



# Beechwood Park Homes Association

INCORPORATED

*Mailing Address:*  
PO Box 22016  
Westmount Postal Outlet  
50 Westmount Rd N  
Waterloo ON N2L 2R0

*Recreation Centre:*  
293/5 Shakespeare Drive

*Web Site:* [www.bpha.ca](http://www.bpha.ca)  
*email:* [info@bpha.ca](mailto:info@bpha.ca)

## SPRING NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021

### **BPHA VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS**

President	Joel Blit	Vice President	Paul Harrington
Past President	Sue Edwards	Secretary	Steve Kobes
Treasurer	Luke Eret	Program Director	Deborah Morden
Bookkeeper	Shenhui Lang	Pool Co-Director	Christine Valente
Membership Director	Tracey Nairn	Pool Co-Director	Lori Grant
Maintenance Director	Steve Singer	Tennis Director	Mark Baetz
Social Director	<i>Vacant</i>	Member-at-Large	Dan Dragos
		Payroll Officer	Jason Daly

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Spring Clean-up** – May 8 & 15, 9:00am-12:00pm. Volunteer numbers will be limited to comply with Covid capacity regulations. Contact Steve Singer, Maintenance Director at [singercutt@golden.net](mailto:singercutt@golden.net) to sign up.

**Bottle Drive** - May 25 is this year's first bottle drive collection date. Start saving your refundable bottles and cans! Visit [www.bpha.ca](http://www.bpha.ca) to add your address to the collection list!

**Opening Weekend** - The pool is scheduled to open on Friday, May 28 and will be open from 4pm-8pm. The full schedule will be posted on [bpha.ca](http://bpha.ca).

### **BPHA BOARD REPORT**

Welcome to our 53<sup>rd</sup> year of making memories together! Our BPHA continues to be a vibrant volunteer-run organization that builds community and brings neighbours together.

We are so fortunate to have an amazing team of folks contributing to our community through our programs and events, the produce stand, our holiday lights, the newsletter, gardening, maintenance, advocacy, planning for the future, and so much more. The active involvement of so many neighbours and the social ties that this creates is what makes our neighbourhood so special!

A special thank you to our volunteer BPHA Board for their endless hours of commitment to our neighbourhood. Joining the Board this year is Dan Dragos as a member at large focused on tennis programs and Steve Singer as Maintenance Director. We are fortunate to continue to count on the energy and expertise of Mark Baetz, Jason Daly, Sue Edwards, Luke Eret, Lori Grant, Paul Harrington, Steve Kobes, Shenhui Lang, Deb Morden, Tracey Nairn, and Christine Valente. If you see these folks around, be sure to stop and thank them for all of their amazing work.

Last summer the Board did an incredible job running programs in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic. We remain hopeful that 2021 will be a more normal summer with a full slate of regular programming. We are developing contingency plans in case it is not.

In addition to running our programs, the Beechwood Park Homes Association will continue to advocate for our neighbourhood. Among the issues that surfaced this past year are the reconstruction of Longfellow and the city's insistence that there be no skating on Clair Lake. The city is now also examining the cancellation of loose-leaf pickup in the Fall. The city has not always been particularly open to hearing our concerns and so we plan to double down our efforts. We are engaging with the city's official plan review to advocate for Beechwood Park. To ensure that we are representing you, we will periodically consult for your opinions through online surveys.

**If you are not a BPHA member**, but would like your opinions to be heard, please send us an email to [bphaadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:bphaadvocate@gmail.com) so we may include you in any advocacy updates or surveys. Or better yet, please consider becoming a member ([www.bpha.ca](http://www.bpha.ca)) and supporting our community and advocacy efforts.

Lastly, a thank you to all of our BPHA members. Without your involvement and support there would be no BPHA. We are one of the only Beechwood associations where membership is voluntary and thus we count on your support. We are particularly grateful to the many of you who become members every year to support the community, in spite of barely or not using our shared facilities. Thank you!

I look forward to our 53<sup>rd</sup> year of building a stronger community!  
*Joel Blit, BPHA President*

**2021 BPHA Membership Registration is Open!** To register, please go to [www.bpha.ca/membership](http://www.bpha.ca/membership) and either complete the online registration form or print out a paper copy to complete. Any questions about membership can be directed to Tracey Nairn at [membership.bpha@gmail.com](mailto:membership.bpha@gmail.com).

## **BPHA PROGRAMMING**

The 2021 season is quickly approaching, and we are excited to announce some of the exciting new developments we have been working on during the off season!

### **Introducing our 2021 staff members**

#### Pool Staff

Our Recreation Centre will be managed this year by Victoria Giguere, and Assistant Managers Patrick Benest and Liam Fast. They are looking forward to providing a fun-filled summer for our members! This year's returning Instructor/Guards are Alina Armbruster, Elyse Benest and Zack Morden; new instructor/guards are Chloe Taylor, Alexandra Blit (Substitute), Clare Jacobs (Substitute); and Program Leader - Junior Lessons is Tom Beamer.

#### Tennis Staff

Markus Kangur will be returning as our Certified Head Tennis Instructor again this year. He will be instructing various child and adult classes and will also be available to instruct both semi-private/private lessons. New Tennis Instructors are Chloe Taylor (Substitute - Tennis Instructor) and Alina Armbruster (Assistant - Tennis Instructor). Ed Andrulis and Milan Kepka will offer advanced tennis instruction for private/semi-private lessons.

