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What's in a Name?

by Connie Dilley

After almost 50 years, we say goodbye to our old Rec Room downstairs. The Board wishes to re-baptize this room as our Party Room, apparently because that's what new condos call their large rooms.

Recreation is what the room had been used for. Over the years, there have been tai chi classes, movie evenings and slide shows. There are people who go down to play the piano and others who like a game of billiards. Some use the room for painting classes, and some for light exercise. The bridge club met there and the art and crafts show was held there.

I grant you, it's also used for parties, like our grand Holiday Dinner, and people rent it privately to throw their own parties. On a more sober note, we've had many a memorial afternoon to think of lives well lived by residents who have died.

I think the multipurpose uses of this room range far beyond the narrow definition of Party Room. Many of these activities are more meaningful, in my opinion, than just the fun of a party. The name Rec Room reflected the history and tradition of 40 Homewood – its vibe, if you will. But out with the old, in with the new. Welcome to our new Party Room.



The room, after of two days of decorating by the Social Committee, and shortly before 110 jolly folks came to celebrate the holidays together on December first, 2019. (PHOTO: KEVIN KIRK)

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Newsletter Committee!

We've been busy over the holidays, but we resolved to get this mini-issue ready for January. We'll be back with a full edition next month... **and, as always, we love to hear from you!**

January First, IN HISTORY



January is named after the Roman god of doors, Janus, because this month is the door to the year. Janus represents all beginnings and possesses the ability to see all things past and future.

January 1, 1502

Portuguese explorers landed at Guanabara Bay on the coast of South America and named it Rio de Janeiro (River of January).

January 1, 1801

Ireland was added to Great Britain by an Act of Union, creating the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

January 1, 1892

Ellis Island in New York Harbor opened. Over 20 million new arrivals to America were processed until its closing in 1954.



Questions & Answers • TO AND FROM • the Board & Management

prepared by Brian Brenie

Q: Why aren't the security people friendlier when I walk in the lobby?

A: When at their desk, security has to be attentive to many things. They could be watching the numerous cameras protecting our homes or they might be completing paperwork regarding parcels that have just arrived or picked up. They might be filling out a report or completing a post inspection report for a rental of the party room. When they are not busy with these things they are usually very friendly and engaging. The board is satisfied with the service they give us and we apologize if they sometimes are busy doing other things when residents walk through the front door.

Q: I understand there are changes to the Party Room agreement since the renovations. Can you update me?

A: For January 1st, 2020 the board has approved the party room rental fee of \$100 per rental. Additionally, a \$500 damage deposit must be left by cheque to cover potential damage that may occur. Booking the room is to be done through Building Link and the payment and deposit must be made within seven days of the booked event. (In 2020 we will explore the possibility to place the deposit and pay the rental fee through credit or debit cards.) Please coordinate your payments with building security for your event as building security is responsible for doing a pre-event inspection and a post-event inspection which must be signed off by the renter and security personnel. The space can only be reserved and rented by residents and only one rental event per day is possible. Free guest parking is available until 1am in the building. The room has ta-

bles and chairs that can seat over 100 people and we have improved the television and sound system in the space. Events must end by 1 am and the room must be left in a clean state after each rental before building security can sign off on the room's condition. Please read the terms and conditions related to the room rental before filling out your request. Building Link has a blank rental agreement and terms and conditions for viewing room. Please see security to be shown how to connect to the sound system for your event to ensure you know what plugs you might need to connect properly.

OFFICE REMINDERS

A key audit is being done by the office during November and December. Please make sure they have a copy of all your keys.

All weather stripping will be removed around unit doors by staff early in 2020

Q: The budget contained a line with charges related to garbage rebate – what is that about?

A: This line item is a carryover from when the city did offer a partial garbage rebate. Our accountant advises that this no longer exists for apartments and condos and we regret including this line item in the 2020 budget. No charges will be applied to this line in 2020.

Q: How do I know when a parcel arrives for me?

A; As soon as a parcel arrives and building security is ready to put it in the storage closet they scan the unit number on the delivery label and Building Link will pull up the resident's unit and name in the Building Link system. Your profile in Building Link should include instructions on how to notify you of parcels. Building Link will either send out a text or email to you notifying you of your parcel's arrival on-site. If you have two or more residents residing in one unit please ensure each person's Building Link profile allows others to pick up your parcels for you. You can specify this in the notes section of your Building Link profile.

