



Beechwood Park Homes Association

INCORPORATED

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Recreation Centre:

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SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

BPHA VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS

President	Luke Eret	Program Director	Dana Finestone
Vice President	Paul Harrington	Pool Director	Lori Grant
Secretary	Steve Kobes	Tennis Director	Lorraine Stillaway
Treasurer	Shenhui Lang	Bookkeeper	Joanna Cram
Membership Director	Marina Gliksman	Payroll Officer	Jason Daly
Maintenance Director	Steve Singer	Program Officer	Laura Hewitson
Social Director	<i>Vacant</i>		

BPHA 2022 Membership!

Thank you to everyone who registered for BPHA membership. Your support is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you at the recreation centre this summer. If you have not registered yet, you still can by visiting our website, **www.bpha.ca/membership/** and completing a registration form, along with payment by e-transfer or cheque. Check out all our great programming for the young and mature! ***We encourage everyone who receives this newsletter to become members.*** Through community spirit and countless volunteers, BPHA has been making memories since 1968. We're working to ensure the Homes Association continues to make memories for many years to come.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Rec Centre Spring Clean-up – Saturday, April 23 starting at 9am

Bottle Drive – Wednesday, May 4

Our 2022 Spring/Summer Bottle Drive to raise funds for our Rec Centre youth pool programs will begin again this year on Wednesday May 4th. We will have monthly pickups thereafter for the rest of the season. We really appreciate those of you who contributed to our successful drive last year and look forward to another great fundraiser for our community. Please leave your bottles and cans on your front porch by 6:30p.m. on Wed. May 4th. Go to the BPHA link on our website or scan the QR code to sign up for pickup. Thanks, Steve Singer, Bob Gibson, and Bill Mitchell



Pool Opening Weekend - Friday, May 27

The pool will be open from 4pm-8pm. The full schedule will be posted on **www.bpha.ca**.

BPHA BOARD REPORT

Hello all,

BPHA is entering its 54th year of providing service to this great neighbourhood and community. It is run and supported by a huge number of volunteers, some on the board of directors and some just helping out on an informal basis. A huge thanks to all!

Some are new to the board (Marina Gliksman and Lorraine Stillaway), some are returning (Paul Harrington, Steve Kobes, Steve Singer, Dana Finestone, and Lori Grant), and some moved to a new position (Luke Eret from Treasurer to President and Shenhui Lang from Bookkeeper to Treasurer). Additionally, Joanna Cram has taken on bookkeeping as an officer. Jason Daly returns as Payroll Officer and Laura Hewitson as Program Officer. Malkin Dare has joined the BPHA Program Committee with a focus on social events for the seniors in our community. All are working hard to make this season a good one. There is a lot of planning going on, new ideas for extended programming, for social events for the wider community, and much more. Look for our updates by email and by social media for more information.

As for maintenance and improvements, we are ordering a new pool solar blanket, planning to repaint the wall edge of the tennis courts, to prune our fruit trees in the front yard, and evaluate the retrofit of LED lighting in the future...to name just a few items.

We are in need of volunteers in general, but we are especially looking for help with our tennis programs. If you or someone you know plays tennis and is looking for volunteer opportunities, reach out to our tennis director, Lorraine Stillaway at **bphatennis@gmail.com**.

We also want to thank Patrick O'Halloran, Nick Bayley, Mike McGann, and their whole neighbourhood rink committee for the great time we all had at the skating rink by Clair Lake during winter.

A huge thanks also goes to Paul Struck for building and erecting the Holiday lights and Happy Holiday sign at our Rec Centre.

Lastly, a big thanks to all of our BPHA members. Your involvement and support is critical in keeping BPHA going.

We are looking forward to yet another great season!

