



HOMEWOOD

Community Newsletter

June, 2014



June 15, 2014

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of YCC#75 will be on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at 7 pm. (Please arrive for check-in at 6.30 pm) at our usual meeting place, the Primrose Hotel, Jarvis and Carlton.

Besides voting on auditor selection and board directors, other matters may be brought for discussion to the floor but not for voting.

If you are unable to attend, it's very important to fill out your proxy. While it acts as a vote, it also plays a vital role in ensuring we have a quorum of members of the condo. For the meeting to be official, there must be a quorum comprising at least one-quarter of all units in the building, either by attending in person or voting by proxy. That comes to about 125. Last year, we had 75 people present and 90 represented by proxy for a total quorum of 165 (one-third of all members).

Not reaching quorum results in having to call another meeting, at a cost to everyone through the budget.

Submit your proxy at the office (there is a box there) or give it to a trusted friend or neighbour to take to the meeting.



**June 28 to July 27,
2014**





by Jeff Amos

From June 20-29, 2014, Toronto will host World Pride. World Pride is an international event celebrating activism, education and the rich history and culture of global LGBT communities. Previous cities hosting World Pride include Rome, London, and Jerusalem. This year marks the first time that World Pride has been celebrated in North America. Toronto was awarded the 2014 World Pride by InterPride (a large international LGBT organization). Although it is being held in late June, in concert with our annual Toronto Pride, this year's event will be much larger than usual with many more things to see and experience.

There are more things to do than can possibly be listed here. But some of the highlights, other than the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 29, are: Opening Ceremonies on Friday, June 20 at Nathan Phillips Square (performance by international musicians Melissa Etheridge and Deborah Cox), Starry Night on Thursday, June 26 at 7 pm at Cawthra Square Park (where you can see performances by the top four contestants on RuPaul's Drag Race Season 6), and a special performance by Juno-award winning artists Tegan and Sara at Yonge-Dundas Square on Sunday, June 29. There are also many, many smaller events (at venues such as the Gardiner Museum and the Art

Gallery of Ontario), as well as performances during both weekends at 10 different stages in the area. World Pride is not only about having fun, it's also focuses on the serious issue of LGBTI rights around the world which will be discussed at the World Pride Human Rights Conference, from June 25 - 27 at University College at the University of Toronto.

Many of the events and festivities take place within a short walk of 40 Homewood. For further information, please visit the Pride Toronto website at www.pridetoronto.ca and show your Pride!



Happy Pride Week!
June 20th – June 29th, 2014

Pride Parade
Sunday, June 29th, 2014

WELCOME

Please welcome our new cleaner, **Perfecto Alea**. He prefers to be called "**Peter**". He and Eugene Alvarado comprise the cleaning staff.



Pets of the Month



by Bisa Louvic

Bootz



CPooh



More than five years ago, my son, George, and I adopted from the Toronto Humane Society a big, fuzzy cat named Bootz, the Maine Coon breed. He's an amazing guy with whom we proudly earned our "McD's" (Doctorates of Maine Coon). Some words to describe him are: goofy, loving, sweet, cuddly, loud, friendly, demanding of attention, and family-oriented, among others. From the large feet with tufts of fur coming out of them, equally large and wide ears, shaggy coat in its many colors, awesome size, round green eyes, and magnificent—full, long, and heavy—tail, there was so much to see! Despite a slow uptake with scratching post training (we both have the scars to prove it), constant shedding, and

neighbour-testing loud meowing, we fell madly in love with Bootz and the breed.

As for the breed, it's generally regarded as a native of the state of Maine, but the wide-spread belief is that it originated from mating between semi-wild, domestic cats and raccoons. This myth, encouraged by the bushy tail and the most common coloring—a raccoon-like brown tabby—led to the adoption of the name 'Maine Coon.'

Inquisitive, laid-back, and friendly Bootz behaves much like a dog: follows George every morning up to the elevator when he goes off to school, enjoys a good romp in the morning and evening, then takes it easy for the rest of the day. He has to know everything George does and is always in the middle of all of the actions around the house. He possesses one of the fastest tempers of any cat we've ever known, right from the get-go. But here we all are, five additional pounds and more than five years later, and we couldn't love him any more even if we tried. (And believe me, it has been trying at times.) In fact, I'm still sure he's the Maine Coon that I'll remember most fondly, when all is said and done, specifically because all our successes with this complicated fellow have been so hard-won.

