

The Volunteer Appreciation Evening

by Martha MacLachlan

On Saturday, February 22nd the Social Committee celebrated and fêted our wonderful volunteers in the new Party Room. In previous years the menu consisted of several large pizzas, salad and dessert. This year we went upscale in keeping with the new décor of the Party Room. An array of appetizers was laid out for the 25 plus guests (from an impressive list of 50 volunteers). The table of appetizers was presented by Jean-Pierre Côté, a long-time resident of 40 Homewood, and a recent volunteer, now that he has retired from his 30-plus year career at Le Papillon restaurant in Toronto.

Jean-Pierre spent the better part of Saturday in Martha's kitchen, making curried devilled eggs, tarragon shrimp, platters of smoked salmon, cold cuts, a selection of cheeses, asparagus spears, cherry tomatoes and cucumbers and more. Martha and her daughter Sarah acted as kitchen staff, taking direction from Jean Pierre as he deftly created one dish after another. With Jean-Pierre at the helm, the WOW factor was achieved, clearly evident in the guests' reaction to the plentiful array of food dishes.

Kevin Kirk – bless him, for he cannot leave a room undressed – hung his own collection of lanterns and delicate candle holders from the



Jean-Pierre Côté...



...and the lovely spread he prepared



Gilles & Martha

ceiling, with some assistance from Sarah, who first got corralled into helping in the kitchen. The effect was understated and classy.

Underneath this veneer of sophistication, everyone noshed and conversed and relaxed in the company of neighbours and friends. There were no demands that night on the guests, there was no business agenda, it was simply a heart felt thank you to those who contribute generously of their time to our building's amenities and community.

There was a notable absence of Green Committee members at the event, save for Martha McGrath. This could be in part to a late invite that went out to some of the members, after Lisa Meyer pointed out that some members of the committee hadn't received an invitation. This oversight was not intentional nor meant to slight any one person or to undermine the valuable work of the committee members. It was simply human error, on the part of someone juggling many other responsibilities.

In closing, a thank you to Jean-Pierre Côté for lending his culinary skills, and a thank you again to Jean-Pierre and David Dagenais, a new resident to the building, for doing a bang up clean up job while the rest of the guests enjoyed doing nothing but enjoying.



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

prepared by Brian Brenie

Q: Why does the women's sauna shut off so quickly or not start heating?

A: The repairs recently made put in place some safety features that failed a few months ago causing the temperature to escalate without shutting down. Firstly, the start button was changed. This button, when pressed, allows for 30 minutes of uninterrupted heat. The old dial got stuck the night the fire department was called and the temperature continued to climb in the sauna. Secondly, there is now a heat sensor at the ceiling height that will shut down the heater if it gets over heated in the room. Thirdly, there is a little green reset button on the heater in the front at floor level. If you hit the start button and the heater does not start up try to locate the green reset button and this should take care of things.

Q: Why were the library and TV room refreshed?

A: The library and TV room were looking dated with the flooring system separating which we feared was a trip hazard. We took this opportunity to engage the same flooring contractor who put in the party room flooring to do this. Getting these trades to find space in their calendar is sometimes difficult but we found a day in January when they could complete the installation of the new floors in. The two rooms were also painted and refurnished. Some asked for better lighting in these rooms so we increased the lighting as well as in the first floor meeting room.

We thank all the volunteers who came to help pack up the books before the renovation and restock the shelves after the renovation.

Q: I understand that Toronto Fire Service told us that black pvc piping is dangerous when in a fire situation. Is this true?

A: Yes, we were advised that we should inspect all units to verify which ones may contain black pvc drainage pipes in units – this does not require any action to be taken by owners at this time. In February, our staff started visiting all units to verify door keys, mail box keys, door handles, weather stripping around doors as well as looking into the bathroom and kitchen to determine if units in our building have installed black pvc drainage pipes.

Q: What are the disposal hours for the garbage chutes on each floor?

A: The garbage disposal hours are 7am to 10pm. We ask all residents

to dispose their trash down the chutes and not leave items on the floor of the garbage rooms or outside the doors. We encourage everyone to also carry and deposit all recyclable material, compost material and household hazardous waste items to the first floor recycling room found in the back hallway. Beer (bottles and cans) as well as wine bottles should be left in the small room located at the back the recycling room.

OFFICE REMINDERS

**The back door is
now wired with an
accessibility button.**

**B-2 Garage doors
are also wired with
accessibility buttons.
Sensors will soon
be installed.**

**No more dropping
your bags!**



Q: Do we have an account number to give Shaw when calling about TV service outages?

A: Shaw recently provided us with an account number and name that can be used to ensure they address our issues efficiently. The account number is 200-2743-2993 and our building name is York Condominium Corporation 75 at 40 Homewood Ave. Please use this information when contacting Shaw at 1-855-874-6957

Q: I understand office hours have been increased; please update me.

A: Last year the office closed from 11:30 to 2:30 to allow for an hour lunch and two more hours for staff to meet with or contact service providers as well as contacting staff in the back office at Crossbridge to follow up on building issues. Staff have mostly caught up on a large backlog of issues and now are closing from noon until 2:00 PM daily giving residents an additional hour per day of face-to-face office contact availability.

