



HOMEWOOD

Community Newsletter

December, 2012



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 "BUON ANNO"
 "JOYEUX NOEL"
 "VESELE VANOCE"
 "MELE KALIKIMAKA"
 "NODLAG SONA DHUIT"
 "BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA"
 "GOD JUL"
 "FELIZ NATAL"
 "BOAS FESTAS"
 "FELIZ NAVIDAD"
 "MERRY CHRISTMAS"
 "KALA CHRISTOUGENA"
 "VROLIJK KERSTFEEST"
 "FROHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN"
 "BUON NATALE-GODT NYTAR"
 "HUAN YING SHENG TAN CHIEH"
 "WESOLYCH SWIAT-SRETAN BOZIC"
 "MOADIM LESIMHA-LINKSMU KALEDU"
 "HAUSKAA JOULUA-AID SAID MOUBARK"
 "'N PRETTIG KERSTMIS"
 "ONNZLLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA"
 "Z ROZHDESTYOM KHRYSTOVYM"
 "NADOLIG LLAWEN-GOTT NYTT SAR"
 "FELIC NADAL-GOJAN KRISTNASKON"
 "S NOVYM GODOM-FELIZ ANO NUEVO"
 "GLEDILEG JOL-NOELINIZ KUTLU OLSUM"
 "EEN GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR-SRETAN BOSIC"
 "KRIHSTLINDJA GEZUAR-KALA CHRISTOUGENA"
 "SELAMAT HARI NATAL - LAHINGU NAJU METU"
 "SARBATORI FERICITE-BUON ANNO"
 "ZORIONEKO GABON-HRISTOS SE RODI"
 "BOLDOG KARACSONNY-VESELE VIANOCE "
 "MERRY CHRISTMAS -- HAPPY NEW YEAR"
 "ROOMSAID JOULU PUHI -KUNG HO SHENG TEN"
 "FELICES PASUAS-EIN GLUCKICHES NEWJAHR"
 "PRIECIGUS ZIEMAN SVETKUS SARBATORI VESLLE"
 "BONNE ANNEBLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDADR FELIZ
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Holiday Buffet Dinner

Sunday, December 9th, 2012

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

*Catered by Absolutely
Famished*

Tickets - \$22.00 up until 4:00 pm

November 30, 2012

Then, \$25.00 from December 3

– 7, 2012

available at the office from

November 7, 2012

Last week to get your
tickets

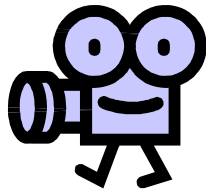


HAPPY CHANUKAH



Merry Christmas

December 8 – 16, 2012



Don's Movies For December

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

Thursday, December 6

CRISS CROSS (1949)

Burt Lancaster, Yvonne DeCarlo, Tony
Curtis

Friday, December 7

FROM HERE TO ETERNITY (1953)

Burt Lancaster, Deborah Kerr, Frank
Sinatra,
Montgomery Clift, Donna Reed, Ernest
Borgnine

Thursday, December 13

REGARDING HENRY (1991)

Harrison Ford, Annette Bening

Friday, December 14

PRESUMED INNOCENT (1990)

Harrison Ford, Brian Dennehy

Thursday, December 20

THE PIRATE (1948)

Judy Garland, Gene Kelly

Friday, December 21

MEET ME IN ST LOUIS (1944)

Judy Garland, Mary Astor, Margaret O'Brien

Thursday, December 27

DARK VICTORY (1939)

Bette Davis, Humphrey Bogart, George
Brent

Friday, December 28

PYGMALION (1938)

Leslie Howard, Wendy Hiller

Monday, December 31 at 8:00 pm

MY FAIR LADY (1964)

Audrey Hepburn, Rex Harrison,
Stanley Holloway

Pet of the Month



Vernon



Vernon is another of the Miniature Schnauzers living at 40 Homewood. He is a very social animal.

He wants to greet every critter he encounters, whether human or other (well—unless you are a screaming child, a skateboarder, a madman, or anyone trying to clip his nails). In all of his six years, there is hardly a meeting that he hasn't celebrated with a little howling/dancing/ nuzzling/ licking/tail-wagging, and, sometimes, all of that at the same time.