Luke Eret, BPHA President

A DONATION IN MEMORY OF BILL BERNHARDT

Jennie Bernhardt and her son Pierre have decided to make a donation to the BPHA in memory of their late husband/father Bill. The Bernhardt family, who live at 277 Shakespeare beside the path to Clair Lake, have lived in Beechwood since about 1976. They are hoping that the memorial bench that will be located in front of our Rec Centre will provide a comfortable place to pause and rest for the many walkers in our neighbourhood. We wish to thank Jennie and Pierre for their thoughtful contribution in honour of Bill, whose life was highlighted in a previous newsletter. Bill was a larger than life individual, who always had a twinkle in his eye, a funny quip on his lips, and a big heart and smile for everyone he met.

BPHA PROGRAMMING

The 2022 season is quickly approaching, and we are excited to announce some of the exciting new developments we have been working on during the off season!

Introducing our 2022 staff

This season, our Recreation Centre is so lucky to be managed by Patrick Benest and Assistant Manager, Chloe Taylor. They are looking forward to providing a fun-filled summer for our members! We are also very fortunate to have the following staff be part of the BPHA team: Returning Instructor / Guards: Zack Morden and Clare Jacob; New Instructor / Guards: Tom Beamer, Ben Taylor and Zoe Florizone; Program Manager: Hayley Topp; Program assistants / Substitutes: Julia Daly, Adrienne Hawthorn and Jude Hawthorn; Tennis Staff: Brooke Bauer.

Spring and Summer Programming

Program registration for the upcoming season is now open! Visit www.bpha.ca to learn more about the programs and events we are planning for this season. To reserve a spot, complete the online registration form on the website. Programs fill up quickly! We recommend registering early to avoid disappointment.

Tennis Court Opening and Tennis Programs

Weather permitting, the nets will be up on the tennis courts by mid-April. Watch our website and Facebook page for updates.

Spring tennis programming will begin May 2 and will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Spaces are limited so register early!

- Junior Fundamentals - (4:30-5:00)
- Youth Fundamentals - (5:00-6:00).

New and Returning Programs

We are excited to offer a variety of new programming for 2022 based on feedback we received from our members. Hayley, our Program Manager, is a registered Early Childhood Educator. Along with our Program Assistant, Julia, they will be offering some fresh and creative activities for kids.

- **Spring swimming lessons** - Weekly swimming lessons will be offered throughout June.
- **Teen programming (13+)** - We have an exciting new teen program coming this summer for our teen members and their guests! Watch the website for updates.
- **PJ Parties** - PJ parties are back again this summer! Due to their popularity in 2021, we are offering this event every other Friday throughout the summer. Parents, mark your date nights on the calendar!
- **Daily camps** - This year you can sign up for camp in one-week blocks for a half day or full day! Organized by a registered ECE, your kids can expect to have lots of fun throughout the day!

For 2022, we are piloting allowing members to register one (1) friend or family member per registered child for daily camp, PD Programs and other select programs. Members will have from now until June 1, 2022 (May 15, 2022 for the PD Program) to sign up prior to any remaining spots opening up to a member's friend or family member.

Bronze Level Courses

BPHA will once again be offering Bronze Star, Medallion and Cross for swimmers who are looking to challenge themselves and work towards becoming a certified Lifeguard. **Bronze Course** registration opens to non-members on **April 1, 2022**. Register early to avoid disappointment.

For more information about all of our events and programs or to register visit www.bpha.ca and follow us on Facebook ([BPHAInc](#)) to keep up-to-date with what's going on in the neighbourhood!

VOLUNTEER WITH BPHA!

Do you have great ideas or want to help with program execution? We are always on the lookout for new people to assist our programs and to welcome back our previous volunteers! Please complete the volunteer application form by scanning the QR code or emailing us at **info@bpha.ca** to let us know how you would like to help our recreation centre. Volunteering with BPHA is a great way for teenagers to complete their high school volunteer hours.