## **Program Registration**

Program Registration for the upcoming season is now open! Visit [bpha.ca](http://bpha.ca) to learn more about the programs and events we are planning on offering this season. To reserve a spot in a program, simply complete the online registration form on the website. Payment for programs is not required at this time. An email will be sent to registered participants when payment is due. We kindly ask that you keep a record of your registrations, as we are unable to send email confirmations at this time.

The health and safety of our Members and Staff during this global pandemic is our number one priority. Please keep in mind that our ability to operate programs and events at BPHA this season will be determined by restrictions imposed by Public Health and the Ontario Government. It is possible that we will need to cancel some or all of the programs and lessons or limit the capacity. In this situation, we will offer spots based on the order in which we received the registration. Your completed registration form does not guarantee a spot in a program. We will give notice of cancellations or changes to programs, if required, as soon as we are able.

## **New this year! Lifesaving Society Swim Program**

We are excited to officially launch the Lifesaving Society's Learn to Swim program. Lessons will be available to all Members four months of age and above. The Lifesaving Society Swim program stresses in-water practice to develop strong swimming strokes and skills. This program also includes Water Smart education that will help to keep participants safe in, on and around the water. For additional information about the program, visit [bpha.ca/programs/swim-lessons/](http://bpha.ca/programs/swim-lessons/)

## **Blended Bronze Level Courses**

BPHA will once again be offering Bronze Star, Medallion and Cross for swimmers who are looking to challenge themselves and work towards becoming a certified Lifeguard. Bronze Course registration opens to non-members on **April 1, 2021**. Register early to avoid disappointment.

Due to the high demand of our Blended Bronze Level Courses, payment for these programs will be required at the time of registration. In the event that the courses are cancelled, a full refund will be offered.

For more information about all of our events and programs or to register visit [www.bpha.ca](http://www.bpha.ca).

*BPHA Program Director Deborah Morden and Program Coordinator Laura Hewitson, and Pool Directors Christine Valente and Lori Grant are looking forward to a great 2021 season!*

## **THE 14<sup>TH</sup> SEASON OF THE BEECHWOOD PRODUCE STAND**

During these early spring days, think ahead to the delicious flavours of beautiful local strawberries, tomatoes, lettuce and much more, available right in your neighbourhood with a side order of community visiting thrown in! We are so pleased to announce that Bruce Frayne's VERY local sourdough bread will once again rise to the occasion, with weekly availability. Can life get any better?



Yes, the Beechwood Produce Stand plans to be back, entering its 14th year of operation in 2021! We are a volunteer group of neighbours who organize and run the summer produce stand weekly on Wednesday afternoons from mid-June through early September. We feature locally grown, farm fresh produce and at the end of each Wednesday any unsold produce is donated to our local food bank. At the end of each season, all our proceeds are donated to local KW charities such as our two local schools (Keatsway and Centennial), the Working Centre, KidsAbility, Mennonite Central Committee, Grand River Hospital, Carizon for the Erb West Community, and many others. Thanks to your support and to our amazing volunteer team we have been able to make significant donations to our local schools and charities for 13 years running! Charities throughout the KW area recognize our neighbourhood's contribution and are very grateful for our support.

We plan to continue the pre-order system that became so popular last summer. **However, pre-orders are not required**; we will aim to have plenty of fresh fruits & veggies available for walk-up clients on Wednesday afternoons. As usual, weekly emails will be sent to BPHA members early on Monday with the opportunity to pre-order by Tuesday at 6pm. Watch for our first email in June with the list of freshly harvested produce available for you at our season opener in mid-June (weather dependent). You will also notice that we will be introducing a **new** email address: **[beechwoodproduce@gmail.com](mailto:beechwoodproduce@gmail.com)**.... just part of our ongoing interest in always connecting you with a friendly volunteer. We can't wait to see you in June, although it seems we will still be looking at each other from behind masks!

*Submitted on behalf of the entire Produce Stand Volunteer Team*

### **LITTLE LIBRARY NOTICE**

Thank you to all who have kept the little libraries full at the recreation centre. When leaving a book, please remember to place kids' books in the lower library and adult books in the taller library. Thank you and enjoy your next story!

### **WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD**

- 323 Coleridge Drive: Welcome to Jacqueline and Jordan Schwantz and 2 year old Cole. Jacqueline is an Athletic Therapist for the varsity teams at UW (Go Warriors Go!) and Jordan works in sales for Skywatch, a space technology start up.
- 223 The Lions Gate: Welcome to Susan Shin and Omar Ismail, along with 7 year old Amaya, 2 1/2 year old Anise and 7 month old Nile. Omar is a software engineer for Stripe and Susan is currently at home with the kids.
- 194 Mohawk Avenue: Welcome to Mike and Candace Bishop, along with 2 1/2 year old Lillian and 3 month old Anna. They are very excited to return to Waterloo after living in the San Francisco Bay Area for the past 7 years.
- 204 Mohawk Avenue: Welcome to Katherine Dare and Jamie Groome, along with 5 year old Cordie and 2 year old Josie. Katherine works for Dare Foods and Jamie is currently at home with the kids. Katherine grew up on Marlowe Drive. Welcome back to the neighbourhood!
- 256 Shakespeare Drive: Welcome to Judith and Gary Harrison. Gary is enjoying retirement and Judith is a Registered Psychotherapist.
- 228 The Lion's Gate: Welcome to Sara Kaffash and Ehsan Tavakoli and their daughter 4 year old daughter Asal.
- 317 Hiawatha Drive: Welcome to Erin McKechnie and her sons 15 year old Nathaniel, 13 year old Maxim and 8 year old Weston. Erin has lived in the greater Beechwood community for many years.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS**

**Congratulations** to Heather Beaton and Brian Raftis on the birth of Rankin James Beaton-Raftis. Rankin arrived at 5:19pm on March 21 weighing 8lbs, 3oz. Rankin is the first great-grandchild of Kay Wentzell.

**Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday** to Sarah Kim, Daughter of Hahn-Hoe and Julie and sister to Nathan.

**Offering Summer Services** – Renee Lemieux is here for the summer and is offering lawn mowing, weeding and babysitting for \$16/hour. She is in her third year at Western University, double majoring in Anthropology and Media Information Technoculture. You can contact Renee at [rlemieu@uwo.ca](mailto:rlemieu@uwo.ca) or 519-590-6582 (call or text).

**Scavenger Week Extravaganza!** All are invited to a free, fun, Covid-safe, scavenger hunt throughout the Beechwood and Erb West Neighbourhoods. The event is for all ages and will be held April 10-17. All registrants will receive an event kit with a list of challenges and detailed instructions and will be entered into a draw for daily prizes and more. This initiative is organized by volunteers in the Beechwood and Erb West neighbourhoods. It is generously supported by the City of Waterloo, Carizon and several local small businesses. For more information and to Register, email [marchbreakevent@gmail.com](mailto:marchbreakevent@gmail.com)

**Virtual Connections** - Maria Brzozowski plays bridge twice a week with friends that were Beechwood neighbours over 50 years ago. "I met Jean MacLean, Emily McLean and Gail Grant over fifty years ago when we moved to Beechwood. We were still a small community, and our children were in the same class at Centennial. Over the years, we all played bridge, in various groups. When Covid and Lockdown hit, Emily walked us through the ins and outs of computer bridge, and we now play once a week. The fact that distance separates us is no problem. Emily now lives in B.C., Gail in Essex, Jean in Kitchener and I'm still here. In my second bridge group, Jean and I play with Linda Haney, and her friend, Sue, who live in Wisconsin. Linda lived on Mohawk and was Jean's neighbour. This is our "international" group. Each time that we play, we have to take into account the different time zones. It's great fun, and old friendships are wonderful!"

**Meal with Monica** - Thank you to Monica Furniss for hosting a virtual cooking class. Participants made a pasta and salad dinner in under 45 minutes! All had a great time and a great dinner.

**Keeping the Community Informed** - The Region of Waterloo and beyond is very fortunate to have a local Health Care Professional like Kelly Grindrod, who lives on Shakespeare with her husband David and kids Brin and Oren, available to help guide us all through the many questions surrounding the science of vaccines and their rollout in the general community. Kelly is a Professor at the University of Waterloo's School of Pharmacy and a frequent expert contributor on T.V., Radio, and Print. On behalf of our entire community, we wish to thank her for her practical, reasoned explanations on the vaccine issue. In the coming weeks, please watch for a BPHA Zoom Meeting Notice in our community featuring a presentation by Kelly followed by a Q&A. We encourage you to participate in what we think will be a very enlightening conversation with Kelly. In the meantime, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnbOKH9Oe9s> to hear "Have the New Jab" adapted from Hallelujah.

**Snow!** Thank you to anyone who shoveled an extra length of sidewalk or someone else's driveway this winter. Special recognition to those on Coleridge who kept the entire length of sidewalk from Hiawatha to Amos cleared. It was also wonderful to see snow sculptures pop up throughout the neighbourhood. Cory and her dad, Duane designed a truly magical snow castle and Zi and Sophie, with the help of their parents, Bobby and Jun made a super frosty snowman.



**Ways to connect** – Join the BPHA Facebook Group at BPHAInc to keep up to date with what’s going on in the neighbourhood! Or, if you’re looking to connect with neighbours from all the Beechwoods, there is a Facebook Group called Beechwood Social (Waterloo)! There is even a Beechwood Dog Neighbours Facebook Group for all of the dog owners in the neighbourhood. Go ahead and check them out!

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD ICE RINK – UPDATE**

Provincial lock down and temperatures below zero are the perfect recipe for backyard rinks! If you were out walking the neighborhood this winter, you would have noticed that backyard rinks became a bit of a trend in Beechwood. We had the opportunity to speak with a few families who tackled a truly Canadian undertaking to understand what went into it and if it was worth the effort! *Jacqueline McGann, Hiawatha Drive*

### **Why did you build the individual rinks?**

**Caesar family:** We decided to build a rink this year knowing that with the pandemic there would not be a lot of opportunity to use the arenas. It was also one of the only things we could do this year!

**McGann family:** We both had great childhood memories of skating on backyard rinks growing up and wanted to give that opportunity to our kids.

### **What was the hardest part of the construction?**

**O’Halloran family:** The hardest part should have been finding a flat spot in the yard and making sure the walls of the rink were reinforced enough to avoid a blowout (collapse of a side). However, I had an unusual one-off circumstance that created an issue for me this season. I purchased a defective tarp that had a slow leak. Thankfully, one of my great neighbours (Nick "the rink master" Bailey) had purchased an extra tarp that he let me have, allowing me to get my rink up and running at the most optimum time.

