



HOMewood

Community Newsletter

January, 2015



January 1, 2015

Merry Christmas – January 7th,
2015 to all of you who follow the
Eastern Orthodox Church.



Newsletter Committee

Is there anyone
out there who
would like to join
the Newsletter

Committee? We need some more
people on the committee and of
course, residents are encouraged to
submit articles at any time.



Christmas Tree Disposal

Some residents will have natural ("real")
Christmas trees for the festive season.

After January 1, the office will call our
pickup company, Miller Waste, and we'll
get a date for tree pickup. Watch bulletin
boards and channel 13 for
announcement of the date. They will not
pick up trees with plastic bags or tree
bags. Please remove all decorations,
tinsel, stands and nails. Place your tree in
time for the pickup just north of the
garbage shed (not in it, just outside it).



Recycling Hint



IMPORTANT

No plastic bags in the
recycling bins please





"Good Eats, Cheap Eats, Sweet Spots"

by Cammy Lee-Bostwick

Happy New Year Everyone!

It would seem fitting that in keeping with the festive mood, I will review our own lovely annual Christmas dinner catered as it had been for a few years now, by "Absolutely Famished" on December 7th.

First off, here's what I had: mixed green and Caesar salad, roasted root vegetables, green beans and baby carrots, baked salmon encrusted with rosti potato, stuffing, gravy, mashed turnip and potato, and quinoa. No, I purposely did NOT eat anything all day, saving up my belly for this. All in all, a very traditional spread, exactly what the occasion calls for. In particular, the roasted root vegetables with their assortment of brussels sprouts, acorn squash, celery root and more, was the epitome of 'comfort food' roasted perfectly to a doneness that is soft enough to effortlessly chew yet still with a touch of firmness. Having said that, the green beans and carrots were a bit hard, and could have used a longer cooking time, but that's just me. The salmon (which is easily overcooked and

dry) was buttery and superbly done, with the rosti potato topping adding a crispy texture. The mashed turnip with a hint of cinnamon was interesting, some really liking it but I guess when it comes to this, I'm a bit of a purist and could have done without the spice. However, there is something about mashed potato, stuffing and gravy that just makes a festive meal complete, isn't there? And these did not disappoint.

The turkey breast looked moist and I was told it was very tender. It may come as a surprise to some of you that I do not eat meat (I am what I would call, a 'reluctant vegetarian'...except for seafood, but more on that another time). Nonetheless, I can eat gravy which was especially lucky for me, and being the 'gravy hog' that I am, drowned my plate in the stuff; I think most everything tastes better with gravy.

After a little break Brent got us some dessert (after all the above, I couldn't really move): a selection of sweets like dollies - coconut, chocolate morsels of goodness, and a variety of cookies. All this was washed down with a couple of glasses of vino: it was a lovely finish.

It needs to be said that what makes these dinners is so much more than the food; I've been coming to these get-togethers for years now, seeing them more as a way to get to know my neighbours than as a chance not to cook nor clean. It is the people who make these dinners entertaining and memorable. Although this column is about food, I never walk away from these times remembering so much what I ate, and what I think about it, as much as who I sat with, the conversations we had and the catching up I did with my wonderful neighbours who, really are what make 40 Homewood the special

place it is. People are often surprised when I tell them that in the biggest city in the country, I happen to know most everyone on my floor by first name. This is very unique.

So to close, a final word definitely needs to be said about the social committee and volunteers (you all know who you are, and I'm not naming names as I wouldn't want to exclude anyone) for without you, none of this would happen, so a big big heartfelt thank you to you all, for yet another year, Bravo!

Note from the Editor: Super review, Cammy, thank you but I think personal thanks are warranted.



Holiday Buffet Dinner

Thank you once again to the Social Committee for a wonderful event.

Social Committee Volunteers:

Martha MacLachlan
Felix Almeida
Tammy House
Helen Knight
Kevin Kirk
Don Sangster
Brian Brenie – Board Rep on Social Committee

The other volunteers:

Christine Leask
Mary Oakley
Janet Baker
Sarah MacLachlan
Jeffrey Amos
Don MacNair
Angus MacDougall

Also Don and Angus donated the very large Xmas tree with 1,000 lights – they set it up for us on the Saturday and they also helped put everything away on Sunday

And of course Bill McGuire who always supervises our Green Disposal. It is appreciated.

Don McNeill put up the wonderful installation of photos taken from his balcony, including lightning bouncing off the CN Tower.

It also goes without saying that we are always appreciative of the help of the management office who sold the tickets for us. Thanks Erica & Donald.

From the Mouths of Babes



The TV game show was really close. One contestant was asked to name 2 of Santa's reindeer. The contestant gave a sigh thinking that he had finally been given an easy question, "Rudolph and Olive!"

The host asked the contestant, "We'll accept Rudolph but can you explain Olive?"