This can be problematic. Cats aren't always as happy with the situation as he is (especially the one that he lives with, when the cat wants to sleep, instead). Some other dogs just want to satisfy their carnivorous side. Mysteriously (from Vernon's point of view), some people don't like dogs. And, contrary to his opinion, there are days when there is not enough time to meet-and-greet every blade of grass/leaf on the way to/from the park. But, usually, he gets to be the social butterfly he was born to be. So, if you see him, feel free to say "Hello". If you don't, he likely will."

Don't Forget!

**Arts, Crafts &
Photography Show**

Date: December 2, 2012
Time: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Place: Recreation Room, B1

**Allan Gardens Christmas
Flower Show**

December 2 to January 7, 2012

Clothing Drive

January 26th, 2012

Owners' Meeting

Monday, December 17th, 7:00pm
Recreation Room, 1B
Meeting For Owners And Board:
2013 Budget And Other Topics

FROHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN!

**Holiday Hours for the
Management Office**

The Management Office will be closed
on the following days:

Monday, December 24, 2012
Tuesday, December 25, 2012
Wednesday, December 26, 2012

Monday, December 31, 2012
Tuesday, January 1, 2013



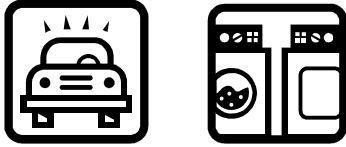
**Remember This At
Christmas Time**

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should've known—**ONLY women** would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

Visitor Parking Passes Laundry Cards



As the office will be closed for **five** consecutive days, it is suggested that you get your Visitor Parking permits early in order to avoid a rush at the last minute.

Also, remember to pick up any parcels or take care of any bills or filling your laundry card by Friday, December 21.



Recycling after Christmas.

Don't forget you can recycle:

- GREETING CARDS AND ENVELOPES (NO ATTACHMENTS OR FOIL INSERTS)
- GIFT WRAP (NO FOIL OR RIBBON)
- FLATTENED CARDBOARD BOXES



Correspondence

Have you ever wondered how to contact the Board or whether it is more appropriate to direct your question to the Board or to the Property Manager? Since the implementation of e-mail accounts for the Board and management, we have been developing and refining our correspondence systems. E-mail, being so easy and versatile, has increased the

volume of correspondence and facilitated an increased flow of information among Board, the management office, residents and non-resident owners.

While e-mail has become the communication method of choice for many owners and residents, you also have the option to drop a letter through the mail slot outside the office door, in particular outside of office hours. Correspondence addressed to the Board will remain confidential and will be forwarded to the Secretary. Of course, you may also report issues in person at the office.

Please note that issues about units, the building and the grounds are within the purview of management and questions and concerns about those matters should be directed to the management office. You may email the Site Administrator, Mark Daye, at yorkcondocorp75@gmail.com or the Property Manager, Donald Balla, at ycc75@esuite.ca.

Matters about governance (Rules, Condo Act, committees, policy, etc.) or issues related to the property management company should be directed to the Board. The Board e-mail (board40h@gmail.com) is automatically forwarded to all five individual directors.

The form and timing of the response will depend on the nature and complexity of the issue, as well as the amount of consultation or research required. It could be a written or e-mail response, a telephone conversation with the office, or a visit to your unit from a staff member.

We also encourage residents and owners, when they have a question that they think — or know — is one shared by others, to send a “Question” to the Newsletter for the “Q and A” column where it will be answered and everyone can be informed.

Write to newsletter40homewood@gmail.com or leave your question with the office.

worldAIDSday

December 1st, 2012

Confused About Fuses?



Some residents may throw their hands up to indicate they can't figure out anything about fuses.

Most of our building has older-style fuse boxes, less simple than the modern methods.

Here are some websites that may inform and help:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHQMCovvwwAo>

http://www.ehow.com/how_2097858_change-fuse-home.html



Some numbers

The media bursts with stories about new residential condo developments

and articles about the ups and downs in the real estate market.

Here are some current numerical snapshots of what we've got now:

In Toronto: 1,872 condo corporations with an average of 127 units for a total of 236,930 units. 40 Homewood has 492 units. The largest condo in the province has 1,420 units and that's our "sister" corporation, Crescent Town (YCC 76).

In Ontario, there are nearly 600,000 condo units, about 2/3 being in highrises and 1/3 being in townhouses.

Joyeux Noel!

IN MEMORIAM

We lost another two residents. Henry Nemeth and Hiroshi Morita both died in November.

