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COVID, Phase Two

Let's Play "What's Missing From the Table"

by Martha MacLachlan

It's no longer the new normal. We have been conditioned to our new rules and regulations, and fear of outbreaks. As the city opens more venues, vehicle and foot traffic increase, and more of our public places are occupied by a masked population. Most residents of 40 Homewood have been headquartered in our building for such a long time that many have said they still aren't venturing away from home, aside from the necessary trips for groceries, pharmaceuticals and the LCBO. No doubt there is a treasure trove of empties accumulated over the last three months.

During these tense times much has been missed. With no visits to elderly mothers and fathers precious time has been missed; worry exasperated. Children seeing their grandparents and family relatives virtually has provided a distorted sense of connectiveness, likened to a reality show. Social connections that fed our spirit were cut off. Important appointments to doctors postponed and still only being conducted virtually. In perspective, lack of haircuts has been the least of our worries.

Much is still being missed. For those residents who were lucky enough to stay employed, working from home, without the camaraderie of colleagues, there is still a loss. That time

alone, travelling to work and transitioning into the head space required by work's demands, and then the delicious time returning home, putting work on the back burner and looking forward to homelife, has been taken away. Who knows when companies will be ready to invite employees back into the office? Transitioning from the computer screen to Netflix is now normal; life in a bubble.

What hasn't been missing at 40 Homewood is our ability to connect...

For students of all ages, there continues to be next to no school except what was provided through Zoom. The return to brick and mortar schools in September has not been determined. The Ministry of Education is still grappling with this decision, with resolve hindered by the threat of a second wave. Colleges and universities have said no to students in their classrooms with the promise of limited actual class time in the fall. The benefits

of school for any age is also the proximity of others, the opinions of others, the exposure to others, all that makes us one and accepting in an increasingly disparate society.

Our physical bodies are still being rendered to a slovenly state. With gyms and pools still closed, and no hint of re-openings in the near future, only those fierce warriors with resolve of steel have found alternate forms of exercise. The cry for exercise outlets is deafening.

What hasn't been missing at 40 Homewood is our ability to connect. Home alone with 491 other occupied units has brought neighbours together in a more familiar way; being the only other people we have seen for months, other than live-in family and partners. A friendly conversation in the hall, a shared elevator, each one in a self-imposed corner remarking on their day, or the splendid gardens of the building, has fostered relationships in our downtown detention centre.

The post pandemic future is tenuous but we are hopeful. Phase 2 can only lead to Phase 3. Someday COVID-19 might be remembered as only a blip in our everyday lives, and not the 100 day killing fields and shutdowns we have endured patiently, each doing our part to protect each other.



Questions & Answers

• TO AND FROM •

the Board & Management

prepared by Brian Brenie

Q: Why do I sometimes get only hot water coming out of my cold water tap?

A: Water access in a shared community like ours has caused serious problems and expense for all owners in this building and tracking down the source can be a costly task for staff and management. Here are a few basics of where water problems occur.

We have cold and hot water supply. Cold water is always maintained at a constant pressure and available in the pipes fed to the units. Hot water always circulates around the building returning to the water heater and storage tanks on B3. This ensures you get immediate hot water from the tap without it travelling from the B3. In addition there are two water zones. The lower zone covers floors B3 to floor 12 and the other is the high zone covering floors 14 to the penthouse. Because of these zones when a problem affects the water in your unit it requires entry and investigation of all units on the water line in your zone.

Additionally, some water lines can be tied into two different units. For example, unit 01 and 03 have back to back kitchens resulting in only two water risers (hot/cold) covering both units' kitchens. Here's a walkthrough to explain how an investigation happens.

Let's say unit 2001 says they only get hot water in their kitchen tap but the water in their bathroom is okay. The investigation starts with the unit that notifies management. The plumber will want to come in and shut

off one of the water sources (hot/cold) and test if that affects this unit's kitchen water temperature. If this reveals that shutting the hot still results in hot water the source is

probably related to another unit on the 01/03 line between floors 14 and penthouse.

This results in an investigation of 35 additional units. This takes management, staff and plumbers time to source the problem because they must request permission giving 24 hours' notice to enter each of these units. Most often situations like this are the result of a faulty tap or cartridge in the kitchen tap. But you can see this gets expensive for us to call in a plumber to do this. This could take a whole eight hour shift for the plumber and our building staff to discover the cause.

The second reason you might get only hot water in your tap is someone on your water supply line has hooked up a clothes washer to their kitchen or bathroom tap and that affects the pressure in the two supply lines (hot/cold) resulting in hot water having more pressure than the cold water supply.

Additional causes of water issues are the faulty install of a dishwasher, and calcium buildup, which in turn lowers the pressure of water on one side (hot or cold) and the higher pressure temperature water will make its way into the pipe with lower pressure.

