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# HOMewood

*Community Newsletter*

*May, 2014*



**May 11, 2014**



**May 19, 2014**

## AGM Schedule

The 2014 Annual General Meeting of York Condo Corporation #75 will be held on **Wednesday, June 11, at the Primrose Hotel, Carlton and Jarvis. at 7 pm in the Pearson Room.**

Leading up to the AGM:

In the first week of May, a preliminary notice will be sent. This will include a nomination form for candidates for the Board of Directors. There will be two positions to be voted on. Nomination forms are due by Monday, May 12.

Shortly after that, in mid-May, the Official Notice of the meeting will be mailed. It will include an agenda, the audited financial statement for 2013 and the candidate resums.

Wednesday, June 4, 7.00 pm, Recreation Room:

Meet the Candidates and Review of the Audited Financial Statements.

## Congratulations!!

*Alwin Bittschwamm*

On  
Your  
90th!

**Happy Birthday!**

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## ***Pet of the Month***



# PAZU



This month's pet is an immigrant from Kentucky where he spent his first months in a garage. He was brought to Toronto by a rescue organization and was adopted by his dad, Shin, at about eight months of age. He is now five-and-a-half.

Pazu now has permanent resident status, but he has no working papers. That's okay because he prefers the life of leisure that many dogs enjoy.

His name is a combination of the Spanish "paz" which means "peace" and "u" for "you," so it roughly translates as "peace for you" or "peace to you." And a peaceful fellow he is, very quiet and gentle. He is not at all aggressive and is very friendly with people. He seldom barks except for howling when he hears fire trucks from his home.

Pazu is a mixture of beagle and pug, notable pug aspects being the loose skin around the head and neck and the curly tail.

Pazu enjoys long walks, and he's lucky enough to get many of them.

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## **Don's Movies For May**

### **All movies at 7:30pm in Recreation Room**

Thursday, May 1

#### **LIBELED LADY (1936)**

Spencer Tracy, Jean Harlow,  
William Powell, Myrna Loy

Friday, May 2

#### **ON THE TOWN (1949)**

Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra,  
Vera Ellen, Ann Miller

Thursday, May 8

#### **CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS (1937)**

Spencer Tracy, Mickey Rooney

Friday May 9

#### **OKLAHOMA! (1955)**

Gordon MacRae, Shirley Jones

Friday, May 16

#### **INCEPTION (2010)**

Leonardo DiCaprio, Michael Caine,  
Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ellen Page

Friday, May 23

#### **DOUBLE JEOPARDY (1999)**

Tommy Lee Jones, Ashley Judd

Thursday, May 29

#### **OVERBOARD (1987)**

Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell

Friday, May 30

#### **LIFEBOAT (1944)**

Tallulah Bankhead, William Bendix

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## Pigeons

Apparently the saying, "Your pigeons will come home to roost" is based on the birds' tendency to return to their place of nesting and birth. If you end up having a nest on your balcony and babies hatch, you will have to be extra-vigilant about them returning and making your home into their home again.

During the winter months, when most of us pay little attention to our balconies, the pigeons sometimes set up headquarters there. It follows, too, that seldom-used balconies are attractive to them in warmer months, too, since they are not disturbed by you and your activities. If you don't use your balcony, remember to keep an eye out anyway.

The pigeons also like hiding places, so if you have lots of stuff on the balcony, they'll find that appealing — and you might be less likely to notice them.

A recent tip from one of our neighbours about the pigeons sitting (and more) on our balcony rails: use a spray version of WD-40 to spray the railing. They don't like the smell and this may help keep them away. (Yes, you'll have to spray again after rains.) Another resident uses coconut oil. They learn that it's slippery and thus avoid places they've encountered it.

If you have more suggestions (some work for one, but not for all, but please share), send them to the Newsletter email:

[newsletter40homewood@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter40homewood@gmail.com)

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## The Politics of Water

by Arlene Adair

The Green Committee is looking forward to this year's June Callwood Lecture which takes place on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Toronto Reference Library. The speaker for the 2014 lecture is the notable environmental activist Maude Barlow. The Toronto Library notes some of her many accomplishments: chair of the board of Washington-based Food and Water Watch, recipient of 11 honorary doctorates and many awards for her environmental and human rights work. She is the author of 17 books.

Ms Barlow's lecture is titled "The Politics of Water: Is water a human right or a tradable commodity?" The Green Committee has shown several movies on the subject of water over the years and the issue is as timely and important as ever.

This is an opportunity to spend an interesting evening with a respected environmental expert. Admission is free but you must have a ticket. Tickets are available by going to the Toronto Public Library/Appel Salon website.



