

Looking for Your Suggestions!

by Martha MacLachlan

What's missing from the roster of committees and the events currently being held at 40 Homewood? We are looking for ideas from you, what events you might envision that could be held in the building. The Social Committee met recently to set their schedule of events for the year 2020. The list drawn up included the traditional events: the Volunteer Appreciation Evening (February 22), the Yard Sale, the BBQ, the Fall Art and Crafts Exhibition and the Christmas Dinner. The Committee also sponsors the exercise classes currently being held in the building on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 am in the Party Room and the popular monthly Brushes and Cocktails evenings. But what else can we do was the question hanging over us. New ideas included:

Board Games Night – to be held in the lobby level meeting room – a monthly event with starting date not decided yet (here is where we need to know who is interested and who has board games)

Movie Night – to be held March 28th – featuring Bohemian Rhapsody (no ticket required)

Casino Night (tentative while we work out the costs) – to be held in April (ticketed event)

The Library Committee is a subset of the Social Committee and currently has three volunteers

who regularly drop into the library and shelve books as well as sorting through book donations that appear in the library. We need more people to keep up this good work, and it does not demand going to meetings or a big commitment of time.

A large, white speech bubble with a black outline and a tail pointing towards the bottom left. Inside the bubble, the text "What's missing from the table?" is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

What's missing from the table?

The Green Committee is always looking for volunteers. The committee puts together educational displays and presentations and meets monthly. They also adopt City of Toronto initiatives, participate in environmental audits and occasionally meet with other condominium corporations in search of new ideas (the Free Boutique is a result of one such meeting with another corporation).

The Gardening Committee is a subset of the Green and Social Committee and was formed to develop

the pollinator gardens at the back of the building. This work is completely volunteer driven and will begin again in the spring.

The Newsletter Committee

currently has a lay out designer, an assistant designer and an editor along with a few regular contributors. The committee is waiting for contributions from you.

The Governing Documents Committee

has a mandate to review our governing documents, to adopt clear writing principles and to review, edit, and include possible relevant new rules. Please let us know if, a) you are interested in the board games night, b) if you wish to feature a film, and /or if you are interested in screening films on a weekly or monthly basis, c) if there are other types of classes you would participate in if they were held in the building (for example salsa dance classes), d) you have an idea for other events that could be put on by the Social Committee, by contacting Martha MacLachlan at: martha.maclachlan@gmail.com or leave a note in the office for her. Your input and your participation are valued. Thank you for all you do, in every big or small way, in keeping with the community values so ingrained in the fabric of 40 Homewood Avenue.

We want to hear from you! Email us at: club40news@gmail.com

Updates

Updates from the fire department inspection:

The office will be inspecting each unit for the automatic door closure hinges so make sure you put them up. Also they will be inspecting for pvc piping. These pipes are okay for houses but against code for multi-dwelling buildings.

If you have weather stripping on your unit door frame the office will be removing the stripping. Save some time and let them know if your unit has any of these issues and help them resolve the problems.



Green Committee News

by Michael Csiki

do you want to compost but don't know how to get started? we want to hear from you!

The Green Committee is interested in learning more about the particular challenges residents are facing in regards to using the green composting bin in the Recycling Room. We want to improve the accessibility of the building's services to ensure everyone can participate



If you are a building resident who would like to divert your organic waste, but experience barriers to do so, we want to hear from you. If you're interested, please contact the Green Committee so we can follow up with you to devise some solutions.

The ground floor waste room currently has a white gallon pail reserved for residents who cannot access the door of the green bin. Reach us at 40hgreencommittee@gmail.com or leave a message in the office marked to the attention of the Green Committee.

Be sure to include your contact information, phone or email, so we can learn more.



