
40 Homewood Community Newsletter

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April, 1 2007

The views expressed in this publication are those of the writers of the articles and not the Board of Directors.



April 8, 2007



April 2, 2007



Hunter Thomas.

David Thornton is proud to announce that he became a grandfather for the first time on February 22nd, 2007 to 9 lb. 1 oz.

CONGRATULATIONS
GRAMPY



April 1, 2007



Poor Tree

During the ice storm on Thursday, March 1st one of the trees in the front of our building had the top broken off by the wind and probably

the weight of the ice.

It is fortunate that no-one was hurt. Too bad for our residents on the lower floors who had a tree right outside their windows.



A fool and his money are soon parted. The rest of us wait until income tax time



Watch for the new 007, Daniel Craig, in **CASINO ROYALE** which Don, the Movie Man, will be showing on Thursday, April 19th. 2007



Getting To Know You



Laurel McCosham

Laurel is a young woman on the move. Eldest child with two brothers, she was brought up in Cornwall, Ontario and then in the countryside nearby. It was a nice, normal childhood, interrupted only to finish high school as a boarder at Lakefield near Peterborough.

As a grade ten student, she wrote a regular column in the local paper and explored her love of writing at McGill University, when she founded and produced an inter-faith magazine, *The Radix*. She relished the variety of people and beliefs, and adored Montreal. Uncertain, however, of what to do next, she took a year off to travel Europe and live in Edinburgh, Scotland, doing temp work and getting to know the city and its many universities.

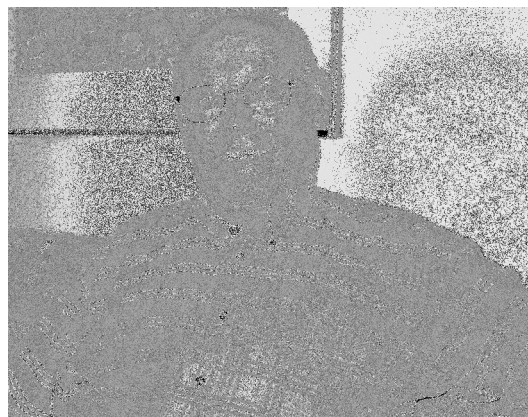
She returned to Cornwall and got replacement work on the paper, writing general assignments and doing first person stories. Then, six months temping in Toronto convinced her that she was, indeed, a city person. In two years at Halifax's Dalhousie University she earned a Master's in Public Policy. An extended work-term with Environment Canada in Ottawa confirmed her interest in policy.

A job at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, brought her back to Toronto. She hopes to pursue her interest in organizational behaviour in the future.

Laurel plays tennis twice a week and writes poetry in her spare time. She appreciates the diversity and friendliness of those who live at 40 Homewood.



Getting To Know You



Wayne Stratton

Wayne's favourite school days were the ones when the music teacher came. They led to a life-long love of singing and music.

Born in Wallaceburg—one of six siblings—Wayne remembers the beauty of the St. Clair river and the lazy days when school mates would come down to play in the cemetery which his father tended. He began to teach school straight after graduation—no training, no experience needed. He took many summer courses in teaching and in music, but after ten years as a teacher, decided to look elsewhere.

An aptitude test at the Toronto "Y" steered him toward accounting, and he trained with a team of chartered accountants. When a post was advertised for an accountant in a company which published music, Wayne found the perfect match. He worked at Gordon V. Thompson until retirement, and still keeps in touch with many good friends from those days. It was there that he met a young student, tenor Ben Heppner.

Wayne still maintains the subscription to the opera he has had since 1961. He goes to the symphony, and to University of Toronto to hear music students perform. As well, he sings in three choirs. When summer comes, he takes the TTC and goes walking to tour the city.

Tom Morrison told Wayne about Homewood as it was being built. Wayne loves it for the access it gives him to the city's many events.