### **How long did it take?**

**McGann family:** Building the frame was easy and took about 4 hours, and then filling from the hose took about 8 hours. Once the rink was frozen, after each day we skated there was about 30mins of maintenance to shovel/scrape the ice and then add a thin layer of water, which freezes overnight for a smooth surface the next day.

### **How often were you able to use your rink?**

**Caesar family:** My son was on the rink just about every day from Christmas right up to the first couple weeks in March.

**McGann family:** Daily! When our kids were virtual learning from home, the rink was used mornings, lunch hours and evenings. We strung Christmas lights around our rink, so our kids had fun skating at night.

### **Was the effort worth it?**

**O’Halloran family:** The effort was definitely worth it! The kids were outside a ton and the home rink provided a great outdoor activity during Covid in addition to helping them improve their hockey skills.

**Caesar family:** It was absolutely worth the effort, especially this year.

### **Advice for anyone who wants to try it next year:**

- You can build one yourself for as little as a few hundred dollars for lumber and a tarp, or there are various rink-kits available on-line which makes for a turn-key set-up.
- Plenty of online resources available to help you through the steps of building your own rink.
- Make sure you check the slope of your lawn to make sure it’s flat enough.

## **SKATING ON CLAIR LAKE THIS WINTER**

It was a magical month of skating on Clair Lake this winter; one we haven't seen in quite some time. With the consistently cold temperatures and lack of snow the ice thickened to over 12"; enough to drive a truck on! And volunteers showed up in droves from all three Beechwoods that border the lake to shovel and flood the rink. Flooding was a cold and tiring job usually done at night when the temperatures were colder and there was time for the water to freeze. And shovels were left in the snowbank for anyone wanting to clean the ice. To flood, a hole was augured through the ice and water was either hand carried to the rinks or pumped through a hose. Thanks so much to all those volunteers who stepped up and helped out without being asked. Your community spirit was amazing!

The skating rink itself consisted of a large central rink about 50'x100' where hockey could be played, surrounded by a beautiful oval for cruising which in turn lead to some smaller rink surfaces off to the side for little kids and beginners. It was really a winter version of our very own "Field of Dreams"; being able to once again skate on our lake; something our community has been doing for over 50 years. Mother nature must have known we all needed a winter boost during the Covid lockdown in January and February and her gift was priceless. Many neighbours rushed out to buy skates for the first time in years. Kids who hadn't been able to skate for a year were out there every day after their stay-at-home schooling, with smiles on their faces and rosy complexions, rushing around the rink, playing tag; pond skating like Canadians have been doing for generations. University students from far and wide heard about the rink and came out to clear their cobwebs with some exercise. Many adults showed up as well and seniors walking by would just gaze out at the old-fashioned scene in wonder, commenting how the sight buoyed their sagging spirits.

The mild weather has arrived now, but the outline of our rinks still persists out on the lake, providing us unforgettable memories of the fun many of us had during the Winter of 2021 on Clair Lake.  
*Steve Singer, [singercutt@golden.net](mailto:singercutt@golden.net), Shakespeare Drive*

## **KITCHENER WATERLOO WOODWORKING AND CRAFT CENTRE**

Thanks to the Editor for giving us some space to introduce Beechwood Park to the Kitchener Waterloo Woodworking and Craft Centre (KWWCC). KWWCC is an incorporated non-profit organization supported by the Community and available to anyone over 18 years of age from the Waterloo Region. The original woodworking shop had its beginnings in Waterloo in 1975 and many of you may remember when it was located by the log schoolhouse in Waterloo Park. In the early 2000s, interested woodworkers from Kitchener prevailed upon the Waterloo group to join forces to establish a larger, better equipped shop. Negotiations with the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo led to an agreement to provide financial support and a shop was established in an industrial building on Roger Street. The doors opened in 2006 with grants from New Horizons (Federal) and The Ontario Trillium Foundation being used to purchase equipment. KWWCC operated on Roger Street for about 11 years by which time the lease had run out and we had to look for new space. We are now located at 123 Ottawa Street South (Unit 2) in Kitchener, again in a single-story industrial building. At this location there is 5500 square feet of floor space divided into a machine room, an assembly room, a lathe area, and an area where some final finishing can be done.

While supported significantly by the Cities of Waterloo and Kitchener to cover the lease, insurance and some utilities, members pay dues each year to pay for shop operation, equipment renewal, and office help. Otherwise, the shop is run entirely by a dedicated group of volunteers. In that context it may be of interest to Beechwood residents that several of the key members of the KWWCC volunteer and management group live here. These include Karl Borchert and Don Mills from Coleridge, Bill Dipple from Keats Way, Shenhui Lang on Anatolin Place and David Peirson on Shakespeare. Another nine members from Waterloo are either volunteers or board members at the shop.

What do people make? It ranges from small items like cutting boards, boxes, tables and lathe-turned bowls all the way up to bedroom furniture. There is a carving bench, one member makes base guitars, and a few years back a beautiful, cedar strip kayak was created. We typically have 200 plus members, so as you can imagine storage space is limited and members are expected to take their material home when they are not in the shop.

KWWCC has a community presence. At Earth Day events in Waterloo and for summer camps at Breithaupt Community Centre, shop volunteers provide material and assistance to children assembling bird and bee houses. Similar assistance has been given at the Museum and one member supplies a large number of wooden toys for the Christmas Child program.