UPDATE ON THE 2022 BEECHWOOD SUMMER PRODUCE STAND

Greetings, neighbours! These early spring days bring the promise of fresh local fruits and vegetables from our surrounding agricultural community. It's encouraging to know that in less than three months we will be able to enjoy flavourful local asparagus, strawberries, rhubarb, and much more!

We expect our produce stand to be up and running in mid-June on Wednesday afternoons in front of the recreation centre on Shakespeare Drive. Our amazing team of volunteers is excited to commence our 15th year of operation with the continuing goals of community building, supporting local farmers and raising funds for local charities. We have supported local schools (Keatsway and Centennial) for 14 years running. In addition, thanks to your wonderful support in 2021, we were able to direct funds to Supportive Housing of Waterloo, Special Olympics KW, Carizon, the Food Bank of Waterloo Region and Pound Dog Rescue to support their important work.

The pre-order system that we've established in recent years will continue. Beginning in June, BPHA members will receive an email on Sundays with a link to a pre-order form that can be submitted by Tuesday at noon. Pre-ordering ensures that your selection will be packed and ready for you to pick up on Wednesday afternoon. However, pre-ordering is not required! A good selection of fruits and veggies will be available for walk-up customers.

Many hands make light work! If you're interested in getting involved, please sign up to help with this incredibly successful and fun community project by contacting: **beechwoodproduce@gmail.com** to discuss your availability and interests as a volunteer.

Another need in 2022 is for additional storage space for produce stand tables and canopies. If you live in the immediate vicinity of the pool centre and have some garage space available, we'd love to hear from you at the above email.

We look forward to your continued support and can't wait to see you in June!

Submitted on behalf of the entire Produce Stand Volunteer Team

PERENNIAL AND SEED SWAP AND SALE! – TUESDAY, MAY 10 3-8PM

Spring is arriving and our gardens are awakening. If you have perennials or left over seeds you would like to share or swap out for different ones, stop by the BPHA Recreation Centre on Shakespeare Drive on Tuesday May 10 between 3 and 8 pm to see what you can add to your gardens! No plants or seeds, no problem, come by and buy some (cash only) to add to your gardens! If you have questions or would like to drop perennials/seeds off early, contact us at **tgnairn@gmail.com**.
Ivy and Tracey



LAWN CUTTER NEEDED

Christine McWebb on Amos Ave is looking for a young person to cut her lawn once a week this summer starting in June. If you or someone you know is interested, you can reach her at mcwebb.christine@gmail.com.

DO YOU NEED A BABYSITTER?

Do you need a babysitter? Jenna Capes and Faith Marshall will babysit after school, evenings, weekends and in the summer and we will babysit any age! We are going into grade 10 and took the babysitting course this past summer. Email marion.marshall22@gmail.com for more information.

BABYSITTER WANTED

Hello There! We are looking for an energetic teen to look after the two sweetest girls around! Melie and Lolo are looking for a friend to look after them Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 4-6pm. We are located at 285 Shakespeare Drive. Cooking experience is helpful so you can get dinner started for us. Recipe and ingredients will be provided. If interested, please contact Malcolm and Dominique by email at malcolmrobertmcrae@gmail.com and dominoquecoteKennedy@gmail.com.

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

131 Iroquois: Welcome to Steve, Mandy and Bailey Budan. Steve is a software developer, Mandy is a visual artist and Bailey is finishing her psychology degree.

251 Lion's Court: Welcome to Lucy and Marek Szymczak who recently moved to Lion's Court from the Hamilton area. They are looking forward to meeting people in the neighbourhood and exploring the Waterloo region.

242 Shakespeare Drive: Welcome to Brodie and Lindsay Demers and 15 month old Landon and Mom, Jennifer Chamberlin!

344 Marlowe Drive: Welcome back Sue Beaton and her husband Dave, daughter Jana and son Alec. Sue grew up in this house from the age of six and then became a pool lifeguard and manager through high school and university. They are so thrilled to be back in BPHA.