Rest in Peace, Henry
Rest in Peace, Hiroshi

Owners' Meeting

Monday, December 17th

This meeting, at 7:00 pm in the Recreation Room, will include a presentation on the 2013 proposed budget. Owners will have received a mailing including information and figures about the 2013 budget, and questions and comments will be welcomed on the 17th. The Board of Directors will be meeting on December 18th to approve the final budget.

The budget package also included a letter about the cable TV contract. This might also be a topic for discussion, and the meeting will include time for discussing other subjects that owners wish to raise.



People always have questions about my reindeer. For instance, they want to know why reindeer wear bells. I tell them it's because their horns don't work!!!

Green Committee Page

Green Tips To Avoid Dangerous Hazards

It can be a nuisance indeed to have to read (and try to comprehend) the small print on the labels of cleaning products. They can also be dangerous and they should be understood. The Environmental Working Group (EWG) has a detailed website reviewing thousands of products to help you determine what's safe. Consult their website at ewg.org/cleaners/hallofshame

They provide some simple, common-sense tips in addition to the specific, brand-named reviews:

"Cleaners labeled 'safe,' 'non-toxic' and 'green' can contain hazardous ingredients. There should be a law against bogus claims, but there isn't. Some companies are willing to bend the truth - because they can. Read labels carefully and pay special attention to warnings. Don't buy any products labeled 'poison,' 'danger' or 'fatal' if swallowed or inhaled."

"Childproof packaging is just one clue that conventional drain cleaners are extremely dangerous. Use a drain snake and plunger, available in hardware stores. Store drain cleaner in high secure cabinets out of reach of children and away from water."

"Conventional oven cleaners can contain substantial amounts of sodium or potassium hydroxide meant to dissolve crusty, baked-on gunk. These chemicals can also burn skin, lungs and eyes. Sprinkle baking soda liberally to cover the bottom of the oven. Spray with water. Wait eight hours and wipe clean."

"Some popular cleaning products contain addictive inhalants. Inhalants generally have been abused by 1 in 5 American teens and are considered 'gateway drugs' that lead to drug and alcohol abuse. They are potentially fatal in concentrated form."

"Don't take a chance on products that are fatal if swallowed. Pets and children are most at risk, so read the warning labels. Stock your cabinet with safer choices, but keep them, too, out of children's reach."

"Air fresheners do not clean or purify the air. They merely cover up odors by releasing undisclosed mixtures of fragrance chemicals. Common fragrance components include chemicals that spur allergies, trigger asthma attacks or impair reproduction. If a room has an odor problem, track down the source and eliminate it instead of covering it up with fragrances. A box of baking soda in the bathroom can absorb odors."

Recycling, Garbage and Christmas Trees: Pickup Schedules

"Real" Christmas trees (that is, ones that were once alive) should be disposed of by placing them inside the shed in the bulk bin area.

Because there may not be a bulk pickup during the week of Christmas and Boxing Day, residents are asked to hold their trees until the following week if at all possible.

This applies to other bulk items, too: since there may not be a bulk pickup, please be alert and don't overload the bin or the shed.

The regular garbage and recycling pickups will likely be delayed a day or two, so please do a bit more accumulating in your units rather than overloading the recycling room during this delay.

Feliz Navidad!



A Green Christmas

Reduce:

There is an enormous array of gift items on the store shelves this time of year. Unfortunately, most have used a lot of fossil fuel to get here and many are excessively packaged. Here are a few shopping ideas to get you out of the overcrowded malls and do something a bit different.

1. Buy a gift from local artisans, craft shows (ahem, 40 Homewood's talent is putting one on soon) and church bazaars.
2. Consider making some gifts yourself. If you're handy, have a skill, do a craft or bake then give your talent. The gift will be "you-nique"
3. Give "an experience". Tickets to concerts, sports or movies, gift certificates to restaurants or a weekend getaway is appreciated.
4. Give "a memory" of time spent together. It will last forever. Moments shared during a homemade meal, a romantic evening, a day of tobogganing, or whatever you wish is priceless.
5. Give the gift of generosity. Make a donation to a good cause in the name of that hard-to-buy-for-person on your list. Adopt a tree (Nature Conservancy), adopt an animal (WWF), brighten a child's Christmas (Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund) etc.etc. The list is long and offers lots of choices.
6. Give a membership. There's a gym membership of course. But better yet, think green! Zipcar/Autoshare, Bixi bikes, CSAs, Bruce Trail hiking club, Toronto Field Naturalist all come to mind. Or maybe ROM, AGO, Toronto Film Society; there is something for everyone on your list.