## Bridge Players Needed

Bridge has been suspended for the time being because two of the long time bridge players can no longer play.

In the Recreation Room or Library—  
Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:30PM

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## Reduction And Conservation



Everyone knows the environmental three Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle. One of the good ways to reduce waste is to make things last longer, conserve them, so that you use them up before throwing them out.

Here are some tips.

### Candles

If you put them in the freezer 24 hours prior to using, the wax hardens and that slows the burning process.

### Sponges

Cut your sponges in half, so they last longer. You can spray them with a little vinegar, too, to keep them fresh.

### Hand soap

Use a leftover dispensing bottle to mix your nice hand soap with water and you'll stretch its use.

### Flower bouquet

A bouquet of flowers will last longer if you add a capful of vodka to the water because it keeps bacteria at bay. A pinch of sugar will add nourishment. (If you don't have vodka, a capful of bleach will also work.)

### Dishwashing liquid

Use an olive oil bottle as a dispenser and you won't waste the soap. Be sure to label it so no one cooks with it.

### Salsa and sauces

Store the jars upside down in the fridge. It'll prevent mould from sprouting up.

### Lettuce

Place a paper towel in the container with your salad lettuce. The towel absorbs the moisture which is the culprit for wilting.

### Bread

To keep your bread fresh longer, put a clean, fresh stalk of celery in the bread bag.

### Cheese

Keep your hands outside the plastic wrap when you're cutting cheese: exposure to the bacteria from your fingers will make it grow mouldy faster.

### Toothpaste

Use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste when you brush. It does the same job as a long strip of toothpaste.

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## Whistlin'

*40 Homewood's own Jeffrey Amos, Second Place Grand Champion at the 2013 International Whistlers Convention, will be giving a performance at the Rekai Centre Long-Term Care Home on **Friday, May 23, 2014 at 2PM.** The Rekai Centre is located at 345 Sherbourne St. just south of Carlton. Guests are welcome, so feel free to come and see Jeffrey perform some golden oldies and songs from musicals. While you're at it, come visit Sylvia Keshen, former long term resident of 40 Homewood on the 11th Floor who now lives at the Rekai Centre - she'd be glad to see some old friends!*

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## Spotty Wisdom

This month Spotty says:

It's our responsibilities and not  
our egos that we should take  
seriously.

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### Window washing

Innaccessible windows will be washed  
during the week of May 12 - 16.

### Garage power washing

B1 and B2 parking areas will be power-  
washed on May 12 and May 13. Watch  
for instructions closer to the date about  
when to move your cars from one floor  
to another to make the way clear.

Once this is done, there will be another  
short project, the re-painting of the  
divider lines and other lines in the  
parking areas. In addition, lines will be  
painted on the driveway to the garage,  
near the stairwell with the awning, to  
indicate no stopping is allowed there.

### Annual fire testing

This will occur the week of June 2 - June  
6. Please make sure that your smoke  
alarm is working. If it's not, find out if it

simply needs a new battery. If — even  
with a fresh battery — the alarm doesn't  
work, then a new smoke alarm is  
needed. These are the owners'  
responsibilities. The more units who pass  
the inspection, the less work there is  
after and then the office can occupy  
themselves with other matters.

Regular, monthly tests of the fire alarm  
system (as distinct from the smoke  
alarms) occur on the last Tuesday of  
each month.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**GREEN COMMITTEE MOVIE**  
**Rachel Carson's Silent Spring**  
**Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**YARD SALE**  
**Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**BBQ**  
**Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**HOLIDAY DINNER**  
**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014**





## "Good Eats, Cheap Eats, Sweet Spots"

by Cammy Lee-  
Bostwick

Hello all

This month's sweet spot is just around the corner on 193 Carlton.

Famous for not only its authentic Japanese barbeque, **Zakkushi** has the look and feel of a traditional 'izakaya', or pub. The atmosphere is casual with dark wood throughout: in the beams, columns and banquette seating and chairs.

Izakayas offer up tapas sized morsels, great for sharing and tasting. Zakkushi touts its unique charcoal; the subtle hint of smoky goodness was apparent in the tender garlic shrimps, which came on a skewer (\$2.50), a bit pricey for only 3 shrimp. Other skewers had a bit more on them: the wagyu beef (\$6.80), salmon (\$2.50), scallop (\$2.90). But this is no way to get full, so I ordered Nabeyaki Udon (\$9.80), which is a shrimp noodle soup. I've had this at other restaurants, but this was the best I'd had; on top of the thick udon noodles was a juicy, lightly tempura-battered shrimp served with a poached egg. Breaking the yolk created a milky broth that was truly delightful.