Reflections...

by Martha MacLachlan

Our 40 Homewood Community celebrated the Christmas Season and the end of a year filled with change and improvements to our building and surrounding grounds, with 110 residents and friends attending our annual Holiday dinner. David and Gabriel of Absolutely Famished provided the dinner, Chris Harvey, a resident, provided the live music.

Our newly renovated recreation room – now christened the Party Room – dazzled all, with new floors, new furniture, great new lighting and a truly modern and functional kitchen. Residents will certainly host many events in the party room during the coming year, in a room they can be proud of.

Following the two years of window installation, necessitating some neglect of the outside grounds, Fedak, our landscaper, replenished our gardens with truckloads of new soil and abundant planting. A new border of rocks along the walkway resolved the problem of water pooling by the walkway and drowning the grass.

Pride of place is abounding with yet more improvements in 2020. All of what has been done and will be done only happens because of the strong sense of community and volunteerism at 40 Homewood. This starts with the board members. Each and every board member volunteers their time and energy to the continued financial health, infrastructure maintenance, and the upkeep and visual appeal of our building and, yes, our investments. It is a demanding position; it requires diligence and personal time. It is also a rewarding position, as each board member is proud of our building and takes pride in giving service to the community.

Service to the 40 Homewood community is further advanced by members of the Governing Documents Committee, the Green Committee, the Newsletter Committee, the Social Committee and the adjunct, silent but diligent, Library Committee. Members of these committees continually contribute to the greater good of 40 Homewood. Again, there

is no personal gain, other than the desire to give back to the community and increase the pride of place we all share.

Among this mix, there is a collection of individuals who volunteer to help out with projects like the installation of the pollinator garden, the decorating of the lobby and party rooms for Christmas, the packing up of all the books in the library prior to new floor installation, all without an affiliation with any particular committee, just a sense of service and giving back to the Club 40 community with no desire for personal recognition.

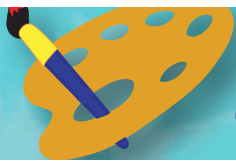
We're made up of a diverse mix of interested and talented individuals who call 40 Homewood home. We are all truly blessed to have made this building our home, and have its residents as our neighbours and friends.

Thank you to everyone for contributing to the greater good of 40 Homewood with your support for our collective efforts. Here's to 2020 and yet more improvements coming our way.

Photos from the Holiday Dinner, held December 1st

Left, the bar setup, and on the right, some of the people in attendance.





Brushes & Cocktails

by Donna Y

Happy New Year All! Welcome 2020 and all the new promise it holds. Last month we had our first paint night in the party room. It was a full house with five new comers who wanted to break out of their boxes for a change. I think we converted them to regulars.

All are welcome to Brushes & Cocktails Nights. We are a welcoming group who love

to share laughs together.

Congratulations to Pauline for winning painting of the night.

This year's program is going to be really exciting. The first, 'From This to That' will be done with tin foil, squirt bottles and combs...

& a little brush work too. Future dates are all on Wednesdays:

January 8th, February 5th, March 4th, April 8th, May 6th & June 10th

There will be posters in the laundry room, library and mail room with the dates and pictures.

Just a little note, my website will be down until very early in the new year. So tune in for the great and new unveiling of brushesandcocktails.ca My emails still work so no worries you can drop me a line anytime. If you want to be on our mailing list just e-mail: info@brushesandcocktails.ca



Wednesday
January 8th

'From This to That'

7:30 to 9:30 pm



RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT: reserve@brushesandcocktails.ca and please put '40 Homewood' in the message of the e-transfer, or let me know you are coming and pay \$25 at the door at 7pm. Wine is available by donation for \$4 a glass.

Your name doesn't have to be Picasso...Come Paint!

Green Committee News



The Green Committee wishes everyone at 40 Homewood a happy new year! We have big plans for 2020 and are seeking more volunteers to help residents with accessibility requirements. Please contact us at 40hgreencommittee@gmail.com for more information or to help. Become a 'Greenie on the Go' and help your neighbours in the new year!

We also regret to inform you the Gift Swap event on January 11th has been cancelled.

The Free Boutique is temporarily closed and will be reopened when the renovations are complete in the TV room.



“January is the calendar’s ingrown hair”

- Stewart Stafford