Reuse:

1. Add rechargeable batteries when giving a "batteries not included" gift. It'll be the gift that keeps giving and giving.
2. Use imagination when wrapping. Wrapping paper can be old maps, the comic section of the paper, reused and reusable gift bags, decorated brown bags or kraft paper. Be creative here. Make your own gift tags. Reuse ribbons and bows.
3. Check out local thrift stores. They have a great selection of tree decorations, cookie tins and festive accessories for your home and table.
4. Shop fair trade. (Ten Thousand Villages comes to mind) A lot of fair trade wares are made of recycled and/or sustainable materials.

Recycle:

Let's all sort our trash, put it where it belongs and keep our home tidy.

"Buon Natale"

For Energy Tips and Savings

Simple choices can go a long way to help Ontarians manage their electricity use and costs, while protecting the environment.

Take the Save Energy Pledge and get 15



Go to www.mysaveonenergypledge.ca



Questions to the Board or Management

Question: . Will there be pictures or art of any kind on the bare walls of the lobby or the multi-purpose room?

Answer: Yes. Some paintings have been ordered for the multi-purpose room and for the TV room next to the laundry, and a painting is being commissioned for the wall behind the security desk in the lobby.

Question:. When will the new library open?

Answer: Additional shelves should arrive by the first week of December. Volunteer librarians will then finish shelving the books and presto! open for business! As reported earlier, at the beginning the library will be unlocked from 9 am to 11 pm. Later, fob access will be installed and then it will be available 24 hours. Quotes are being obtained for the fob apparatus.

Question:. What is happening with the crown moulding?

Answer:. Some of the caulking has been completed. The contractor will then paint (primer and main coat) the moulding. The "boxes" over the doors will be a green matching the doors and the rest (running up and down the halls) will be white. We hope this will be completed before the holidays.

Question:. Will the carpets be a permanent fixture in the lobby?

Answer: No. They will be kept through the winter but then removed for the spring

and summer. The non-skid coating that works on the floor around the swimming pool will not work on the lobby tiles. As with any type of floor or walking surface (tiles, carpets, bricks, concrete), we all need to walk with some care. For example, most of us use winter footwear that is less slippery than our fancy summer dancing shoes.

Question: Why are the pads hanging in the service elevator all the time?

Answer: The pads were kept up a lot during the time when the contractor was carrying in and out the material for the crown moulding. Now that that is finished, the standard is that the pads will only be up for a move-in or a move-out.

Question: What about the problem with squirrels in the garage?

Answer: Quite separately from that pest problem, the fire inspector now requires that we replace the 12 exit doors from the garage (four on each floor, three floors) because they no longer work properly and thus are not fire-safe. Their replacement should also increase our ability to keep squirrels out since some of the doors now have enough room at the bottom for the squirrels to squeeze through. We continue to use humane traps, as well. Management is currently gathering quotes for the replacement of the fire doors.

Question: For what can we use the multi-purpose room?

Answer: The multi-purpose room is meant to be a place for residents to meet, whether in committees or other formal structures or casually for conversation with neighbours. It is not necessarily a "quiet" room, but people are welcome to read there or study there, but they might not find the room quiet like a library. Residents are welcome to play bridge or do other things that require tables.

The room is not meant to replace the recreation room, which is the room that should be used for meetings of outside groups. (The recreation room may be booked for private meetings and parties, as most people know, and there is a rental charge for activities not open to all residents.)

Currently the bookings of meetings in the multi-purpose room are listed on channel 13, so you can check there to see if the room is free (there are not hundreds of meetings per week; usually the room is not booked). Soon we will also have a booking schedule at the room itself.

Bookings may be made through the office or through security.

If you have a question, it's probable others are wondering, too. Jot down your question on email

(newsletter40homewood@gmail.com) or on a note to the Newsletter via the office, and we'll do our best to answer.



The 40 Homewood Library to Open Soon

There are a few final details to work out before the library on B1 opens. The book collection has been moved out of storage and has been sorted. Some books have already been shelved using units from the former library space.

We are awaiting the arrival of new bookcases to house the remainder of the collection. It is hoped that all should be ready soon. Watch for an official announcement.