Over all those years we received numerous "Maine Coon Needs Forever Home!" e-mails. But as much as we were moved and tempted—and what with Maine Coon being Maine Coon (read: a handful)—we always did what we could to spread the word, but continued to maintain a strict we're-a-one-cat-household policy. And then came word of CPooh.

CPooh settled in fabulously and certainly well beyond all of our wildest expectations. Sure, she was very shy and passive at first, but she's more than come into her own, meowing in protest when she doesn't get her way and confidently telling Bootz off when he gets too adamant about his "boundaries". Though there's been a totally expected skirmish or two, I'm thrilled to report that Bootz has also been more patient and generous than I ever dared imagine possible! We couldn't be happier with our decision to finally make a little extra room in our family for sweet, "little" (well, vs. Bootz, anyway) CPooh. And we very much look forward to lots of learning, laughter, and joy with her and her new big brother in the years ahead.



IN MEMORIAM



Photograph courtesy of Eva Kato

Jean Walker, RIP 1926 - 2014

Jean was one of the "original" owners and residents at 40 Homewood. She passed away on May 7, and a celebration of her life on May 12 was well-attended. She was a leading spirit in developing and maintaining the sense of community which still exists at 40 Homewood. Jean was also the driving force in getting our building into recycling, long before the advent of "green bins," etc.

Here is her edited article from the April 2012 Newsletter about the beginnings of 40 Homewood.

Growing with 40 Homewood: We Cared, We Conquered

by Jean Walker

How exciting it was 40 years ago to actually move into my very own "home" — one that I bought — one that was all mine! Along with several other people in the same situation, I had moved into a new community that had not existed before

(even while the building was still partly under construction!).

It didn't take long to realize I was not only responsible for my own apartment, but I was responsible to share my talents and skills with others to make a successful new community.

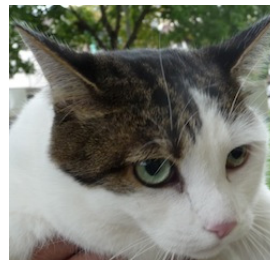
Because of the condominium concept, the shared ownership of "common elements" meant that they were cheaper to maintain than if each individual had their own, such as with a house.

Being the first adventurers meant that there were no established rules. We had to make our own.

The then-owners, Meridian Developments, offered help, and we grew from there. We had many enthusiastic and talented volunteers.

After we were officially recognized as a "corporation" — as 40 Homewood YCC 75 — in late 1972, we soon elected five directors (very responsible and dependable and enthusiastic) to organize the rest of us.

With every owner taking responsibility for being a part of the whole, we did indeed become a wonderful community.



Spotty Wisdom

This month Spotty says:

Love to know, love to learn,
but beware of what you learn





Don's Movies For June

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

Friday, June 6

TO HELL AND BACK (1955)
starring Audie Murphy

Thursday, June 12

MURIEL'S WEDDING (1996)
Toni Collette, Rachel Griffiths

Friday, June 13

**FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL
(1993)**
Hugh Grant, Andie MacDowell,

Friday, June 20

BLUEBEARD'S EIGHTH WIFE (1938)
Gary Cooper, Claudette Colbert,
David Niven

Thursday, June 26

MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING (1997)
Julia Roberts, Cameron Diaz,
Rupert Everett

Friday, June 27

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (2000)
Cate Blanchett, Julianne Moore,
Minnie Driver, Rupert Everett



Thievery And Vandalism Harm Us And Inconvenience All of Us

Some residents may have noticed the kitchen in the Recreation Room is now locked. This is because someone left both the oven and the stove burners on. What is carelessness or what is vandalism?

The Recreation Room also had a great recycling poster (framed and glassed) which hung over the waste bins. **Stolen.**

For a few months, newsletters were placed not just in the mailroom and the Meeting Room but also in a tray on the lobby desk. Tray **stolen.**

By law, we have to have a telephone in the pool room in case of emergency. **Stolen.** The replacement has also been **stolen.**

The B1 men's washroom was left in a nasty mess. A definite instance of vandalism. Do we now have to lock it overnight?

A Sony VCR was **stolen** from the Recreation Room. A machine of inferior quality was left in its place. **Stolen** and then "replaced"?

The building has 64 cameras but they don't see into every little corner. And if something isn't noticed for a few days, it takes many hours of watching tape to find who's responsible.

Building management and staff are being extra-vigilant and we're asking all residents to do the same. Keep your eyes open, too! We will get to the bottom of this and take appropriate measures.