295 Longfellow Drive: Nizar and Farah are excited to be coming home to Waterloo with their 5 year old son. Nizar works in the Sport and Tourism sector and Farah is a professor with a specialization in mental health and wellness.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Peter Baxter (Hiawatha Drive) on his retirement. Peter served as the Director of Athletics and Recreation at Wilfred Laurier for over 23 years.

Congratulations to John and Kathryn Craig (Browning Place) on their retirements in 2020. John was a Family Doctor in Elmira for 39 years and Kathryn a lawyer. They are excited to announce the engagement of their daughter, Hilary, to Robert Prusinski.

Lisa and Eric Giguere on Browning Place are happy to announce that their daughter Victoria, a longtime BPHA lifeguard, has completed her Master of Media in Journalism and Communication at Western University and has accepted a position as Marketing Partner with Kraft Heinz in Toronto. Be sure to connect to her on LinkedIn!

Nathan Kim (Coleridge Drive) qualified for the U18 provincial championships with his Kitchener-based Curling Team skipped by Tyler MacTavish. Nathan plays second stone on the team. Nathan and Tyler have been curling together since age 7 and teamed up with two curlers from the Quinte Curling Club in Belleville to form their new team. Team MacTavish curls out of the Westmount Golf and Country Club. They were seeded fifth and went undefeated in three games at the zones qualifier in Palmerston to advance to the U18 Curling Ontario championship. Team MacTavish is one of the youngest teams at the U18 provincials. We wish them luck!

Nathan Kim has also started his own podcast, **At Risk**, which you can find on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. On the program, Nathan talks to science educators, biologists, and ecologists about what they do. Here is the link: <https://anchor.fm/at-risk-podcast>



Emily Kerr (Browning Place) has been continuing her love of music and joined her university jazz big band as a percussionist. Check this out when you have time: <https://youtu.be/xgmG5YhPj8E>



NICHOLAS AND THE LITTLE LIBRARY

Beechwood Park toddler, Nicholas would like to encourage children and their parents to use the little library outside the recreation centre. He checks it regularly and is always excited to exchange stories and would love others to participate with him. His favourite find, *Thelma the Unicorn*, is about staying true to oneself, but Nicholas loves any story that has animals (*Olivia*, *Paw Patrol*, *Very Cranky Bear* and *Giraffe Problems*). And after watching the reconstruction on Longfellow, he is also interested in stories about mighty machines (especially hydraulic cranes and backhoes) and construction (*Goodnight Goodnight Construction Site*, *Busy Busy Construction Site*). At 3yrs old, he can now proudly identify a variety of construction vehicles, including their different components.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ICE RINK – A HUGE SUCCESS

Several people emailed asking that we include a huge thank you to the volunteers who helped out this winter at the new ice rink at Clair Lake. As Paul Struck commented, “This facility quickly became the winter glue in our community brick!” Special thanks to Patrick O’Halloran and Nick Bayley who worked with Julie Legg from the City of Waterloo and have been onboard from idea to construction to maintenance. Additional thanks to Bert Thomson, Mike McGann, Reg King, Peter Caesar, Steve Singer, Dan Scheerer, Jake Walker, Duane Chris, David LeCourt, Peter Coffee, David Cesarini, Heather Smith, Annie Gray, Ryan Glass, Greg Boyd, Hahn-Hoe Kim, Lou Dietrich, Steve Boychuk, and Hugh McKenna.

BEECHWOOD SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP

Hi! My name is Tim Dyck, and I recently moved onto Mohawk Street with my wife Jess. I started playing basketball when I was 11 and have been in love with the game ever since. I played competitively in elementary and high school, recreationally at the University of Waterloo, and have been involved in local leagues as an adult. I attended many basketball camps growing up, and love to share the knowledge I have learned along the way. I will be hosting a **FREE** basketball camp **Saturday mornings** throughout **June and July** for kids **ages 6 to 12** in my driveway. This camp will be targeting beginners, with a focus on fundamentals and having fun. For more information, including signups, see <https://tinyurl.com/Beechwood-Basketball-Camp>. I am looking forward to meeting more of our neighbours!