Only having constant hot water is probably a faucet cartridge, or a plumber has done some upgrade and crossed the supply lines in one of the units on your line. However, if your hot water issue is intermittent, it is likely a washing machine. Our rules do not permit laundry

machines in units for this reason, and laundry waste water can cause neighbouring drains to back up. The

OFFICE REMINDERS

Security does not pick up the office phone after hours.

Please call security for any after hours issues, as well as elevator booking at 416-771-7529

All air conditioning units require a shelf support

The bike pump in the bike rooms should only be used from 8am to 6:30pm

Noise issues are still a problem from slamming doors, on stairwells and dragging furniture on floors. Be mindful of doors and use felt pads under furniture



drain pipes, installed 50 years ago, are not large enough to handle laundry waste water.

If you experience hot or cold water issues please advise management as soon as you discover it. If it is intermittent, please keep a record of when it happens so they can try to track down the issue. If your sink or tub fills with what you believe to be clothes washer waste water please note the time and date so management can follow up with an investigation, which is again a time consuming task.

This is why we insist only licensed plumbers perform any plumbing in our building. If you use a licensed plumber to do some upgrades to your bathroom or kitchen they must present their credentials (license and WSIB certificate) to management before they begin any work here. This helps minimize water issues.

Q: I'm bothered by the smell of tobacco or cannabis smoke from people on their balconies. What can I do?

A: Smoking is permitted in the building units and on balconies, but if a neighbour's smoking disturbs you, management should be notified, so they can ask the neighbours to refrain from smoking on their balconies.

They can also be asked to keep their bathroom door closed. This reduces the amount of smoke entering the bathroom exhaust which can also be a disturbance for units above or below. Additionally, smokers may be asked to keep windows closed while smoking indoors. We ask that you do not smoke in your bathroom for the same reason.

Additionally, many people now are sensitive to the scent of colognes, perfumes and other scented products. We ask that use of these should be limited especially in the bathroom where the vent could cause these scents to travel to neighbouring units.

All bathroom vents on any given line are connected together through an air shaft in the walls that leads to a large rooftop exhaust fan that draws out the unit's air, causing an air exchange in each unit even during winter months when windows are closed.

The hallway air vents maintain an effective air exchange and fire prevention system in our building. This is why weather stripping around suite doors was removed.

NO IFS, ANDS OR BUTTS

During spring cleaning of the grounds, an array of cigarette butts on were found on the property, mostly concentrated on the north eastern front lawn. A significant number (about 100) were **white-filtered with a green band**. A couple of years ago, someone was hit with one of the same butts on the front walkway, so we're guessing the perpetrator is in a 12, 14 or 16 unit, (and is most likely a female who smokes menthol - fair warning: we're on to you...)

Similarly, the Newsletter heard from a very concerned owner on the west side whose **balcony is hit reguarly with flying lit cigarettes**, and who now feels they have to pull all their furniture in towards the wall each night for fear of waking up to a fire on – or damage to – their balcony.

Enough is enough. The property is not your ashtray, nor is it anyone's job to clean up your litter, or worry that their personal space will suffer damage at the hands of other residents.

Having a home in a building that respects residents' right to smoke in their homes should be appreciated, not met with disdain.

Tossing cigarettes off your balcony is **not only hugely disrespectful, it's dangerous**.

This uncivil behaviour will not be tolerated. If witnessed, **you will be reported to both management and municipal authorities**.

If you can't dispose of your butts in a responsible way, then butt out for good.



BY THE NUMBERS

The number of balcony fires is increasing each year:

2018: 114 fires were started by cigarettes, **51** were **balcony fires**.

2019: a 17% increase in number of fires **in large residential buildings**.

(Source: Toronto Fire Department)

Since COVID began, there has been a **17.6% increase** in household fires.

Main sources include kitchen incidents, **smoking** and barbecues.

Simple Asian Slaw

Summer is officially here! And with that, dining al fresco – on your own balcony! With that in mind, I present an easy and light salad with a dressing that packs a punch: Simple Asian Slaw.

Ingredients:

2 leaves of Napa cabbage, shredded
Half of a carrot, grated (or carrot peelings)
1 tablespoon red onion, sliced or diced
1 tablespoon sliced almonds
1 tablespoon raisins
Chives (optional)

Dressing:

1 teaspoon of rice vinegar
1/2 teaspoon honey
1/2 teaspoon soy sauce
1/2 clove of garlic
Same amount of minced ginger
Splash of sesame oil
Pinch of Chili flake
1 teaspoon of mayonnaise

- You can place the dressing ingredients in a small jar and shake it or mix in a bowl.
- This salad is great for potlucks as you can dress it in advance and it stays crunchy for hours.