Drain Those Drains!

by Arlene Adair

A sluggish or clogged drain is a nuisance in all our domestic worlds. When encountered, most people deal with the problem by reaching for Drano or similar clog-busting products. For good reason, these are clearly labelled with warnings of potential danger both personally and for the environment.

There is a better way: Pour $\frac{1}{4}$ to a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of baking soda into the drain. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup to 1 cup white vinegar. This will start a huge fizzing reaction. Wait about 15 minutes, then pour a kettle of boiling water down the drain. This can be repeated if your clog is a nasty one but a better idea is to practice prevention. Add this routine to your housework chores and your drains will be stay clean and fresh.

Annual Fire Inspection

In the first week of June (watch for exact dates), the Annual Fire Inspection will be conducted by Trace Company.

Each unit will be entered to test the smoke alarm. Do check your smoke alarm before then and, if necessary, replace the battery — or the alarm itself.

When the inspectors come, they will note those units lacking a functioning smoke alarm and there will be a follow up visit a bit later by the Fire Department to assure these have been rectified.



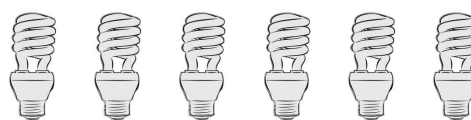
Toxic To Your Health

The City of Toronto's waste disposal system has an important category called "Household Hazardous Waste." At 40 Homewood, we have been collecting and disposing properly of four categories of that: paint, fluorescent bulbs (regular and compact), pesticides and batteries.

The Board of Directors has approved the Green Committee's recommendation that a wider range of hazardous waste be collected separate from the regular garbage, the blue bin recycling and the green bin compost. These additional items, including make-up and household cleaners, will be combined with pesticides in a group called "other toxic wastes."

These will be picked up and delivered to the proper depot by the City's "toxic taxi."

Stay tuned for further details from the Green Committee on the specifics of handling this.





UPDATE ON LANDSCAPING

by Timothy Oakes

As many of you have no doubt noticed, our grounds are not looking their best these days.

A combination of factors has led to this state. Last summer was unusually wet and most of our annuals literally drowned. Coupled with a long and bitterly cold winter, many of the trees, shrubs, rosebushes and bulbs have been badly damaged or destroyed.

The Board is also seeking a more competitively priced landscaper than the one we have been using.

We are still on track to complete most of Phase 4 of our five-year landscaping plan, with some modifications due to the additional cost of replacing the plant life that did not survive. The 5-Year Planning Committee will be reassessing the project and advising the Board for the upcoming year on how best to proceed.

All will be pleased to know that we have contracted with the company that maintains our lawns to take over the landscaping project. This will begin with the removal and replacement of all of the dead plants. Twenty cubic yards of topsoil is being delivered and work is

scheduled to begin on or about May 28th.

Annuals will be planted in all of the beds and in the fall, they will be removed and the beds prepped for winter and planted with bulbs for next spring.

The Board has also directed the Property Manager to hire a groundskeeper for 2 to 4 hours per week to maintain the gardens.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this process. The Board has been hard at work over the past several weeks getting everything in place. We hope you will be pleased with the results.



Questions to the Board or Management

Question: Will there be some determination soon about the specifications of **washers and dryers** in units that will be allowed?

Answer: Yes. The Board and Management have an assessment begun with a master plumber looking at the plumbing requirements and how they would translate into appliances that might be safe for use in our building with its 1971 plumbing. Stay tuned for the outcomes.

Question: Car **parking** is \$90 per month for residents and \$10 per night for visitors. What are the prices for motorcycles, scooters and e-bikes?

Answer: Motorcycles, scooters and e-bikes parked in the underground parking are charged \$25 per month.

Question: We see the ceiling has been removed from the **women's sauna** and change room to fix the leak(s). When will this work be finished? It has been going on a long time.

Answer: The source(s) of the leak(s) has/have not been discovered. Further tests will be done to find the source. The ceiling will not be repaired until the source of the water leaks is clear. It would make little sense to replace the ceiling before being sure where the problem originates. For those who are inconvenienced in the meantime, the Board and Management offer apologies.

Question: What is the progress on the **elevator** modernization?

Answer: As of May 26th, Elevator #3 is completed, but we are awaiting the safety inspection by the government. When safety certification is received, the elevator will be in use, and Direct Elevator will begin work on Elevator #4.

Question: When will there be wheelchair and walker accessibility to the **BBQ patio**?