Thanks, Connie and Charles

The China Experience

By Gus Kieley

Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would be teaching school in China. I had been retired four years and one day a member of Prime Timers told me he was going to China to teach. This presented a challenge to me, China was an image to me of a country supporting a political ideology very different from Canada and the mere thought of living there was both challenging and yet terrifying. As a single man, I had no real ties; I was on my own and free to do whatever I wanted. I had become complacent and realized I was heading for a very sedentary life. This actually did not sit well with me as there was a part of me that said I just was not ready to settle into a truly retired lifestyle, yet. This gnawed away at me and I knew I had to pursue it. As the possibility became more and more imminent, I made application and within a week I found myself signing a contract to go live in a culture totally different than mine and still more to be a teacher there! I thought; WOW Gus you sure have done it this time. Take a deep breath, prepare yourself for the unknown and just go.

Off I went! I will never forget that morning in the taxi ride to Toronto airport. Well I said there's no turning back now, what will be will be. As Bette Davis once said.... "Fasten your seat belts; this could be a bumpy ride".

The flight over was long but exhilarating. There we were, a group of 13 teachers, most for the first time, heading into the unknown. We arrived at Beijing airport. I went to the washroom and on the way out, was greeted by a handsome oriental boy with his hand out and a big smile. As I had washed my hands and could not find a receptacle to dispose of the waste paper. I naively thought the boy was trying to be helpful and I put the dirty paper towel paper towel in his hand so he could dispose of it for me. His smile turned to a look of astonishment. I left without thinking and returned to my teacher group. I mentioned the experience in the washroom and how nice this boy was to me. Another teacher pointed out to me that he was actually

expecting money. Shit! I thought, I really have to get with the program.

On arrival in Yantai, Shandong Province, the director of the school, her staff of four and some five students met us at the airport. They had arrived in two huge vans to collect the teaching group and our mountain of luggage. On the way from the airport, the luggage went in one van and the teachers, staff and students were in the second van. The students seemed very excited to meet us and talk to us. Their English was broken but they persisted in taking this opportunity to speak English with us foreigners. One of the student's English was actually pretty good. He introduced himself as Rick. He and I became instant friends. In fact, after 6 years, he is still my best friend in China. I have been to his home in a small village in the mountains of Hunan Province called Pingdangshan several times. His family has adopted me as their son, so I am expected to attend all major holidays and family occasions with them whenever I am in China.

But enough about the many friends I have made in China. I could go on for days telling you about those wonderful experiences' I feel as though I have lived an entire life time since that taxi ride on Sept 2, 2001.

I can tell you that that the experience of going to teach school in China, started as a terrifying experience but the moment I stepped foot on Chinese soil, I felt more loved and welcomed than anywhere in the world. The Chinese people are hungry for the North American cultural experience including learning English. They have a deep respect for teachers that is second to none. There is an expression in China that goes. " If you are my teacher, you are my father for life ".

I loved every moment in China but unfortunately had some health problems which forced me to return to Canada during my third year. However, In 2004 I was healthy again and with a yearning, I applied once more to return to my Beloved China.

On application the company I was reapplying to, knowing how much I loved

China and given my experience, offered me a position of recruiting teachers for them working out of the Toronto Office. I accepted on condition that I would have the opportunity of going to China at least twice a year, they obliged. I worked this job for a year and half.

Having gotten experience and knowledge of the required documentation necessary, I decided that I was now in a position to stretch out on my own and incorporated my own recruiting company. I am now the proud owner of ESLIC Recruiting Inc., an agency dedicated to helping teachers find teaching positions, arranging their travel to their jobs and preparing the necessary documents to start their new life in a country, steeped in history, a culture that spans more than 6,000 years and a people who will always welcome you with open arms.

This is not an advertisement for my company but I wanted to share with you my experience since retiring in 1996. If you are interested in knowing more about this you will be welcomed to my web site www.eslinchina.ca. If you have the chance to visit or work in China, please do not pass it up. It will open a whole new life to you.

Ongoing Activities



Bridge in the recreation room,
Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.



Movies with Don in the
recreation room, Thursdays or Fridays at
7:30, Notices posted every week.



*To
everyone
who has a
birthday
this month.*



Oscar Night at 40 Homewood

The small turnout did not dampen the event which began at 7:00 pm in our Recreation Room. A few people came and left over the 5 hour period that the Academy Awards were shown on our big screen TV.