KWWCC has a web page ([www.kwwcc.org](http://www.kwwcc.org)) and e-mail ([kwwccinc@gmail.com](mailto:kwwccinc@gmail.com)). We offer tours during open hours and look forward to welcoming more folks from Beechwood Park as members.

*David Peirson, Shakespeare Drive*

## **INDOOR GARDENING**

### **You get a tomato, you get a tomato and you get a tomato**

No, it's not a bat signal in our front window on Hiawatha Drive. Instead of a covid puppy, we decided to try our hand at home indoor gardening and purchased a Tower Garden unit from a friend. During the pandemic we appreciated our summer garden more than ever and wanted to cut down grocery store trips. We remembered seeing a whole greenhouse of these units during an Epcot greenhouse tour years earlier. We did not know how successful we would be (I'm usually not) and admittedly got a little excited, diving in with 8 tomato plants, 2 cucumber, 2 green pepper plus a variety of herbs, lettuce, strawberries and Swiss chard, hoping that some would work.

For the first month until the plants grew in, this unit lit the street as well as any streetlight (sorry). Soon we started to eat fresh salads daily and we had little cucumbers starting to grow, the peppers were well on their way, and then it happened. Eight tomato plants, about 7 too many, started to grow ... and grow and grow. We had used the same seeds in the summer to get plants that grew 2.5 ft. tall. As it turns out, tomato plants LOVE the Tower Garden; actually, everything does. If you have looked in our window lately you will have seen plants growing along the ceiling and filling our entire window. The lettuce has also grown and grown. They say the more you harvest the faster it grows. They are not wrong. These days we are enjoying vine ripened tomatoes daily, in the middle of winter, 20 steps from our kitchen, along with fresh herbs for our caprese salad.

Unfortunately, 7 tomato plants too many meant that our cucumbers and peppers were choked out (live and learn). But the kale, herbs and lettuce continued to produce between October – March. We have started new plants now, more Kale, cilantro, romaine lettuce and Bibb lettuce and we continue to harvest basil, parsley, oregano and tomatoes!

I have to admit, we're addicted; tending to a garden in the middle of the winter, in the middle of a pandemic has not only been relaxing, it has provided us with daily access to fresh, pesticide free produce. Nothing has brought us more joy than clipping off a few pieces of lettuce for a sandwich at lunch: just rinse off in case there is dust and eat. You might see this unit outside this summer as we grow without the lights and I won't lie, you might see two. Like I said, we're addicted. Thank you for putting up with the bright lights. In hindsight we could have grown in the basement like most people. I am not a sales rep; however, if you are interested in learning more about Tower Gardening please feel free to email me and we can put you in touch with someone who can teach you more. There are many options and great resources online (which we should have read before growing 8 tomato plants). Be safe and healthy.

*Julie Scott, [js.julieannescott@gmail.com](mailto:js.julieannescott@gmail.com), Hiawatha Drive*



For many years, I have written about the seniors in our community. I have done so out of love for their life histories and the legacies they have left behind. In every instance, they have lived full lives, replete with accomplishments, colourful stories, and in a fashion to be emulated by all of us. I hope you find meaning in the life story of my good friend Bill Bernhardt who together with his wife Jenny and son Pierre made 277 Shakespeare Drive their home.

### **SERVICE ABOVE SELF - THE LIFE OF BILL BERNHARDT**

Bill lived his life fulfilling the motto Service Above Self; it was the motto of Bernhardt Insurance Agencies that his father Archie had started in 1937 and that Bill took to heart in everything he did. To Bill it meant always putting others first, especially those who life had handed a raw deal or had been singled out because they didn't fit in. This included Bill himself. As a young child, Bill developed a painful, visible skin condition that caused him to be teased and taunted throughout his youth. However, Bill didn't seem to care about being teased or what people thought about him. It just made him stronger, and he grew up never afraid of failure and never taking himself too seriously. He always had a positive outlook, a glint in his eye, and a joke to make you laugh. He had the benefit of growing up in a loving family on John St. in Waterloo and attended St. Jerome's High School. His father Archie was an accomplished Percussionist and one of the founders of the K.W. Symphony. There is still an annual Bernhardt prize awarded to the best percussionist in the KW Junior Symphony Orchestra. This musical background was passed along to Bill who played piano and organ throughout his life; both for pleasure and at his church. In fact, he was always rhythmically drumming the steering wheel of his car with his hands as he drove (too fast according to his son Pierre). Myrna and I remember several times Bill dropping by our house to play popular tunes on our Piano without sheet music.

Bill met his wife Jenny at a KW Catholic Youth Group. As the story goes, Jenny, a pretty farm girl from Blythe who had recently moved to Elmira to teach French at the high school, wanted to meet some kids her own age. At her priest's suggestion she contacted Bill who was President of the youth group. Bill offered to drive her to and from her first meeting since the buses didn't run on Sunday (This wasn't true of course). He ended the evening entertaining Jenny with some tunes on the piano in her apartment. Over the next 4 years Jenny witnessed firsthand the character of the man that made her laugh and who she fell in love with. Jenny saw how kind Bill was to her Downs Syndrome sister and to her father Earnest, a crusty Belgian farmer who had survived 5 years as a slave labourer in Germany during WWII. After a 4 year courtship they sealed their lives together for the next 52 years. As with many successful marriages, the two of them were polar opposites; Bill the gregarious, cockeyed optimist; Jenny the more reserved and quiet school teacher who was always there for him.