For those who are interested, you can view my cooking demo on YouTube here:

<https://youtu.be/DuSyXsOnjU>



Repurposing Soap Scraps

by Lisa Meyer

I always feel wasteful tossing soap slivers left over when the bar gets too small to use. I used to save them in a special dish. On occasion I would grab a handful of them to wash my hands. My hands got clean, but it was kind of annoying. The scraps were left floating in a pool of sudsy water. Or they fell into the sink.

I investigated other options and discovered old soap can be made into new bars or liquid soap. Or they can be placed in a loofah bag.

I opted to make new bars. I looked it up online, and then got started.

Here's the basic process:

- Grate the soap into tiny pieces (make sure they're dry first – lesson learned!)
- Place the grated soap with some water and a little bit of milk (optional) into a double boiler.
- Melt the mixture.
- Pour into a greased container. I used a muffin tin and placed toothpicks in the soap cakes for easy removal later.
- Let the soap dry – hard soap lasts longer.

Check out methods online for the recommended proportions of soap to water.

Or just estimate it, like I did!



It's summer time! Time to explore the outdoors – always at a safe distance from others, of course.

You may have noticed me outside in the front yard last Saturday, displaying some of my art and doing a charcoal. This was because Brushes & Cocktails was participating in a National Arts Drive that afternoon.

All over Canada, artists brought their talents outdoor, in their yards, on their balconies, and in front of restaurants that needed a little boost. It was a great day to spend doing art outdoors, meeting people in the building and in the 'hood. Bringing smiles to people who just enjoy watching magic happen.

Saturday, June. 20th
...taking part in the
NATIONAL ARTS DRIVE



A great sharing experience for all, including one friend who decided to bring out the sketch book and join in. COVID has brought out the importance of creativity and art: how it feeds the soul and renews the spirit. Considering the current environment, Brushes will break for the summer, re-evaluate in the fall, and offer some video instructions on YouTube for you to follow

along on your own. Just check out my channel on YouTube: 'Brushes & Cocktails Paint Events'. Have a safe summer, and remember to take time for yourself and to recharge those batteries! As of August, you can reach me on my new website, set up for virtual events at hello@brushesand-cocktails.com

Why Break Down Your Boxes?

When boxes are put into the blue bins without being flattened, they take up unnecessary space and make the bin appear full, or even overflow. We are fortunate to have committed staff, like Peter, who literally jumps into the bins to create more space, but he should not have to do this and his time could be better spent in other areas of the building. It is not only unfair to pass along this responsibility to Peter, it puts his safety at risk. Next time you have a box you need to recycle, please be conscious of what happens when you don't flatten your boxes.



“It’s the people downstairs, complaining about noise again.”



CRICKET

a game governed by tradition
and played with passion

by Martha MacLachlan

You may recognize Rajwant Singh, second from top left in photo, who provides security at 40 Homewood, Monday to Friday from 8 to 4. Residents have commented on Raj's calm presence at the desk and willingness to help.

Perhaps this gentlemanly courtesousness emanates from his 18 years of playing cricket, the game that has origins as a "gentleman's game" with a traditional regard for courtesy and fair play. The widely known idiom "not cricket", meaning contrary to traditional standards of fairness, originates with the game.

Raj, who sports number 45 on his shirt, has played cricket for the last two years with the Eagles, one of the 40 teams in the Lakeshore Cricket League.

His team normally plays November til March during winter and from May to September for the summer season. Cricket is his passion and COVID-19 has denied him months of team practises and plays. He and his team mates are anxiously waiting for the Phase 3 go ahead so that the summer season can finally start. The game of cricket, is, like baseball (with cricket fans hating this lazy comparison), a "bat and ball" game in which bowlers "bowl" the ball and batsmen try to hit "shots" with a bat and score runs for their team. As in baseball, batsmen are "out" if their shot is caught, or if they don't get to a "safe haven" in time when they're making runs. While traditionally played over a number of days rather than on one day, there are shorter formats of the game now to accommodate players, like Raj, who actually have to work.



The Eagles, with Captain Mahmeet Singh, second from lower right, after winning the 2020 Winter Lakeshore Cricket Cup Championship



Cricket is an international sport and governed by the ICC (International Cricket Council, stationed in Dubai).

There is a total number of 104 countries playing cricket. The twelve full member countries of the ICC are India, England, Australia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, West Indies, Bangladesh, South Africa, New Zealand, Afghanistan, Ireland and Zimbabwe. The other 92 countries are associate members of the ICC with Canada being one of the Top 6 associates of the ICC. Canada has qualified four times for the Cricket World Cup which is currently held by England who won against New Zealand in 2019.

Every year Cricket Canada organizes the GT20 Cricket Tournament, in which famous players like Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gaile, Shahid Afridi, Brendon McCullum and Andre Russell come to play. Anyone interested can follow the Eagles on the Cricclubs App, where you'll find them in the Lakeshore Cricket League.



Editor's Note: It may 'not be cricket' but this article was cobbled together by someone who cribbed enough information to write this tribute to a true gentleman's sport.