More than the food, what you really need to know about Zakkushi is that the staff shout from one end of the room to the other, yelling orders at each other.

And when you are seated, you are pretty much on eye level with these tiny

Japanese waitresses. So when they yell in high pitched tones, they really end up yelling in your face! And they can really yell! At first, it was hilarious, but later jarring, and finally plain annoying. This is the kind of place to eat and leave...fast.

In this respect, Zakkushi is pretty much in the same vein as Guu, on Church just south of Carlton, and in the Annex on Bloor.

Is screaming a trend in dining? I lived in Tokyo over a decade ago, and went to plenty of izakayas there, but don't recall so much yelling, so I asked my server if this was 'typical', to which she responded with a 'sometimes'. But in a hopping place like this, where you need to make reservations at least 24 hours in advance to avoid the long wait, and at \$58 for 2 including a couple of pints, it seems a bit high for the experience.

So though I loved the food, I love dining in peace more. I also love conversation with dinner, which is elusive at best and almost impossible in this environment. If you can't beat'em, join'em, right?

Well....for this reason, I'll probably not go back: BBQ? Yes! But I'll take my screaming on the side please, preferably on the outside, thank you very much, in some place far far away...

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## Waste Pickup Days

Our garbage and recycling pickup days have been altered to:

**Garbage:** Mondays and Thursdays

**Green Bin compost:** Thursdays

**Recycling and Bulk:** Fridays

As much as possible, please get your bulk and recycling items in place prior to the Friday pickups.

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## Quiz on Water

Taken from Earth Hour Canada website.

**1. A typical 5-minute shower uses how many litres of water:**

- A. 50
- B. 100
- C. 150
- D. 200

**2. Over a period of one day, a slow dripping drop could fill a:**

- A. Swimming pool
- B. Bathtub
- C. Drinking glass
- D. Sink

**3. The average Canadian uses 36,000 L of water each year for:**

- A. Showers
- B. Dish washing
- C. Laundry
- D. Toilet flushing

**4. How much water is used to produce 1kg of paper?**

- A. 100 litres
- B. 200 litres
- C. 300 litres
- D. 400 litres

**5. What country has the greatest supply of fresh water?**

- A. Canada
- B. Brazil
- C. Russia
- D. China

**6. How many litres of water can be saved on average if you turn off the tap when you brush your teeth or wash your face?**

- A. 5 litres
- B. 7 litres
- C. 9 litres
- D. 11 litres

**7. The average automatic dishwasher uses how many litres of water for each cycle**

- A. 10
- B. 20
- C. 30
- D. 40



Dogs in the building are pretty visible and become well known, so the Newsletter volunteers can

approach the owners about participating in "Pet of the Month."

Cats and some other pets are seldom seen. Owners of cats, rabbits, turtles, birds, etc., are cordially invited to submit their pet for the column. Just write a few paragraphs and give us a photo. We can help with those parts if you wish.

Send to the Newsletter email: [newsletter40homewood@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter40homewood@gmail.com)



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## The 40Homewood Newsletter: Not just for Infotainment!

Hi, I'm Matt Siefert, a resident and owner of unit 2904, and I'm a grade Six teacher at a local public school. I'd like to tell you how my class used the 40 Homewood Newsletter to explore non-fiction writing, in particular the genre of newsletters.

We've been studying non-fiction, and we were looking at newspaper articles. One day, as I read the (excellent) 40 Homewood Newsletter, an idea coalesced. Why not examine the similarities and differences between newspapers, magazines, and newsletters?

We began by reviewing newspapers, and then took a close look at a variety of magazines, and discovered that the articles tend to get into much more detail, and tended to stick to the same overall subject (nature, sports, technology, etc.), whereas newspapers tend to give the bare bones about a wide variety of information, meant to appeal to a large and divergent audience.

We then looked at a number of newsletters from my home community. We noticed that newsletters tend to be extremely focussed on the needs of a small community. The pieces are more personal (get to know your neighbour, pets around the building, etc.), and provide very specific information (updates on building upgrades, reminders, recycling info) which helps the members of our local community live more efficiently, comfortably and happily.