Donations of nibblies from the people who attended were welcomed. The office contributed beverages and finger foods. A quiz to guess who would win the coveted Oscar was held. Two residents received a prize of a bottle of wine.

The evening ended after midnight with those who stayed until the bitter end being satiated with food and socializing.



Submitted by Sylvia Keshen



A farmer wrote to a mail-order house asking "Please send me one of those gasoline engines you show on Page 98. If it's any good, I'll send you a cheque." He received a reply which said "Please send cheque. If it's any good, will send engine."



Mother – "What did you learn in school today?"

Child – "Not enough, I have to go back tomorrow."

RECIPE EXCHANGE

Short and Sweet Peach Crisp

Submitted by Sylvia Keshen

1 – 28 oz. can sliced peaches – drained
1 tsp. Baking Powder
1 tsp. Salt
¾ cup Sugar
¾ cup Flour
1 Egg

Preheat oven to 375°. Place peaches in greased shallow 1 quart baking dish. Sift dry ingredients together, add egg, mix with fork and spread over peaches. Bake 30 minutes. Serves 6.

Making Friends

Submitted by Sylvia Keshen

If nobody smiled, and nobody
cared, and nobody helped us
along.

If every moment looked after
itself, and good things went to
the strong.

If nobody thought just a little
about you and nobody cared
about me.

If we stood all alone, in the
battle of life, what a dreary
old world this would be!



A Little Inspirational Story

By John Kell

On February 17, 2007, I tuned into Hockey Night in Canada at the ACC. before the game started. As most people know, the old timers were brought out on the ice. Of note was Dave Keon who was captain of the Maple Leafs and the last player to win the coveted Stanley Cup in 1967



I had met Dave on several sad occasions, most notably, the death of his sister Patricia who passed away after only two years of retirement at the age of 57. I worked with Pat for ten years at one of the schools I taught at and when her brother, Dave, would drop by to visit, the children, 35 years ago would go wild when he signed autographs or spoke to them on our gym. He was truly a great hockey hero with no where near the outrageous salaries that hockey players are paid today. He kept to himself for the most part and did things in his own quiet way just like his sister.

On Monday, February 18th, I was fortunate once again to be heard on CTV's Talk Back Toronto and give my sanction to having Dave's number (14) Maple Leaf shirt retired to honour his supreme efforts as a hockey player.

In Memoriam

Thelma Stelhoff passed away on March 12, 2007

Our condolences go out to her husband Ib. Her friends and neighbours in the building will miss her.



A few interesting anagrams.

DORMITORY
DIRTY ROOM

PRESBYTERIAN
BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER
MOON STARER

DESPERATION
A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES
THEY SEE

GEORGE BUSH
HE BUGS GORE

THE MORSE CODE
HERE COME DOTS

SLOT MACHINES
CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY
IS NO AMITY

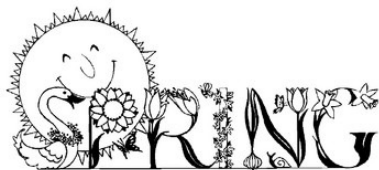
ELECTION RESULTS
LIES - LET'S RECOUNT

SNOOZE ALARMS
ALAS! NO MORE Z'S

A DECIMAL POINT
IM A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES
THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO
TWELVE PLUS ONE



Recycling Corner



Phones for Food!

By Bill McGuire

If you have an out-of-use cell phone or palm pilot, you may donate it to a local food bank.

It is worth two to five dollars which are used by the food bank to buy food.

In addition to helping feed the needy, you will be diverting the cell phone or palm pilot including the hazardous materials such as lead and mercury contained in them from a landfill.

You may drop off your out-of-use cell phone or pilot for recycling at the following locations

- George Brown Computer Store
200 King St. West
- Headshots
290 Shuter Street
- Henry's
119 Church
- Travel Cuts at Ryerson University
55 Gould Street, Room 804
- Rogers stores at
540 Church Street
Eaton Centre - Queen & Yonge
Gerrard Square - Gerrard & Pape

Check www.phonesforfood.com for additional drop-off locations.

Note from the Editor

Martha McGrath, Unit 615
marthamcgrath@esuite.ca (new)

Happy Spring everyone.