Bill's giving nature was legendary. During tough times, Bill never laid off staff at his insurance agency, shared the profits with them, and eventually sold them the business. Jenny remembers Bill asking her to food shop at an Italian grocery store in Guelph for an entire year because Bill had insured them, and they needed the business. Bill and his company got involved in many United Way fundraisers including lead sponsorship of the Bernhardt Golf Classic that raised funds for Camp McGovern for underprivileged kids. He once gave \$10,000 to build a children's school in Togo and fostered children around the world. He would even ask people who he barely knew to stay at their home if they needed a place to tide them over. For Bill it was all about living in the moment and going all in all the time. "He cared about stuff". After retirement Bill worked tirelessly for Sera Club International, a Catholic organization dedicated to recruiting new priests and ran for the Family Coalition Party in the 2007 provincial election. He also played the organ at church services every day until his health wouldn't permit it.

A couple of final personal memories; Bill's visit to our home one afternoon with a chessboard and Picard's Peanut treats in hand, to pass the time with me in my bedroom during my recovery from hip surgery; and his visits to the Beechwood Produce Stand to play chess under the crabapple tree or to buy pea pods and jars of honey which he loved. In the end Bill's life exemplified the prophetic saying: "If I am not for myself who will be for me. If I am only for myself what am I. If not now, when?" He will be missed.

*Steve Singer, [singercutt@golden.net](mailto:singercutt@golden.net), Shakespeare Drive*

## **SELLING YOUR HOME IN BEECHWOOD PARK**

Nicole and I recently sold our home on Shakespeare Drive. In the process, we have spent a lot of time reflecting on our Beechwood neighbourhood and how lucky we are to live in an area that is so special. I was proud to describe what living in this community feels like to prospective buyers, and quickly realized that we were fiercely protective of our neighbourhood and its community spirit. It became evident to us that, in order to preserve the gem that we have, it was important to think about the potential new owners of our home and carefully assess what their intentions were in buying it; especially in today's active residential real estate market. We encountered a few buyers that made us feel uneasy about the thought of them taking over our home (i.e. investors, large group rentals, vacant house owners, etc.) and didn't consider selling to them. Throughout the process, I asked lots of questions of the buyers' agents to vet their clients. When we ultimately received the offer that we accepted, we felt certain that the buyer would be an asset to the street and to our area.

My family and I have reaped the many rewards of living in this community for the past five years, and we are happy to be staying in the neighbourhood (you can find us on Tennyson Place as of the end of June!). We look forward to calling the Beechwood Park area home for many more years to come.

*Greg Hallman, Tennyson Place*

### **Selling tips**

The tips below can help anyone successfully sell their home in our neighbourhood:

- Work with a local realtor who is familiar with and passionate about the value of living in Beechwood Park. Convey to your agent that you wish to sell your home to someone who will live in the home and appreciate our area.
- Don't hesitate to look into the backgrounds of potential buyers to get a sense of their motivation for buying your home. Many long-term residents in our area who have sold their homes have done this already.
- If you end up in a multiple offer scenario, consider asking for letters to accompany the offers so you get to know the buyers' stories.
- Reach out to our BPHA association membership team ([membership.bpha@gmail.com](mailto:membership.bpha@gmail.com)) for helpful resources to promote the neighbourhood (i.e., copies of the latest newsletter, brochures, programming).

## **GENERATIONS IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD**

In the past we have written about homes in our neighbourhood now being lived in by the second generation including families like the Camerons on Shakespeare Place, the Chris' on Hiawatha, the Wentzells on Marlowe, and the Kellys on Algonquin. These families decided to give their kids what they had been given by their parents; a wonderful place to grow up in Beechwood. Recently we have noticed another similar phenomenon. Parents and their adult children and families living in their own separate homes in the neighbourhood; an ideal arrangement for visiting, babysitting, and simply looking after one another by living close by. These families now include the Mulhotras on Marlowe and Anatolin Place, the Dares on Marlowe and Mohawk, the Zurs on Shakespeare Place and Amos, and the Hallmans on Hiawatha and Shakespeare. It's so nice to see these generations deciding to go "back to the future"; realizing like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz that "there is no place like home".

*Steve Singer, [singercutt@golden.net](mailto:singercutt@golden.net), Shakespeare Drive*

## **WE NEED TO START BUYING CANADIAN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE**

In early January the KW Record published my Op-Ed article with the above title. Having spent my entire career in the North American manufacturing sector, visiting literally 1000's of factories I saw first-hand the many benefits to our society from local manufacturing. The positive spinoffs for the employees, the local communities, and the country are incalculable including higher average incomes, a stronger tax base for social programs, better supply chain and national security, more durable products, and a smaller environmental footprint. Here is an excerpt from my article for those of you who may have missed it. (It's available on the KW Record's website dated Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>.)

“Over the past 50 years, without even realizing it, Canada has become a nation of consumers rather than producers. Global free trade, for all its vaunted benefits, has gutted much of our manufacturing sector and made us dependent on a precarious supply chain whose weaknesses COVID has exposed. As a nation of consumers, too many of us have bought into the well-known slogan “Spend less, Live Better” preferring to buy cheaper offshore goods. But at what cost to our long-term financial well-being? In reality this slogan should read “Spend more for Canadian-made products and live better”... When we buy a Canadian-made product, our dollars multiply and spin through the economy, paying for everything from property taxes to income taxes, health benefits, wages and salaries, materials, supplies, professional services, and research and development. On average, every dollar we spend on locally produced goods provides \$3 of benefit to our economy because of the Multiplier Effect. Compare this to the neutral dollar-for-dollar multiplier when we buy an offshore product.”