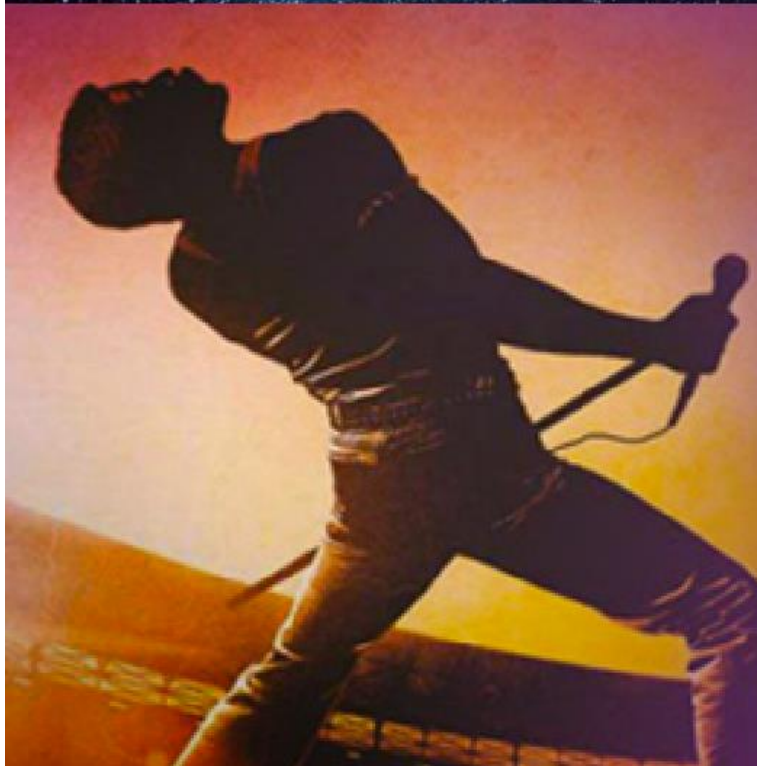
Parking passes have increased in the new year. Prices are \$15 at the security desk, and \$13 if you use the BuildingLink site on your computer. **This is not an option on the mobile app.** Please follow this link to reserve a parking pass online. <https://www.buildinglink.com/V2/Tenant/Home/DefaultNew.aspx>

This is a two-step process. First on the left of the screen, click on parking permits, put in the required information, then go to 'Payments' to pay online. **It's that easy, but remember: you cannot do this on the app.** If you do not have a computer then you must go through security.

The Newsletter is also available online with BuildingLink. Click on "My Building" then "Building library" to download the newsletters. Past issues are also available on this link. In addition, the office e-mails the Newsletter to residents if you request this service and get on their mailing list. Happy reading folks!

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday,
March 28th



The Social Committee will be screening

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

The story of the legendary British rock band Queen and lead singer Freddie Mercury, leading up to their famous performance at Live Aid in 1985.

Join us on Saturday, March 28th at 7 p.m. in the Party Room – this is a free event, and popcorn will be served. Wine and beer will be available ‘by donation’ to the Social Committee.

· sorry, no outside liquor is permitted at this event ·

With Thanks



A big thank you to the Library Committee for all the hard work that made the refresh of the library possible. Thank you all!

Thanks to the green committee for re-installing the free boutique... we all missed it for that month of renovations. We are fortunate to have so many volunteers that keep this building and community humming.

Who do I call...?



Please **do not** phone the President of the Board on his home line when there is a problem in the building. On February 2nd, residents called him to report that several television stations were out of service.

The proper procedure would be to call **Shaw Direct (at 1-855-874-6957)** and report it to **management**, or **security** after hours.

The President of the Board is a volunteer position, not a management position. In Brian Brenie's case, he does his best to make himself available to residents, but to call him while he is at church – for example, when your television is not working – this is not his responsibility.

For non emergency issues, you can contact Brian at:
board40h@gmail.com

New Service for our party room

Our new Party Room looks great, and to keep it that way, we have to use non-damaging decorating techniques. Donna is now offering decorating services, for a fee of course, but money well spent to keep our room looking great. Your needs and budget will be worked with freeing up your time for other important planning. This service will include tear-down of the decorations as well. Email me for a quote!

Party Decorating Services

email:
donnaydonna@gmail.com

**'Simple or Extreme,
I stick to a theme!'**

...saving you time to party!





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

prepared by Brian Brenie

Q: Can I play music at my party in the party room when I rent it?

A: Yes, music can be played through either the PA system (two speakers on the wall near the pool) or the surround sound system in this room. You'll need the proper cable to connect from whatever music player you are using (phone, android, CD player etc.) to the inputs in the two systems.