Answer: Sliding glass doors with an appropriate ramping will be installed soon from the recreation room to the patio. A gate has been set up just outside the back entrance through which residents may enter the patio levels and then walk down the steps to the BBQ patio level. This route may be used to get to that patio when the recreation room is in use for a private

party. Those with mobility issues may walk through the recreation room.

Question: Will there be additional **security** during World Pride during the last week of June?

Answer: Yes. Much of that week we will have two security guards on duty so that one may stay at the lobby desk and the other may patrol the building and grounds.

Question: The media has been buzzing about **lead** in Toronto's tap water. What is our situation?

Answer: When built in 1971, this building had lead pipes. They were replaced with copper pipes in 1976 (via a special assessment). Three or four years ago, the water pipes under Homewood Avenue were replaced as part of the City's multi-year plan. Our building's water is inspected on a monthly basis by the City. Please drink tap water instead of filling landfills with plastic water bottles!

Provincial



Election Day



June 12. 2014

Quiz on Energy

Taken from Earth Hour Canada website.

Questions

1. Which household appliance uses the most energy?

- A. Refrigerator
- B. Toaster
- C. Dishwasher
- D. Washing machine

2. What country has the greatest number of coal-powered generators?

- A. Canada
- B. Russia
- C. U.S.A.
- D. China

3. "Phantom carriers" is a term used for electronic devices that:

- A. Move from room to room
- B. Continue to consume electricity even when switched off
- C. Are really expensive
- D. Are energy efficient

4. What percentage do heating costs rise by for every degree above 20°C that you set your household thermostat in the winter?

- A. 2%
- B. 4%
- C. 5%
- D. 7%

5. Your residential water heater uses what percent of your home's energy and produces approximately two tonnes of carbon dioxide annually:

- A. 5%
- B. 10%
- C. 15%
- D. 20%

6. Recycling 1,000 kg of aluminum saves enough energy to heat a/an _____ for 10 years.

- A. Typical home
- B. Elementary school
- C. Corner store

D. Restaurant

7. What household appliance uses the second most amount of energy?

- A. Hair dryer
- B. Clothes dryer
- C. Microwave
- D. Computer

8. What is the most energy efficient cycle to wash and rinse your clothes on?

- A. Cold-cold
- B. Warm-cold
- C. Hot-cold
- D. Warm-cold

9. The average Canadian home is illuminated by _____ light bulbs:

- A. 31
- B. 41
- C. 51
- D. 61

10. Which energy source produces the greatest amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide?

- A. Natural gas
- B. Nuclear
- C. Oil
- D. Coal

11. What type of sector uses the greatest amount of electricity?

- A. Commercial and industrial
- B. Restaurant and fast food
- C. Residential
- D. Institutional



ENVIRONMENTAL BOOKS

The Green Committee would like to expand its environmental books section in the B1 library. If you have any books on the environment, ecology, pollution, recycling etc. and would like to share them, please contact the Green Committee at 40hgreencommittee@gmail.com or drop them off at the library or Management Office. Unless historical, we are generally looking for books written after 2008. This would be very much appreciated.

Green Committee Movie

On Tuesday, May 20th the 40 Homewood Green Committee showed Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. The 2007 PBS documentary tells the story of Rachel Carson, a fearless champion for the environment. Her 1962 best-seller, *Silent Spring*, warned about the effects of pesticides and herbicides - especially DDT. Over the next 4 years she faced character assassinations, was called a communist and was thoroughly denounced by the chemical industry and government organizations. Her credibility as a scientist was attacked, and she was derided as "hysterical," despite her fact-based assertions and calm and scholarly demeanor. Nevertheless, President Kennedy convened a committee to review the evidence that Carson presented. DDT was finally banned in the U.S. in 1972 and phased out in Canada by the mid-1970s. It has been said that *Silent Spring* sparked a revolution in environmental policy and created a new ecological consciousness. Those present found the

movie to be both highly informative and entertaining.

Coincidentally, on Tuesday, May 27th, Google featured Rachel Carson as its Doodle of the Day in recognition of the 107th anniversary of her birth.