I interviewed three members of our newsletter committee (Charles, Jeff, and Martha), and learned much more about it:

the history of the newsletter, its purpose, the motivation of the volunteers, to name just a few. I then uploaded the interview to Youtube, and as homework the children watched it to gather specific information and to learn how to conduct an interview, as well as some possible challenges and need-to-knows when faced with the challenge of conducting an interview. By watching and discussing my triumphs and tribulations, the children quickly learned that preparing open questions (which invite a plethora of responses, rather than closed questions, which invite a one word or sentence answer), using non-verbal communication (body position, repeating information for clarification, hand gestures, etc.) and making your interviewee comfortable were key to getting the most out of an interview.

The students completed a culminating activity, in which they prepared questions, conducted interviews, and wrote a newsletter piece on a topic that they felt was important to our local school community. I then collated and printed their pieces as a school community newsletter, written by and for students. The children did a fantastic job, and wrote excellent pieces that ranged from "Getting to know our volleyball coach" (yours truly) to "Our kindergarten renovation: who's going where, for how long, and when will it finally be over?" to "The ins and outs of daycare: It's not just finger-painting and nap time anymore!"

I was extremely proud of the work the kids produced, and it was, in large part, thanks to the excellent publication that our fine volunteers and writers help to create each and every month. I also want to thank Martha, Jeffery and Charles for taking the time to conduct an interview with me, and being patient through a few re-takes and mistakes. Keep up the excellent work, newsletter committee!







## Movie Review – The Grand Budapest Hotel

By Jeffrey Amos

**Directed by:** Wes Anderson

**Starring:** Ralph Fiennes, Tony Revolori, Saoirse Ronan, F. Murray Abraham, Willem Dafoe, Adrien Brody, Tilda Swinton, and many others.

**SYNOPSIS:** The Grand Budapest Hotel is set in the 1930s in the fictional Republic of Zubrowka, a European alpine state, and the story centres around the concierge of said mountainside hotel, Monsieur Gustave (Fiennes), and his working relationship and eventual friendship with the new Lobby Boy Zero Moustafa (Revolori) as various unusual events unfold around them. Monsieur Gustave, in addition to serving the guests of the hotel in a professional capacity, is also the lover of many of the older female guests – he takes his job as serving the guests very seriously. One of the elderly ladies, Madame D. (Tilda Swinton), is so fond of Monsieur Gustave that when she dies, she leaves him the prize item of her estate, a famous painting called *Boy with Apple*. Her family however, is not pleased, and they pursue Monsieur Gustave, leading to his eventual imprisonment, escape, and effort to clear his name. This, however, is only the beginning...

**REVIEW:** Wes Anderson is one of the most creative directors working today. He employs an eccentric visual style,

using bright pastels and period costumes, and his characters and plots are delightfully oddball and zany. He is a true "auteur" – for someone who knows his previous work, his films are instantly recognizable. The story is enjoyable (if a little too convoluted at times) but what really makes this movie works is the characters. Anderson employs at least 20 big-name actors in addition to the main stars (many in small roles) and each of them seems to be having a joyous time. I never knew that Ralph Fiennes had a knack for comedy, having mostly seen him mostly in dramas such as *The English Patient*. Willem Dafoe and Adrien Brody are hilarious as rage-fuelled members of Madame D.'s family who will stop at nothing to destroy Monsieur Gustave. Tony Revolori as Zero the Lobby Boy is also very good and this teenage actor holds his own against the many acting veterans. The film is immensely enjoyable and moves along at a breakneck pace. It doesn't have any deep message nor it is supposed to – I recommend *The Grand Budapest Hotel*...just sit back and enjoy it!

**VERDICT:** 3 stars out of 4.

★★★☆☆



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## May 10 – Allan Gardens Playground Groundbreaking

One of the first projects that Councillor Wong-Tam initiated when she was elected Councillor in 2010, was to build a new playground in Allan Gardens. The project has grown in scope and doubled in size and after some delays, Councillor Wong-Tam is excited to announce that construction will begin this Spring. She has been working with the Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division to plan a groundbreaking ceremony for the start of the construction.

**Date: Saturday, May 10, 2014**

**Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Location: 19 Horticultural Avenue  
(Northeast corner of Jarvis and  
Gerrard)**

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## RECIPE EXCHANGE

### Broccoli Casserole

from Eva Kato and Ken Dawe

4 large broccoli heads  
1 lb (450g) Velveeta cheese cut into ½-  
inch cubes  
1 box Ritz crackers crushed in a plastic  
bag with a rolling pin  
Butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Boil broccoli heads in uncovered salted  
water until tender (6-8 minutes).

Drain and chop broccoli into small  
pieces. Spread in a rectangular  
casserole pan.  
Spread Velveeta cheese cubes over  
broccoli.  
Melt butter in frying pan and brown  
crushed Ritz crackers.  
Sprinkle crackers over top of casserole.  
Bake in oven for 30 minutes until cheese  
bubbles up.