Since my article was published there have been many articles on the same topic including “Domestic vaccine capacity must be a bigger priority”, “Pandemic gives rise to new Canadian nationalism” and “Plight of Local PPE firm must be addressed”. Notwithstanding what many economists will tell you, my career in manufacturing taught me that Canada has an enviable history of being really good at making sophisticated, quality products from vaccines, to airplanes, smartphones, and commercial nuclear reactors. We have a well-educated population, innovative engineers and scientists, a stable political system, and plentiful resources. A perfect example of our manufacturing excellence is the local Toyota plants in Cambridge and Woodstock that employ a combined 8000 people. Ten years ago, the Cambridge plant became Toyota's first non-Japanese plant to produce their Lexus brand. Toyota hasn't regretted this decision.

In closing, Did You Know that:

- Most of the World's French Fries Come from McCain Foods in New Brunswick?
- The Original Maple Bat Corporation makes bats in Carleton Place for over 100 Major Leaguers.
- Saskatchewan Makes Most of the World's Lentils.
- Scarborough Makes most of world's Hall's throat lozenges (over 6 billion pieces).
- The Royal Winnipeg Mint produces coins for over 60 different countries.
- Toronto based Cervelo Makes the World's Best Racing Bikes.
- Sabian Cymbals, from Meductic New Brunswick, makes the world's best cymbals.
- Kelowna's Whitewater West Industries is the world's largest parks maker of water slides in the world?
- Atlantis Submarines of B.C. invented and manufactures the world's first commercial tourist submarine.

*Steve Singer, [singercutt@golden.net](mailto:singercutt@golden.net), Shakespeare Drive*

## The NEXT50 PROJECT

### WHAT IS IT?

In 2018 our neighbourhood celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Beechwood Park Homes Association (BPHA). We marked the year with a series of fun events and even managed to assemble and publish a history of our first 50 years (released June 2019). Fast on the heels of this milestone anniversary we started to think about the future, and the NEXT50 project was launched! **This first phase of the project is about canvassing Beechwood Park neighbours for input, ideas & views, for the NEXT 50 years of BPHA!**

Let us talk about the possibilities for the NEXT50 years:

- What do you want the BPHA to be, going forward?
- What would entice more neighbours to join BPHA and participate in the programs, facilities, events, and activities?
- What could this community look like in the future?

### WHAT IS THE PLAN?

**This is a multi-year project** which commenced in 2020 and is projected to run until 2024. **In 2020**, we introduced the concept of creating a vision for the future of our community; we surveyed members and non-members alike; we collected ideas pertaining to development of both the current rec centre and the associated programming. Based on this input, we were able to identify some **major themes** and some **guiding principles** for the future. All this detail can be found at [www.bpha.ca](http://www.bpha.ca), on the NEXT50 Building Consensus tab.

**In 2021**, we plan to lower the microscope on these **major themes and the input we collected in 2020**; we will foster respectful exchange of ideas and open-minded listening to each other. We will use multiple methods for collecting feedback (anonymous online voting, in person discussions and ‘thumbs up/thumbs down’ exercises). In addition, we will begin an exploration of thoughts and ideas around our current membership model. Finally, we are also launching a relationship building effort amongst all the Beechwoods, we have called it ‘**BETTER TOGETHER**’. Its objective is to look for mutual interests and find ways all ten of these associations can work together for mutual benefit. By year-end, we aim to have collected ideas for **a common vision for community building; consensus on major plan elements; and possible programming priorities**. With all this input the BPHA Board will have what it needs to develop feasible next steps during 2022.

**Mark your calendar for May 1<sup>st</sup> and watch your mailbox** for lists of the key themes submitted in 2020 along with an invitation to sign into a virtual town hall aimed at collecting your thoughts around these ideas. Then, we plan to spend the remaining summer months stimulating discussion and reflection within our neighbourhood! Every Wednesday afternoon from mid-June to early September, we will nestle an information booth near the front of the rec centre at 293 Shakespeare Dr. to foster discussions about possible changes to both the existing facilities and the programming. We plan to round out the summer with a 2<sup>nd</sup>/final virtual town hall to collect people’s thoughts on the specific themes for the future.

If the prevailing view is that we should make significant changes to our facilities, then **in 2022/23/24** we will create detailed plans to bring our common vision to life; this will include a financial plan and landscape architectural drawings.

*This project is sanctioned by the BPHA Board of Directors. Current team members include Joel Blit, Serge Levert-Chiasson, Katie MacGuire, Dianne & Bill Ratcliffe, Carole & Jim Wilkinson. This is an exciting opportunity to shape the future and additional volunteers are welcomed.*

## **ADVOCATING FOR BEECHWOOD PARK**

Last summer, a shudder was felt on Longfellow Drive when the City gave notice that they would be reconstructing the street and forever altering its character. This issue brought neighbours and residents of the broader community together in an attempt to protect the heritage and natural landscape of Beechwood Park. Since then, other issues have arisen raising questions regarding what we value about the residential fabric of our neighbourhood. Skating (& flooding & shoveling) on Claire Lake, a long-held winter tradition bringing friends and families together to celebrate those cold winter days on a pair of hardened steel blades, became a hot button issue worthy of an article in the Waterloo Chronicle and heated discussion over a hot cuppa (insert beverage of choice here). An emerging topic of discussion is the possible cancellation of the fall bulk leaf pick-up that is being contemplated by the City.