Q: Can the service elevator button in the back hallway be activated so we don't have to travel through the mailroom with bikes or deliveries?

A: Our elevator company is scheduled to activate the back hallway button in late February so delivery people can call the elevator from there and not have to go through the front lobby to access an elevator. Large deliveries of furniture etc. need to be arranged by reserving the elevator on BuildingLink so proper protective padding can be placed in the service elevator and the

elevator can be placed on service for this. Please do not move furniture or large items in the other elevators.

Q: I rented the party room but the previous renter left the room a mess. What should I do?

A: All party room renters are responsible for placing all furniture in its place, cleaning the kitchen, sweeping up any debris and removing the garbage or recycling to the upstairs recycling room. If you arrive at the room and it is messy please ensure you let security know so that the previous person's damage deposit can be used for cleaning services.

OFFICE REMINDERS

The office will soon begin a much needed bike room audit. Please let us know what racks you are using via email or an office visit.

Thanks to all who did their part during the key and weatherstrip audit.

Q: Can I park my bicycle in the new bike stand in front of the meeting room?

A: **No, this bike stand is for use by bicycle delivery people ONLY** and they can only have their bike there for a 15-minute limit. Locks will be cut off and bicycles confiscated if left there any longer.

Q: Can I use either the men's or women's change room in the gym?

A: Last month our cleaner found a woman showering in the men's change room along with her male friend and some children. We would ask that if you identify as a male that you use the men's change room and if you identify as a female that the women's change room be used. Young children of the opposite gender can accompany an adult of the opposite gender into their respective change room. The washrooms in the B1 corridor near the party room are gender neutral but the change rooms are not.

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday,
March 28th



The Social Committee will be screening

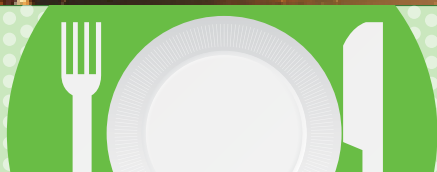
BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

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.

Saturday, March 28th at 7pm in the Party Room – this is a free event.

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 ·



good eats, cheap eats, sweet spots

by Dr. Cammy Lee-Bostwick

It is always a happy day when I find a restaurant in our neighbourhood that serves up fare that is first and foremost, deliciously and beautifully executed, yet also a labour of love.

Owned and run by Chris and Fay, Marzitelli's at 555 Church is just that place. Curious about the Winterlicious event, made more curious by the consistent 5 star reviews online, we braved the weather to see for ourselves. It was snowing those big snowflakes outside as we tucked into our dinners unhurriedly on a recent Sunday.

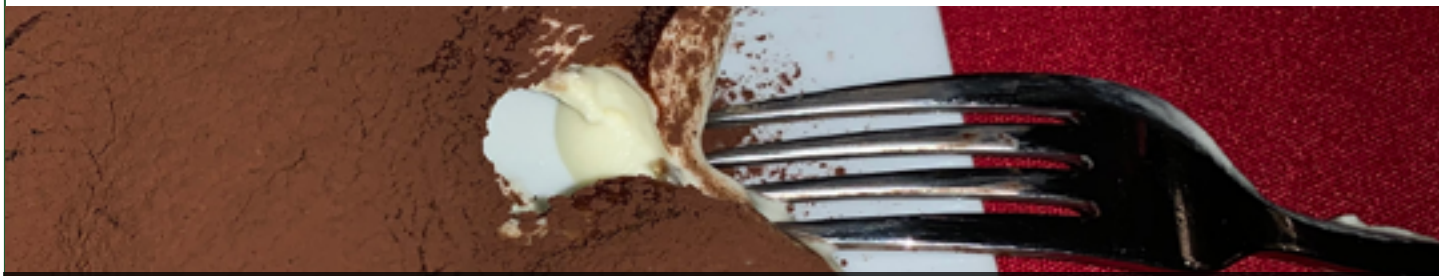
I started with the baby arugula salad that had sweet red onions sliced so thin they're almost vermicelli-like. Added to this, were cherry tomatoes and generous shavings of parmigiana in a house vinaigrette. What struck me was that even though it was perfectly dressed, the sweetness of the salad came through in every bite. It was a balance of tastes and textures: the crisp nutty arugula, fresh pop of tomato, sweetness of soft shreds of onion, and salty firmness of the cheese. It was surprising that I'd find so much satisfaction in a salad.

Next came the maple glazed salmon fillet atop a few scoops of potato mash with broccoli. The potatoes were buttery and fluffy while the moist salmon had just a hint of maple and mustard. Broccoli was done yet still

verdant with just enough of a toothsome crunch. As it continued snowing outside we took our time, lingering over good wine, good food, and good company. Lastly, came the dessert: tiramisu. All sweets are made in-house so the liquor-soaked sponge cake and mascarpone dusted with cocoa just melted in my mouth. I'm not even a dessert person but enjoyed every bite of this one.