There is a cable (donated by someone) to connect an iPhone to the sound system in the room. If connecting from a CD player you'll need something different. The plug you use can be connected to the system by the inputs on the front of the tuner and selecting video aux 35mm female pin plug or RCA plugs on front of the audio system and choose input V-AUX.

Alternatively, the input to the PA system is a 1/4" male plug so whatever plug you have for output from your device will need to connect to this input plug. When renting the room please ask security to be shown the audio cabinet so you know how to connect to the sound system for your event.

Q: What happens when I sign up to receive notices electronically?

A: When you fill out the form to receive notices electronically you'll receive an email from the BuildingLink system as soon as the office sets up your account in the system. This will include an account name and temporary password. The email will have a link that you can click to take you to BuildingLink where you will be prompted to change your password and complete your profile. If you have filled out a form to receive notices electronically and have not seen a Building Link email please check your junk email folder as the BuildingLink email may be in there.

BuildingLink has a number of screens where you can reserve the elevator, party room or hobby room. You can also pay for guest parking on-line through BuildingLink now. New features will be added in 2020 to make living here more enjoyable for all. Building Link will occasionally send out email notices of things happening in the building that you may be interested to know about such as water shut-downs or new documents loaded into the BuildingLink library. We hope this system helps you enjoy your experience here at 40 Homewood.

You can even download the BuildingLink app to your phone where most activities can be accomplished there as well. **We are exploring why we cannot reserve guest parking there and hope to have a resolution for this soon.**

At present, guest parking can be paid for through the on-line desktop system or by going to your browser on your phone and logging in through buildinglink.com. In 2020 we are still keeping 40homewood.org public for outsiders who would like to know about our building. This site also contains some important documents that we will start moving to BuildingLink this year. Updates

on this website may be less timely than on BuildingLink which is for residents and owners only.

Q: The 2020 budget has a new guest parking rate – what is it and how do I pay for this?

A: Overnight guest parking is now \$15 when paying by cash paid to Building Security. Security staff will provide you a receipt and a parking pass to put in the window of your guest's vehicle. To save you a little money we are offering a slightly lower rate to book online through

OFFICE REMINDERS

**Do not leave garbage
in garbage rooms,
library or garage.**

**The key audit is
underway please make
sure the office has keys
to your unit.**

Building Link (not yet available on the Building Link app). On the website (or if you log-in to Buildinglink.com on your phone's browser) you'll be able to pay \$13 by credit card through the on-line service within Building Link. It is a two-step process for registering your car with dates and then going to the payment section on Building Link to pay. The Building Link method will also add some service fees on top of the \$13 rate but the total will result in more than \$1 per night saving compared to cash payments to Building Security. On the notes section of the on-line payment option please include your car license and make/model.

We encourage using BuildingLink for your guest vehicle parking pass. Passes must be purchased before 1a.m. to avoid a City of Toronto parking ticket (YCC75 receives none of the parking ticket revenue). The board has also approved a \$5 per month increase to all resident motor vehicle parking rates starting January 1, 2020.

Q: We heard that we are responsible for our entry door closer that must close and latch the door as a fire safety feature. Some of us also received notices of our storage lockers having fire hazards due to hanging items from the sprinkler pipes. Please update us about these.

A: Door closers close your entry door automatically and must operate to close and latch your door without any assistance. Late last year when Toronto Fire Service (TFS) inspected 10% of our units (50 units) they found some deficiencies in the units including door closers. Those units found to have defective closers or no closers have been notified and will be re-inspected by TFS. Even if your unit was not inspected or you were not notified of a defective closer every unit should ensure that their closer is operating properly. Other units will be inspected by TFS in 2020. Building staff are available to assist you to reset the closer speed and strength should you need this assistance. If you do not have a door closer you must get one at your expense as each unit was supplied a closer by the building a number of years ago; the office can help you connect with a supplier to get one installed if yours is missing. TFS can issue fines for doors without closers or that don't operate properly. Items in your storage locker

must not impede the effectiveness of the sprinkler system. We ask all residents to inspect their lockers to ensure nothing is stored at a height above sprinkler pipes. As well, we ask you to remove anything hanging on the sprinkler pipes. Some residents have received notices to make corrections before re-inspection by TFS.