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## Quiz on Water

### Answers

1. B

**Take Action:** Use a low-flow showerhead and you can reduce the amount of water used during a five-minute shower to 35 litres. You will save water and money on your water bill.

2. B — Slow-dripping taps can actually be more wasteful than high volume toilets.

**Take Action:** Fix your faucets to prevent wasting water.

3. D — The average toilet uses about 19 litres per flush.

**Take Action:** Replace your toilet with a low-flush toilet or purchase a water displacement dam for your current toilet. Water dams can save up to five litres per flush.

4. C

**Take Action:** Use both sides of a sheet of paper before recycling it. Buy products that are labeled: contains “post-consumer” recycled material. This

means it is made from things that you put into your blue box.

## 5. A

**Take Action:** Use water conservatively in your life. Although Canada has access to the greatest supply of fresh water, much of it is wasted. There is a severe fresh water shortage in many areas around the globe today, so we must be careful to preserve our water and avoid contaminating it.

## 6. D

**Take Action:** Turn off the tap when not needed, or partially fill up the sink with water to use and plug it, then turn the tap off so that it doesn't run.

## 7. D

**Take Action:** Turn on the dishwasher only when there is a full load because it uses the same amount of water whether it's full of dishes or not.



## Balcony Blinds

The Board of Directors has passed a motion on the criteria for blinds that owners are permitted to install on their balconies.

Balconies are "exclusive use" areas (exclusive to the individual unit) but are part of the common elements of the building. That is, unit owners do not own their balcony area but they do have exclusive use of it.

The criteria or specifications are:

- \* It must be a roller blind (rolling up and down)
- \* It must be a colour similar to the balcony frame, that is, a light brown or beige
- \* It must be specifically manufactured for outdoor use (similar, for example, to Coolaroo Blinds)
- \* The owner takes sole responsibility for damages to any exclusive use area that may be caused by any approved blind installation

The reason for setting these criteria is to retain, as much as possible, a uniform look for the building.

For those who already have blinds installed, board approval may be requested to keep them and be excluded from this new direction depending upon style, age, condition, etc. If approval is granted, it may be contingent on removal of the non-conforming blinds upon the sale of the unit.

## Shredded Paper

When you've shredded your top secret papers, please put them in a clear plastic bag before depositing them in the Blue Bin for recycling. If they're loose, they tend to fly all over when the bin is dumped into the truck.



## Elevator Update

The "modernization" of Elevator #3 continues. Work began March 3 with an expected time frame of 8 to 10 weeks. The work should be finished in mid- to late-May.

It may seem longer since #3 last operated because it was out of service beginning with the mid-January flood.

The next elevator to be done will be #4.

As each of the elevators (except the service elevator) is finished, an electronic monitor will be installed. There will also be one in the mailroom. These will be used for notices from the Board and Management. They are a completely different generation of technology than the ones that were previously in our elevators and should work well and be attractive.

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## Farewell Old Friends

**Jean Walker**, "original" resident from the seventh floor, is now residing at the Harold and Grace Baker Centre at 1 Northwestern Avenue near Eglinton and Keele. Visitors welcome.

**Peter Lee**, almost "original" resident from the 18th floor, is now residing at Lakeshore Lodge, 3197 Lakeshore Boulevard West, near Kipling. Visitors welcome.

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## Silent Spring of Rachel Carson

**Green Committee movie, Tuesday, May 20, 7 pm, Recreation Room**  
**The 30-minute documentary will be shown followed by discussion and refreshments.**

from the silentspringmovie website:

"Silent Spring of Rachel Carson tells the awe-inspiring journey of the 50 year old Rachel Carson: an extremely-introverted, intensely-private Biologist, renowned writer of Sea books, Nature lover and mother to an adopted 4 year old grandnephew.

"From the beginnings of Silent Spring, Rachel Carson knew the multi-billion dollar Chemical Industry would attack her, that the life she loved would be changed forever. But she bravely began her research and writing because "Everything I loved was threatened, there would be no peace for me if I keep silent."

"For the next four years, Rachel Carson overcame the most overwhelming obstacles to write and publish her revolutionary book, working during a time women scientists were rare and often not respected. She was unmercifully attacked by the Chemical Industry and numerous Departments of the U.S. Government as an unreasonable, emotional, fear-provoking, hysterical woman. They called her a communist, subject to "sinister influences," and pressured her publisher to drop her book. But Silent Spring was published, read by millions, and changed our view of Man's relationship with Nature".

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