And then, as we were the last seating, Chris came out and began to play the grand piano, which took up a big part of the dining area. And that's the thing. Marzitelli's is a small gem of a place, with dark navy walls covered in paintings from a local artist (for sale), glittery modern chandelier lighting, and candles on red table cloths, something distinctly 20s about the vibe. Add the piano and you have a dinner that's made to feel like an event: food & entertainment.

Capping it all off was the genuine hospitality and conversation with the husband and wife team. Chris and Fay let us know that Marzitelli's has only been here for a year (it was previously the Church Street Bistro and before that, the Church Street Diner). I highly recommend that you check this special place out – I know we'll be back.



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

Choosing the Board of Directors

by Charles Marker

As spring approaches, so also does the 40 Homewood Annual General Meeting, held in June each year.

An important annual task for the AGM is electing people to the Board of Directors. Terms of directors are two years, and the terms are staggered so that each year either two or three directors are elected. There are five directors altogether.

Owners vote for people to be directors. Once the Board is formed for the year, the five directors choose the officers: president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, etc. Only the president must be one of the directors. The other officers may be appointed by the Board from outside the group of directors.

To qualify for election to the Board a person must be 18 years old or more, must not have the status of a bankrupt and must not be a mentally incapable person. That's all!

Making a contribution to the governance and life of the condo is not a light responsibility. The time commitment varies and includes a two-hour monthly meeting, sometimes ad hoc meetings in between regular ones and some homework, such as reviewing reports.

Most people who serve on the Board find it rewarding. I did when I was a director 2011-2014. The sense of contributing is satisfying. One also has direct input into the decisions made on behalf of all owners. Usually the board + property manager consists of a group of people with a wide variety of knowledge and skills, so there is always something to contribute and something to learn.

Sometimes owners get the impression that there must be a "vacancy" on the Board before one puts their name forward. Since terms are two years, there are vacancies each time around, and people can be encouraged to put themselves forward and to encourage others to do the same.

Save the Date!

by Michael Csiki

Announcing 40 Homewood's 2020 Earth Day Celebration

Save the date:

April 15, from 6pm – 7:30

Where: in the Party Room

What: A fun, social event to learn and share balcony gardening techniques. Also featuring a Zero-Waste table to promote ways to be more environmentally conscious. Wine and cheese, plus light refreshments will be served.



The Pollinator Garden is Back!

by Lisa Ricciuti

Interested in helping out? Read below for details.

Residents generously donated time and money to make the first year of the pollinator garden a success. This year, in a joint effort between the Social and Green Committees, we're aiming to expand the garden and establish a habitat to welcome the Monarch butterflies.

If you're interested in being involved, read on.

Planning Meeting

March 21 – 10 am start in the meeting room on the ground floor next to the lobby

Attend a Work Party

No gardening experience necessary. Open to everyone. Every third Saturday of the month from April to September. Rain date, third Sunday of the month. Drop by anytime between 9am and 12pm. Meet at the pollinator garden (by the rose garden in the back of the building). Dates: April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19.

Donate Money, Plants, or Gardening Supplies

If you're unable to attend a work party, feel free to participate by donating something. We're always interested in indigenous pollinator plants, as well as gardening supplies such as soil, fertilizer, or tools. With cash donations, we would be happy to purchase some plants on your behalf. Last year we raised over \$200.

We're especially in need of a wheelbarrow, if anybody has access to one for our work party dates, please let us know!

Email us at: 40hgreencommittee@gmail.com

Spring has Sprung! Or, at least it will soon. February was a busy month for Brushes. We had a great time at the Feb. 5th paint night!

It turned out to be a guys' night playing with balls. You can guess at all the giggles and innuendos that went flying around the room.

Thank you all my handsome gentlemen for an adventure in painting I will never forget.

This was followed by a paint pour on February 16th. Do you remember playing in the sandbox as a kid? Well that is how we all felt doing the paint pour event. It has been a while since we last poured our hearts out, and this time we

were able to introduce a few newcomers to this addictive paint event. Some great new art was created by all.

Wednesday, March. 5th 'Ooh, I Love Turtles' 7:30 to 9:30 pm



So if you think you might want to join us, think no more. Come out of your shells for the next event, "Ooh, I Love Turtles" project on Wednesday, March 5th from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Get brave and join us to get your artist on. We are the most accepting group of people you could meet. Neighbours share the experience and become friends! Do you

want to be on the mailing list?

Drop us a line at:

info@brushesandcocktails.ca

EARTH HOUR 2020

A Global Initiative: Turn off the lights for one hour

**March 28th
8:30 to
9:30 pm**



FUSES

Please do not put higher voltage fuses in your electrical fuse box than specified.

These allow more current through the electrical wires and **can cause serious electrical damage and possible fire.**

Security Information

from Office Management



You arrive at the security desk to find the security guard is not at their desk. Please do not think they are not working. They may be helping a neighbour get into their unit after losing their keys, or patrolling the building to make sure we are safe. So, if you find yourself in that situation, bring your phone and call them. They'll be happy to let you know when they'll be back at their post.

**The security number is:
416-772-7529**



Wine is available for \$4.00 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
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**