Q: Can you update us on how we contact our cable tv supplier when we have service outages?

A: Stubbs recently changed the service centre call number we should use. It is **1-855-874-6957**; they are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm. They will ask you to advise the building name which is York Condo 75. Letting them know as soon as an outage is observed helps get the service back as quickly as possible. Stubbs' goal is to rectify any outage within 48 business hours of the call.

Q: Have we changed the access hours for the storage locker rooms?

A: Storage locker hours are 7am to 11pm and were recently changed in response to a resident request.

Q: Who do we call if we find pests (bedbugs or cockroaches) in our units? A: If you find any pests or rodents in your unit do not hesitate to contact building management, who have reliable pest control services to take care of these issues. The sooner the notice is made, the faster the resolution.

Q: Why do we have to use licensed plumbers when we have some plumbing done in our units? A: Recently a resident tried to fix a leak in their unit

without knowing how to turn off the water shut off valves. Their unit and a number of units below them were flooded and emergency plumbing services had to be called in and water had to be shut down on the whole water service line. All units on that line had no water for the whole night and following morning. Additionally, we require licensed plumber to present their licenses and wsib credentials to the office staff to ensure licensed plumbers are used when repairing or renovating units.

OFFICE REMINDERS

Remember to flush your drains with vinegar & baking soda to keep our pipes clean.

Fire Alarm test is scheduled for February 29.



good eats,^{cheap eats,} sweet spots

by Dr. Cammy Lee-Bostwick

happy new year everyone!

We are officially into the 20s – a new decade! And so, with “new beginnings”, we venture out of our neighbourhood. I take you to Lee Chen, on King Street West just past University Avenue, across from Roy Thompson Hall. This is a restaurant that is about 10 steps below ground level so bear this in mind, if accessibility is an issue.

We ordered an assortment of Dim Sum, tapas-style small dishes: Shrimp Dumplings, Siu Mai (pork and shrimp dumplings), as well as vegetable fried rice, sautéed broccoli, and shrimp chow mein. The dumplings came stuffed full of shrimp and I detected a bit of bamboo shoot. Super tasty with just a hint of sesame oil. Vegetable fried rice was colourful with shaved broccoli, onions, carrots, fried egg, cabbage, and scallions. Lightly seasoned with soy sauce, it is the perfect base for any dish. And also gets my vote

for the best dish we ordered. The broccoli however was too heavy on the garlic. Shrimp chow mein was not the crispy noodles as I expected but came with soft noodles like a lo mein. With a blend of baby shanghai bok choy, shiitake mushrooms, onions, fried egg, bean sprouts, julienned carrots, and plentiful shrimp, it was mild in flavour yet very satisfying.

Service was efficient and quick. Pricing is mid-range. Although the restaurant is quite large, it somehow has a cozy vibe. Lee Chen is the kind of place where you can linger, not like the more “fast” restaurants that Chinatown is famous for. In fact, the extensive wine list and drink menu seem to encourage you to stay for a while.

Would I go out of my way to Lee Chen? No. But if you’ve got theatre/show tickets or work nearby and are looking for a new leisurely place to nosh and chat, then this might be the place.



for the full unedited review, visit
www.goodeatscheapeatsandsweetspots.ca



Important
dates in

February

February 1st, 1920
RCMP Established

February 8th, 1952
Queen Elizabeth II
becomes Queen

February 12th, 1958
First Trans Atlantic
passenger jet service

February 7th, 1964
The Beatles arrive on
their first visit to the
United States

February 15th, 1965
Canada adopts the
Maple Leaf for its flag

February 11th, 1990
Nelson Mandela is
released from prison
after 27 years

February 4th, 2004
Facebook is founded
by Mark Zuckerberg

Valentine's Day

Friday

February 14th

“be my valentine!”



Chris Harvey and Amanda Buckingham

"Everything's better in Toronto!" So say two Vancouverites who moved here eight years ago and who found the cultural scene more receptive to their artistic natures.

Amanda and Chris both studied at the Capilano University School of Performing Arts in North Vancouver, and Chris has pursued his singing career here in musical theatre. He's been in shows like Jesus Christ Superstar and Les Misérables. In his spare time, he teaches voice privately.