The boy looked at the host and said, "You know, 'Olive,' the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names

Made any New Year's resolutions??

Don's Movies For January

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

Friday, January 2

GRAVITY (2013)

Sandra Bullock, George Clooney

Thursday, January 8

THE UNTOUCHABLES (1987)

Kevin Costner, Sean Connery, Robert DeNiro

Friday, January 9

LAST VEGAS (2013)

Michael Douglas, Robert DeNiro, Kevin Kline

Thursday, January 15

MY FAVORITE WIFE (1940)

Cary Grant, Irene Dunne

Friday, January 16

THE BACHELOR AND THE BOBBY-SOXER

(1947)

Cary Grant, Myrna Loy, Shirley Temple

Thursday, January 22

ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (1938)

Errol Flynn, Olivia DeHavilland

Friday, January 23

ROBIN AND THE 7 HOODS (1964)

Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin,

Sammy Davis Jr, Bing Crosby

Thursday, January 29

NEVER BEEN KISSED (1999)

Drew Barrymore, David Arquette

Friday, January 30

KISS OF DEATH (2010)

Nicolas Cage, David Caruso, Helen Hu



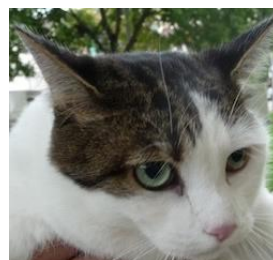
New Year Clothing Drive

The Green Committee has a winter clothing drive in the works. The date has not been set yet. Keep in mind when you're cleaning out your closet.

A truck from the Clothesline Program of the Canadian Diabetes Association will be at our back entrance

They are looking for "gently used" clothing, household items and electronics. With electronics, these should be items that still work; electronic items that no longer work may be put in our e-waste, the electronic waste bins in the Recycling Room.

Stay tuned and watch the bulletin boards for further info such as date and times.



Spotty Wisdom

This month he
says:

It is said that "He who seeks wisdom while stuck in material desires, will only fool himself",



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Residents of YCC75

As 2014 closes and 2015 begins, I want to say a special thank you to all the hardworking staff and volunteers who make this building our home.

In 2014 we implemented a number of improvements including the elevator modernization project (coming to an end soon), converting the pool to salt water, more accessible doors to a number of entranceways, improved lighting in the laundry room and the new energy saving lights in visitors' parking, improved patio access and free wi-fi courtesy of Esuite in the public areas. All of these took many dedicated hours of discussion and planning.

Considering all of these improvements you might think we would be running a budget deficit but I believe we will end the year in surplus allowing us to start the elevator project for B3 lockers in 2015.

In 2015 we hope to complete a facelift to the B1 level as this is what our guests first see when they come into the building through the garage and we want to leave them with a good impression. We hope to complete this project before the next AGM, along with the much anticipated B3 elevator.

Our Management, Board of Directors and Staff have all contributed to maintaining and improving this unique community we are proud to call home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for

your continuing support and encouragement.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Management, Staff and Volunteers, I wish you happiness and health in the New Year,

Yours truly,

Brian Brenie
President of the Board
40 Homewood Board of Directors

Smoke Alarms



The first of the year is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.

That's Not My Job

This is a story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**.

There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have.

Q & A

Questions to the Board or Management

Question: What is the reason for the pictures recently hung in the Recreation Room?

Answer: For the past year, the Special Projects Committee has been going through a bunch of very dusty and disorganized boxes of architectural drawings for the building, to sort them and catalogue them. Along the way, it was discovered that many of them were in very bad shape, and there were duplicate copies of a lot of them. Since there was no artwork decorating the walls of the Recreation Room, the committee asked the Board, and got approval, to frame several of the original drawings to preserve them and give residents some historical perspective of the building in the way of art. Please feel free to drop by the Recreation Room and have a look at the three framed renderings.

Question: Has the accessible ramp been completed to access the patio and BBQ area?

Answer: The doorway has been widened and the new doors have been installed. The concrete for the ramps both inside and out have been poured. We have contracted for railings to be made and once they are installed, we will put in place the mechanism for operating the door electronically. After all of the mechanicals are in place, we will install floor covering over the concrete ramps to complete the project.

Question: Why were the doors replaced to the office and the Recreation Room?

Answer: These doors were replaced as part of the improvement of the 1B level. The Board wanted the doorways to both of these spaces to be more welcoming and to allow some light into the hallway. We had originally planned for doors with blinds in between the glass that could be closed or opened, but these doors did not meet the current fire safety code. The glass in the new doors is tempered and reinforced to meet fire code and is frosted for privacy.

Question: What happened with the lighting of trees out front as part of the Christmas decorations?

Answer: The company we were negotiating with nearly doubled their price once we were ready to proceed and the Board felt that that kind of money could be much better put to use elsewhere. We will look into this project again for next Christmas season.