Quiz on Energy

Answers

- 1. A** — Refrigerators use about 11% of household's total energy consumption. Take Action: Buy Energy Star endorsed refrigerators, which will use less energy and save you money. Also, make sure your refrigerator is set to optimal energy-use temperatures (between 2°C and 3°C).
- 2. D** — China requires a great deal of energy to power their rapidly developing economy. Unfortunately, burning coal causes pollution.
- 3. B** — "Phantom carriers" are products that draw power 24 hours a day. Appliances that have a clock or programming displays, such as coffee makers, DVD players, computers, printers and stereos, are considered phantom load carriers. 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off. Take Action: Unplug electrical appliances and equipment when you leave the room, or use a power bar that connects all of these units and then simply switch the bar off.
- 4. C** — Don't overheat your home in the winter. Put on a sweater and dress

accordingly in order to save money and to use less energy.

5. C Take Action: Turn down the thermostat on your water heater to reduce energy consumption. Often the level is set unnecessarily high for regular use. If you go on holiday or away for a long period of time, you can turn off the heater since the water does not need to be constantly heated when no one is home to use it.

6. A — Recycling 1,000 kg of aluminum saves the equivalent of 10,000 L of gasoline.

7. B Take Action: Whenever possible air-dry your laundry. You can use an outdoor clothes line or purchase a drying rack to use indoors. Air drying can save \$85 in energy costs per year and help reduce your impact on the environment.

8. A Take Action: Use cold water to wash your clothes. If every household in Canada did this, it would reduce approximately 1.5 billion kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions yearly.

9. B Take Action: Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), which use much less energy than incandescent bulbs; thus, saving you money.

10. D — Gases emitted from coal burning plants contribute to acid rain and global warming.

11. A — The commercial sector uses almost 70% of all electricity produced. Take Action: When at home or at work, make sure to turn off lights, computers and other energy-consuming equipment when not in use.

A little boy went up to his father and asked: "Dad, where did all of my intelligence come from?" The father replied: "Well, son, you must have gotten it from your mother, 'cause I still have mine."



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

YARD SALE
Saturday, July 5th, 2014

BBQ
Saturday, August 9th, 2014

HOLIDAY DINNER
Sunday, December 7th, 2014

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 11th, 2014
7:00 pm

**Quorum Needed: please
attend or submit your
proxy**

Message from son to dad.
"Having fun, no mon. your son."
Message from dad to son
"Too bad, so sad, your dad."



"Good Eats, Cheap Eats, Sweet Spots"

by Cammy Lee-
Bostwick

Hello Folks!

With spring in the air, sun shining and warm climes on the way, this month's sweet spot and good eat is a little outside of our 'hood.

Spoiler Alert: it's VEGAN

If you watch John Catucci on Food Network's "You Gotta Eat Here", then you may be interested to know that he went to **Hogtown Vegan**, 834 Bloor Street West, just west of Shaw. Due to the construction on Bloor, this place is a bit hard to get to in rush hour, but I recommend going shortly after it opens at noon to avoid traffic. Besides me, there were only 2 other patrons. The decor is quite rustic with dark floors and walls painted a teal blue.

I had googled this place, and seen the Food Network episode, so it was with great anticipation that I ordered the "Southern Combo" for \$14.

It came with 3 breaded fried soy 'chicken' strips, mac n' cheese, and collard greens sauteed in garlic, with a side of their house-made bbq sauce. The mac n' cheese, though described on the menu as 'the best', was a little too salty for me. Maybe it's because it isn't real cheese, but there was a strong taste in it that I wasn't too fond of. Collard greens were nicely wilted and tender, and the aroma of garlic really pleasing, however, a bit too much garlic.

The star of the plate, hands down, was the 'unchicken' strips. It actually looks like fried chicken online, and in reality, it did not disappoint. I haven't had this kind of soy product and didn't know what to expect,

but the consistency was so close to a chicken tender, I was really impressed. And the breading was exactly what you look for in fried chicken: crispy, flavourful, not too greasy. They are *that* good that I would overlook the rest. Sadly, I tried the bbq sauce after the fact, but it was a really nice blend of hickory and spice, but not too hot at all. I notice there are 'unchicken' wings on the menu...I'm sure this sauce would be ideal for dipping. There is so much on the menu that I know I will go back to experience more such as: shitake fried 'clams', 'peppersteak' and dumplings, poutine...

A gluten-free option is also available at an extra \$2.

I went on a particularly quiet day, and the nice waitress explained that usually the place is a lot busier, with line-ups out the door at dinner time. So I suggest going shortly after it opens or between meal times. Check out the pic! It looks exactly like the ones online.



Newsletter Editorial Committee

Jeffrey Amos

Bruce Demara

Charles Marker

Martha McGrath

newsletter40homewood@gmail.com
