mark offered the following ways to help support the musicians:

- Donate to the KW Symphony GoFundMe campaign: www.savethekws.ca.
- Visit their facebook page: facebook.com/PAKwsymphony.
- Attend their fundraising concert on November 12 at 7pm at St Jacob's Mennonite church, featuring a small group of KW Symphony musicians.
- See the full orchestra on December 9 at Centre in the Square in Bach's Christmas Oratorio: www.centreinthesquare.com.

OTHER TIDBITS

Fall Leaf Collection. In 2021, the City decided to maintain its November Fall Leaf Collection system. Each Waterloo community is assigned a specific week when leaves will be collected unbagged, curbside. Beechwood Park's designated week is **November 13-18**. However, in order to ensure the longevity of this system and to make it as safe and efficient as possible, the City has asked neighbourhoods to help them in the following ways:

- Homeowners and contract landscaping companies must not put leaves curbside prior to their designated collection week in November. This is to ensure driver/pedestrian safety as well as keep the storm drains from plugging up.
- Prior to their collection week, homeowners and landscape companies should bag and put out leaves for the biweekly Regional Waste pickup or keep them on their lawns.
- Homeowners should also try and mulch their leaves on their property to reduce the volume the City will have to collect.

Let's all try and help the City with their leaf collection this fall. Find out more here:

www.waterloo.ca/en/living/loose-leaf-collection.aspx

Please Slow Down. There are a lot of kids, dog walkers, runners, and cyclists moving through our neighbourhood and sometimes into the streets. Please slow down and drive carefully when making your way to or from home.

Watch for Coyotes and Fox. There have been coyotes and fox spotted in the neighbourhood. Mostly, the animals keep to themselves, but it's important to keep your distance, don't feed them and keep an eye on your smaller pets.

Neighbourhood Safety. This is a friendly reminder to lock car and house doors when unoccupied. There haven't been any reported incidents in the past few months, but it's always a good practice.

Holy M*#@#L! Did you know there were so many ways to spell this internationally snacked-on fish? Which spelling do you use?

mackerel	mackril	maycril	macrell	makerell	makerel
macquerel	macril	maquerel	makral	macquerell,	macrelle
mackarell	makarell	maccarel	mackerell	mackrell	makyrelle
makrall	mackreel	mackrel	marcel	makrel	makcaral
macrill	makreill	makrell	mackaral	makerelle	mackarel

MAITLAND HAMMOND-MY FAVOURITE TEACHER

Mr. Hammond was my first role model and mentor. What I learned from him would be woven into my high school days and my future. It was September 1951 and my first day at Fergus High School. I had turned 14 in August and was living on a foster farm near Belwood. My life to this point had been filled with more downs than ups and I was apprehensive about the entire upcoming experience.

It is a struggle for anyone to remember their first class in any subject in high school and that would be true for me, with one exception-Algebra. Of course, I do not remember the lesson, but I do remember the atmosphere in the classroom-it was one of mutual respect and engaging positive energy radiating from Mr. Hammond. I felt that he liked me and I knew I liked him. I had Mr. Hammond For Grade 9 Algebra, Grade 10 Geography, Grade 11 Algebra and Grade 13 Algebra, Trig and Physics. How lucky I was.

In the four math courses I had, he brought the textbook into class, but it was rarely opened. When learning a concept in Trig he always had an applied example you could visualize. I used the same approaches in both my military and teaching careers. During my teaching career, I was attending a workshop, and we were given an exercise to make a clock and write down the names of 12 people that most influenced our life-starting at one o'clock. Ten of my 12 names were teachers and Mr. Hammond was in the number one position.

As an orphan in foster care there were many things I missed out on and at the top of the list was a sense of belonging. The feeling of belonging started in that first Algebra class and continued throughout my high school years. Prior to high school I never had someone to gain the important attributes that would put me on track to become a successful person. Mr. Hammond was my first role model, and he shaped my life.

With gratitude, Jim Furlong

Editor Steve's Note: Jim lived in the neighbourhood on Marlowe for over 30 years. He went to Royal Military College, served in the Canadian army, and became a highly successful teacher and high school principal. He and his wife Heather raised 3 children and were blessed with 7 grandchildren. Jim is now 86, plays bridge 3 times a week, is in good health, and often sees his old friends from Beechwood.

GREATER THAN DOING A MITZVAH (GOOD DEED), IS GETTING OTHERS TO DO A MITZVAH

To me this means that for example, if somebody had a kid it would be better to teach the kid to do mitzvas (good deeds) and be nice than to do them themselves. By teaching your kid to do mitzvas you are setting them up for a better life. They will be nice and respectful. A way to do that would be being kind to them and around them so they could see that they're supposed to act the way you act. You are setting them up for a better kinder more nice life by teaching them to do mitzvas.

Written: By Steve and Myrna Singer's granddaughter Naomi (11 years old)

As always, thank you to all who contributed to the newsletter with special thanks to Steve Singer and Tracey Nairn for additions, ideas, and edits. Many thanks also to Sherry and Gary Hauser, Jan and Rob Phillips, Jim and Carole Wilkinson, and Bert Thomson for help delivering the newsletter. If you have a submission for the spring issue, email me at ivyfriedman@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you! – Ivy Friedman