No Pet of the Month for
January



Mini-Reviews

By A.C. Burr-Meade

The Academy Award nominations will be out in mid-January, a timely reminder of all the great films in 2014 that you may not have gotten a chance to see. Some films that have come and gone will almost certainly return for a short engagement, especially if they get a significant number of nominations.

If you're like me, you enjoy the Oscars so much more when you've seen some, most or all the films on the list.

(By the way, I'd advise true film lovers to pay little attention to the Golden Globes, which has already announced its nominations. The so-called Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which allegedly makes those nominations, is not a legitimate organization. It has fewer than 100 members and few if any of them are actual working movie reviewers. When the association conferred three nominations a few years back for *The Tourist*, an egregiously bad film, it exposed the organization for what it truly is: a bad joke.)

Anyway, here's a list of some films worth seeing in the weeks ahead, many of which are in theatres now, and well worth seeing.

The Imitation Game stars British actor Benedict Cumberbatch, so great as the modern day detective in the television series, *Sherlock*, as Alan Turing, the man who led the effort to break the German's supposedly unbreakable Enigma code, which helped the Allies win the Second World War. Cumberbatch is sure to be nominated and the film is surprisingly suspenseful (since we already know how it turns out).

The Theory of Everything is another biopic about another great Brit, theoretical physicist

Stephen Hawking, played by another fine British actor, Eddie Redmayne. Again, a best actor nomination is virtually assured.

The Grand Budapest Hotel is likely to pick up a nomination for visual effects because it's just so wonderfully interesting to watch. It's the work of a very idiosyncratic director, Wes Anderson, who also co-wrote it. It's not going to be everyone's cup of tea because it's so utterly original but it's well worth the effort to see this whimsical gem, especially if one likes Anderson's previous work.

Wild is likely to garner a best actress nomination for Reese Witherspoon, who's already won one for playing June Carter Cash in *Walk the Line* (2005). This film, in which she plays a real-life woman who goes a life-altering journey along the Pacific Crest Trail, is a much better display of her talents. The film is directed by Jean-Marc Vallée, one of the new generation of Quebecois filmmakers who are making their mark on cinema outside la belle province.

Nightcrawler is almost certain to earn a best actor for Jake Gyllenhaal as a creepy guy who becomes a freelance cameraman for a nightly news program. It's a very unsettling performance and the film has something important to say about our voyeuristic culture.

Among the likely nominees for best foreign language is **Force Majeure**, a slightly dark comedy about a family man who's forced to confront some uncomfortable truths about himself during a family vacation in the Alps.

One film that was recently dropped from the foreign language short list is from another Quebecois director, wunderkind Xavier Dolan. It's called **Mommy** and it follows the troubled relationship of a widow and her teenage son, who has major behavioural issues. The actors are superb and the ending is shattering. Definitely worth seeing.

Into the Woods probably won't get much Oscar love but if this film, based on the original Broadway musical courtesy of Stephen Sondheim, has some lovely performances from Meryl Streep among others. It's a film that ought to be shared between younger and older generations.



10 EASY ECO- FRIENDLY 2015 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

1. Take part in the Green Committee's semi-annual clothing drive. Don't throw out your old clothing. Donate it to the Canadian Diabetes Association. In Jan. and Sept. the Green Committee arranges for a truck to arrive at the back door to pick up "gently used" clothing, household items and electronics. The next date will be announced soon.

2. Check your windows. If you have any sliding windows that jiggle, let the office know. Someone will change the seal for you – no charge.

3. Test your toilet! Put food colouring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you're leaking water *and* money. Check the 40 Homewood website for lower cost plumbers or handymen or ask in the management office.

4. Put less in the garbage and more in the Blue and Green bins. Take 5 minutes to look over your green and blue bin recycle sheets and the 2015 Recycling Calendar recently sent from the City of Toronto. There may a few items you didn't know were recyclable.

5. Change at least one bulb to a CFL this month, (f you still use incandescent bulbs). You'd be surprised at much we'd save if we all used CFLs.

6. Wash your clothes in cold water and buy a 'clothes horse' for the bathtub. Wash your clothes in the laundry room with cold water. Take them up to your unit and hang them to dry. This will save you \$ and 40 Homewood \$ in gas and electricity *and* your clothes will last longer. *Canadian Tire and Home Hardware usually have them on sale for under \$20.00*

8. Change your printer setting to 2-sided.

9. Switch to e-billing for your monthly bills and statements. (VISA, MC, phone, banking etc.)

10. Flatten all of your recycles – at least a bit, when possible. We don't pay for recycling but we do pay for garbage. There are times when the Blue bins are full and so residents place their recyclables in the garbage. If we all just crush our recyclables a little we'll have a lot more room.



A smile costs
nothing but
gives much.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

Newsletter Editorial Committee
Bruce DeMara
Martha McGrath
Timothy Oakes
newsletter40homewood@gmail.com