The book collection will be sorted into fiction and nonfiction. Fiction books will be organized by the author's last name. Nonfiction books will be divided into broad subject areas, i.e., biography, history, literature, art, cookbooks, etc. Books will be available in hardcover, trade paperback and mass paperback formats.

The 40 Homewood library depends on generous donations from residents and friends. If you have items to donate please place them in the library room 'Donation Bin' during library open hours. Please do not leave books in the laundry room and multipurpose rooms.

Fiction and general interest non fiction books, in good condition, will be accepted. Unfortunately, shelf space is limited and we are unable to accept all items. Text books, out of date materials and encyclopedias are not needed. Please consider other options for this type of donation. If books are not accepted for the 40 Homewood collection they will be donated elsewhere (church rummage sales etc.) or discarded.

Over the next few months, the informal Library Committee, under the guidance of the Social Committee and the Board, will develop a few policies and procedures. These will be posted in the library and published in the newsletter and on channel 13.

Thanks for your patience during this transition.

The library volunteers,
Martha MacLachlan, Mary Oakley, Christine Leask, Brian Beagle, John Whelan



Movie Review – Skyfall

By Jeffrey Amos

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first **James Bond** film, Dr. No, which in turn was based upon the series of novels by Ian Fleming. The Bond film franchise has been through many twists and turns, including 23 films and 6 Bond actors. This marks the third appearance of the current Bond, **Daniel Craig**. I saw this film recently and I personally believe that it's one of the best Bond films in recent years.

The film centres on Bond's investigation of an attack on MI6 (the British spy agency). I won't give away much more plot other than to say that this attack is subsequently revealed to be part of a plot by a former MI6 operative by the name of Silva (Javier Bardem) as revenge against M (Head of MI6, played by the always wonderful Judi Dench). Bond has to initially discover the nature of the plot and try to keep it from being successfully executed, while trying to save both M's reputation and her life. The film is different than previous Bond films where M was either a minor or peripheral character; here, she is secondary only to Bond as the main character in the plot. This is Judi Dench's chance to shine in a role that has only had her on screen for a few minutes in her previous performances as M, and she does a fine job portraying someone of great achievement whose reputation is under attack. Not only is M's life in danger, but due to the terrorist attack at MI6 and its repercussions, she is also under scrutiny by the political powers that be, including an ambitious bureaucrat, played by Ralph Fiennes.

As in all Bond films, the story takes Bond around the world with sections taking place in Istanbul, Shanghai, Macau, London, and Scotland. The film is directed by Sam Mendes, who is best known for his award winning *American Beauty*. Mendes has brought on Roger Deakins, best known for his striking visuals on the Coen brothers' films, as cinematographer. The result is one of the most breathtakingly visual James Bond films ever made. There are several striking sequences that make the film worthwhile. One example is a fight between Bond and an assassin high up in a Shanghai skyscraper – as they fight for survival amongst shattered glass, the fight is seen almost in silhouette against the backdrop of the

brightly coloured billboards of the Shanghai night – the sequence is breathtaking. Of course, there are the Bond-worthy chases, such as the motorcycle chase over the roof of the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul and Bond's pursuit of Silva through the tunnels of the London Underground – but they seem to have more of a visual flair or style than in previous Bond films. That being said, the action set-pieces never overwhelm the story as in some previous Bond films and the film seems to be much more even as a result.

I was never a fan of Pierce Brosnan as Bond – he never exuded the rough, cruel side to the character that appears in the Ian Fleming novels and which was expressed so well in Sean Connery's portrayal. Daniel Craig brings those qualities back to the character and his performance is all the more successful because of it. His Bond is human and flawed, unlike the cartoonish version of Bond played by Roger Moore who never once was shot or even bled during his 7 outings as Bond.

My only criticism of the film is the performance of Javier Bardem as the villain Silva. Bardem plays him so far over the top, as so incredibly loopy and insane, that it threatens to undermine the film at some points. James Bond films have of course had their share of over the top villains (for example, Jaws from *The Spy Who Loved Me* and Moonraker) and Oddjob (from *Goldfinger*). But *Skyfall*, unlike those films, presents a less black-and-white view of the world, including more realistic characters.

As a result, when Silva is on screen he is actually distracting. This is a minor detail, however, in a film that is overall very successful.

Therefore, I give *Skyfall* an 8 out of 10 and suggest that due to the striking visuals that you not wait for it to come out on DVD or BluRay – go see it now at a theatre near you!



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