BEECHWOOD RUNNING GROUP

Join us this spring at Clair Lake for a social run through the neighbourhood. All levels of runners welcomed! For more information email beechwoodrunners@gmail.com or stop by and see what we're all about on Wednesdays at 6pm near the path to Shakespeare. Starting in May, we will meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there! - Ivy Friedman and Liz Percival

BEECHWOOD WALKING GROUP

Interested in a social walking group? If so, we would love to hear from you at beechwoodrunners@gmail.com. We are gauging interest within the community and if there is a positive response, we will work to create a day and time for a weekly walk through the neighbourhood. – Ivy Friedman and Malkin Dare

REFRAME AND REAP REWARDS

Exercise is just moving. You don't need extra time or gear or even to neglect those darn responsibilities. Discover ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION. Sounds important, doesn't it?! But it's easy. Pick your mode (walk, cycle, blade, skip or scamper), then pick an errand or two (get to school or work or meet up for whatever it is you do) and get moving. Save time in your day by moving while grooving those to-do's. Help the planet, support local businesses and most importantly help yourself with self care - fresh air, nature, and being present in our lovely, friendly hood and beyond. Stay tuned for more ACTIVE TRANSPOR tips. – Wendy Zufelt-Baxter

KOREAN RED BEAN MOCHI CAKE

Thank you to Yuka Kerr on Browning for the recipe to this popular Mochi Cake.

Ingredients:

1 pack 1 lb. box Mochiko (or sweet rice flour)
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda
3 eggs
2 ½ cups milk
½ stick butter melted
1 can 18oz. Sweetened red bean paste

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350F
Mix all the ingredients in a large bowl and whisk until thoroughly combined
Pour into a greased 9x13 pan
Bake for about 45 minutes
Cool completely before cutting into squares

A BEECHWOOD GARDENING PROJECT

The City of Waterloo actively supports the creation of community or individual gardens on their public lands like our greenbelt area. Our community skating rink was a huge success this winter, supported by our city. The city would do the same helping us to start a vegetable or flower garden. We now have a water source provided for the skating rink which could also be used for a garden. So, if you are a gardener interested in starting either your own or a community plot in our greenbelt you can contact **Julie.Legg@waterloo.ca** (Neighbourhood Coordinator, Community Services) or email the city at **gardens@waterloo.ca**. There are many folks in our neighbourhood with gardening experience who would welcome the opportunity to help out with this initiative.

WAKE UP YOUR LAWN! – BERT THOMSON

I've always admired the beautiful lush, green grass of a golf course or the amazing stripes of a natural turf Major League Baseball field. I wondered, "how did they do that?" I remembered once as a kid I thought I'd turn part of our front lawn into a putting green by simply setting our manual push mower to its lowest setting and going for it! All I did was make my dad's lawn into a yellow and brown bumpy mess that took most of the summer to recover! Well, I still don't know all that's involved for a professional level turf, but I have learned over the years a few easy things that everyone can do to greatly improve the look of their lawn. The lawn year cycle actually begins around September 1 which is the best time to either seed a new lawn or touch up your lawn by the process of over-seeding (spreading a light layer of seed over an existing lawn). You put your lawn to bed in the fall by doing one final cut and applying fall fertilizer as the grass prepares to go into its dormant season for the winter. It is not dead, just having a long nap until the warm weather returns. In the spring, your lawn is ready to wake up and start growing leaves again. You can help your lawn along by raking it to remove debris and get rid of any snow mold that may have developed. It is also time for the first application of fertilizer, but often not much is needed as the lawn will really already grow very rapidly during what's known as spring flush. This is also the time when the weeds begin to grow and you don't need to feed them! The most important thing about looking after your lawn is how to properly cut it. In fact, if I could only give one tip it would be to understand the 1/3 rule which means to never cut off more than 1/3 of the length of your grass blade in any one mowing. It's a grave mistake to cut down a high lawn as it puts your plants in shock and takes a long time for it to recover. It may seem strange, but this one tip can do more for your lawn than even fertilizing, aerating, and over-seeding. This rule means that in May and June when the lawn is growing fast you might have to cut it twice a week whereas in July and August 10 days or more between mowings will be sufficient. Also, make sure your mower blade is sharp. I either sharpen or replace mine every year. There are many other things you can do for your lawn, but that's for another time. Happy mowing!

KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR THE LDD MOTH!

Spring can't come soon enough, but with the warmer weather, be prepared for the LDD moth caterpillars to surface again this year. There is a lot of information online to help prevent and control an infestation and starting early will help keep the critters at bay. Here is information specific to Ontario, including 2022 projections: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/lymantria-dispar-dispar-ldd-moth>.



SELLING YOUR HOME IN BEECHWOOD

With the rapid rise of home prices in KW coupled with low interest rates, many investors are buying up homes to make a quick financial return. We have seen this happen in our area. Investor demand threatens neighbourhoods and artificially drives up the cost of home buying for everyone. So, if you are planning to sell your home here in Beechwood, we urge you and your real estate agent to be aware of and carefully assess the intentions of the buyer (i.e., will the buyer move into the home or are they a remote investor?) In so doing, you will be Paying it Forward to the next owner of your home and keeping Beechwood healthy into the future. – Steve Singer

THESE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVOURITE THINGS

My wife Myrna and I have lived in Beechwood Park for almost 40 years. Some of our most valued possessions are things that we have received from neighbours during that time. Each time we look at one of them it brings back fond memories of these neighbours. One winter night we hosted a volunteer appreciation party. Carl and Eleanor Kaufmaun attended. As a gift they brought along a corn broom with a painted candy cane handle that Carl told me would help sweep away any roadblocks from my Beechwood Presidency as well as snow from our front porch. Carl was a real community activist, always writing letters to the editor, and roaming the neighbourhood in his cooking oil driven VW bug.

Down the street from us lived Mr. and Mrs. Koch. In his later years Mr. Koch would often sit in his rocking chair on the front porch surveying the street and neighbours walking by. When they moved, we inherited this chair which Myrna sits on in the summertime having her morning coffee. When Rudy Kominek, our next door neighbour, passed away many years ago, his wife Marg gave me a collection of Rudy's fine Meercham pipes; probably because I used to do reasonably accurate imitations which she enjoyed of Rudy talking and smoking them. Rudy spent a lot of time planting shrubs brought back from his cottage on the banks of Clair Creek to prevent erosion.

Gord Riedlinger, who lived on Mohawk, owned a wood moulding company, Ornamental Mouldings, and was an accomplished woodworker himself. When they left the neighbourhood, they donated a collection of his hand-turned wood bowls to raise for the trees you see on the hill at our Rec Centre. We have a couple of Gord's beautiful bowls in our living room. And on and on it goes... little cement songbirds from Charlie Bateman, whose cousin was the famous Canadian wildlife artist, Robert Bateman; a wheelbarrow from June and Ken Kobayashi; wooden garden benches from Bill and Jennie Bernhardt; a large, cement leaf lawn ornament from Shakespeare artist Denise Strong; a framed photograph of our children's favourite stuffed animals by Longfellow artist Reagan Little; whimsical paintings by Hiawatha artist Joe Wyatt, a unique book of my dear friend Chris Copp's favourite poetry, many of which he wrote, from his wife Marjah and a book from John Brzozowski about the history of U.W.'s computer science department.

All these favourite things remain priceless to Myrna and me.
Sincerely, Steve Singer

BLUE SKY ON A WINTER'S DAY - KARIN PACKULL, 2022

The white expanse glistening
With the rays of dancing light.