While they miss the pizza, the sushi, and the beauty of Vancouver, Toronto is now home

Tap dancer Amanda changed directions in Toronto, going to Ryerson and then completing a Masters in social work at the University of Toronto. Every work day she drives to the Ontario Shores for Mental Health Sciences in Whitby. As a therapist, she carries a heavy load of patients with complex and serious mental illnesses. Chris and Amanda unwind by practicing Ninjutsu in a Japanese dogo where they kick, punch, jump, flip, and fight others, sometimes using a variety of weapons. They also throw axes for good measure. This is now a competitive sport and they earn points for prowess.

On a quieter note, they brew stuff, like wine, beer and ginger-beer, which is really easy, according to Chris. They do puzzles and have just bought some new 1000 piece projects. They like to cook and enjoy having company.

While they miss the pizza, the sushi, and the beauty of Vancouver, Toronto is now home.



Nelson Leon and Charles Jones

A chance meeting in a coffee shop led to friendship, and then marriage for Charles and Nelson. Charles had come from Georgetown to Toronto but Nelson came all the way from Tabasco in Mexico!

Charles studied radio broadcasting in Belleville and volunteered for many years at CIUT, the university station, after coming to Toronto in 1985. As an independent living assistant at Access Apartments, he worked with disabled residents who could still, with help, live independently. After eight years of nights, he was burned out. Eventually, he went to Ontario's Ministry of Health, where he currently works as executive assistant to the director of the Health System Emergency Management Branch. There's never a dull moment, planning to intervene in the next big emergency, whether floods or diseases. Charles deals with budgeting, H.R., planning, and monitoring social media.

In Mexico, Nelson worked as an accountant with a petroleum drilling company. He came to Canada for 6 months, returned home, and then came back permanently; but finding work in his field was impossible. For five years, he worked in construction and freelance house painting. Enterprising, he eventually began volunteering with Family Service, the Salvation Army, and charitable foundations. Those experiences and temp work landed him in the accounts payable department at the Ontario Securities Commission, where he now works.

They enjoy taking long walks and pictures, and exploring all the city has to offer.

A chance meeting in a coffee shop led to friendship, and then marriage



Brushes & Cocktails

by Donna Y

Happy Valentines!

Did you make a new year's resolution to spend time on yourself? Then why don't you try out our paint events? There are two this month!

We had so much fun at the Jan. 8th paint night. Everyone was very chill while they dabbed the tin foil on their canvases to create a whole new piece. Just as easy to follow as it was to play again. As you can see, in the picture to the right, the results are yet again... incredible. During our next event we will

be exploring the colours of the chakra. This painting was inspired by Dale Chihuly's installations. This is a relaxing, easy to execute piece, as you lose yourself in each orb, and as your work blooms into a harmony of colours.

If you have a party coming up, think of Brushes & Cocktails as a main event. You can pick the painting, invite your friends and have some fun. You can drop me a line anytime. If you want to be on our mailing list just e-mail info@brushesandcocktails.ca



Sunday, Feb. 16th
'PAINT POUR'
1:00 to 3:30 pm



A **Paint Pour** is also scheduled for **Sunday February 16th 1:00-3:30 pm.** The cost is \$45, and includes two canvases. New techniques will be introduced, including a special ring pour. Get ready for an exciting paint session! Reserve soon as spaces are limited for this event. We'll also do another collaborative painting for the office...so let's have some real fun together! It was a year ago that we introduced you to this new way of painting – let's celebrate with new art!

Wednesday, Feb. 5th
'Chakra Harmony'
7:30 to 9:30 pm



Wine is available for \$4 a glass 'by donation' to the Social Committee.
Your name doesn't have to be Picasso...Come Paint!



RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT:
reserve@brushesandcocktails.ca
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

MORNING EXERCISE CLASSES

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am.

The cost is \$5 a class, to be paid to the instructor, Milton Thompson.

Exercise Classes @ 40 Homewood

The morning exercise classes are now back in the Party Room on the B1 level.

If you wish to have one-on-one personal training you can contact Milton Thompson at: milton_boxfit@hotmail.com