Stark bare trees
Waiting in silence for an unseen force
To wake them.

The sun drawing shadow pictures
On a white canvas.

Precious jewels on satin pillows

Twinkling with the moving light.

Cotton balls of snow lined up
On branches in nature's beauty salon.

And the lonely song of a robin,
Plaintively lamenting the cold,
Yet knowing warmth must return.

And my soul is stirred by the beauty
Of a blue sky on a winter's day.

THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES ON A NEW ADVENTURE

We are incredibly fortunate in Beechwood Park to have neighbours who become so involved in our community, who share new ideas and dedicate huge amounts of time and effort and heart to local initiatives. So many contribute in different ways; as members to our association, as board directors, as advocates and the list goes on. I want to take a moment to thank two families in particular who are moving away from the neighbourhood but who have contributed immensely to Beechwood Park:

Maria Brzozowski moved to the neighbourhood in 1967 with her late husband John. The Brzozowskis joined Beechwood Park Homes Association as members that same summer and have been members every single year since. This would have been Maria's 55th year as a BPHA member! With bittersweetness, she has decided to move from the area to be closer to her daughter, Teresa, and son, Mike, who both live within walking distance of her new home in Toronto. Maria has served on the BPHA board and has volunteered at the Produce Stand offering her garage as storage and helping at the stand itself. While visiting with Maria recently, I was honoured to hear some of the stories about her life. She was born in Torun Poland but fled with her mother to Germany where her father was stationed with the Polish wing of the RAF. They were later moved to Cornwall England where Maria was placed in an English school and was the only Polish speaking student. In 1947 her father left the air force and they came to Canada. From England her father had applied for the move to Canada. He was granted permission with the condition that he pay \$2000 as a deposit for a farm. As a squadron leader in the air force, he did not have a farming background, so he took a job as a farm hand to learn about farming and Maria's mother worked as a housekeeper. When the farmer, who was a British gentleman farmer learned of her father's situation, he offered to give them pigs to start their own farm for which they could pay back when the farm was established and they filled their obligations. They then sold the farm and moved to Toronto.

As an adult, Maria met and married John. While John was earning his Ph.D at Princeton, Maria worked for a chemical company in New Brunswick, New Jersey. In order to stay in the US, Maria acquired a Greencard. Without it, the length of her stay was at the discretion of border security. This was because at the time (1959) the US had a Polish quota. From New Jersey, the couple moved to Ottawa and then, luckily for us, they chose to move to Beechwood Park in Waterloo. Their home on Shakespeare was one of very few offered in the area at that time and was a model home for Vintage Homes owned by Dorothy Wiebe.

While Waterloo has been her home for 55 years, Maria, thanks to John's work, travelled to many places. She says, "if I had to cook, I lived there". Some of her travels include Rome, Italy; Paris, France; Bonn, Germany; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Kyoto, Japan; and Neunen, Netherlands.

Maria plans to move to Toronto in May. A huge thank you to Maria for all she has contributed and best wishes to her in her new home!

Dianne and Bill Ratcliffe moved into the neighbourhood and took off running as volunteers. Their many efforts (Next50 project, the Planning and Development (P&D) committee, the produce stand, and Dianne as BPHA president) have had an enormous impact on the neighbourhood. Though their house on Algonquin was meant to be their forever home, they have decided to move back to Toronto to be near their daughter, Emma. Thank you for all you both have done for our community and good luck with your next chapter.

That's it for now, but feel free to email with feedback or any news items you would like to see in the next newsletter. Many thanks to all who submitted material, to Steve Singer and Tracey Nairn for ideas and edits, and to those who help deliver the newsletter to every home in Beechwood Park.
Sincerely, Ivy Friedman ivyfriedman@gmail.com

"Without diversity of opinion, the discovery of truth is impossible." Alexander Von Humboldt