Different groups and individuals have spoken out on these various issues, bringing the community voice to City hall and staff, some successfully, some not. We seem to have become engaged too late on some of these issues.

The group that was initially formed to address the Longfellow reconstruction is now broadening its scope to ensure that our community's needs and concerns are taken into account in the City's Official Plan review. This review has just been initiated. In other words, the timing is right. We are involved in the early stage and have the opportunity to make a difference with how we protect what we value about this community. If you would like to join this group to receive updates and/or be part of the discussion or if you have questions, please email [beechwoodparkwaterloo@gmail.com](mailto:beechwoodparkwaterloo@gmail.com).

*Katie Gibb, Longfellow Drive*

## **CONNECTING WITH THE CITY**

**For local services** - If you have questions, concerns, or comments about City services (i.e., trees, roads, leaf pickup, sidewalks, sewers, ice, garbage, etc.) be sure to reach out to city services so they can address your concerns. You can do this by calling the main number 519-886-1550 and asking for the appropriate department.

**For local initiatives** – If you want to have a say in local initiatives, you can do this by emailing our Ward 5 city councillor, Jeff Henry at [jeff.henry@waterloo.ca](mailto:jeff.henry@waterloo.ca) and by signing up for Engage Waterloo at [www.engagewr.ca](http://www.engagewr.ca).

## **COVID VACCINATION**

To get vaccinated, you can find out when you qualify and how to preregister on the Region of Waterloo's website: [www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-vaccine).

## **WHAT ARE YOU READING?**

The Sisters Brothers - by Patrick DeWitt - Set in the U.S. Northwest during 1851, this is the story of Eli and Charlie Sisters (the Sisters brothers) who are hit men for the mysterious 'Commodore'. The story follows the journey of the two brothers from Oregon City to Sacramento, California on an assignment to kill gold prospector Hermann Kermit Warm. This page turner is often humorous and dark, sometimes violent, and yet entirely engaging! In addition to the Sisters Brothers, Canadian Patrick DeWitt also wrote Undermajordomo Minor, which we also highly recommend.

*Joanna & Alec Cram, Coleridge Drive*

Keeper of the Lost Cities - by Shannon Messenger - This series is fantasy/realistic fiction. Other than the fact that 12-year-old Sophie Foster can read minds, she is an ordinary human girl. Or is she? Sophie sticks out at her human school since she has a photographic memory and can hear everyone's thoughts. The first book in the series brings you along on Sophie's adventure as she finds out who she really is. Sophie travels all over the world and meets new people who *might* have abilities, too! If you liked Harry Potter - you'll love Keeper of the Lost Cities!

*Isaac Cram*

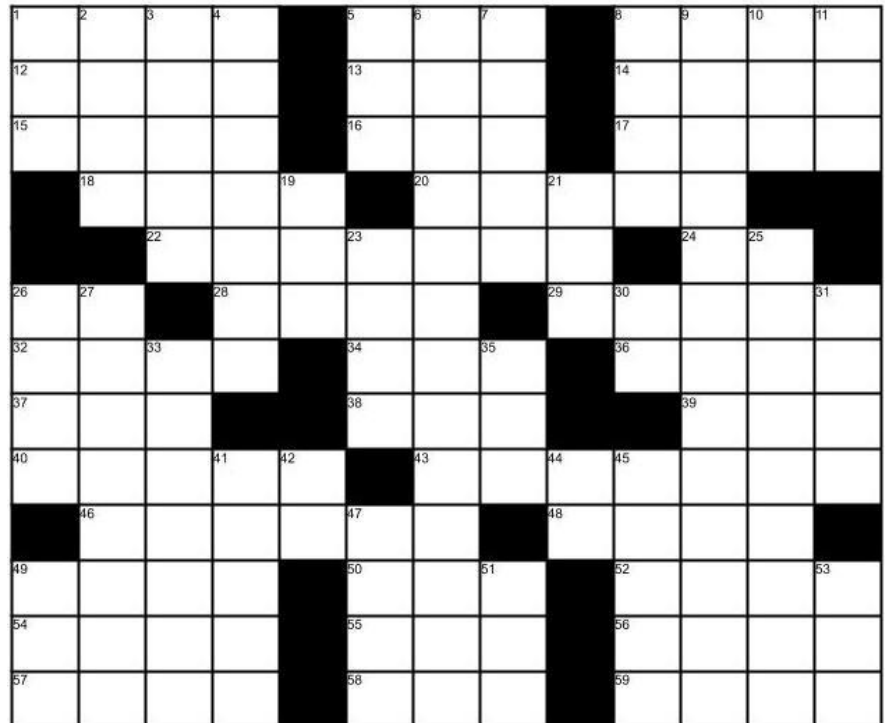
## BPHA CROSSWORD

Created by: Ivy and Kyri Friedman

For solution: contact [ivyfriedman@gmail.com](mailto:ivyfriedman@gmail.com)

### ACROSS

1. Become a member of the \_\_\_\_\_
5. A sad loss in our tree canopy
8. A clue
12. Large amount
13. Introverted
14. Acoustic trick
15. Water polo, e.g.
16. Alternative to lol
17. Soften with heat
18. To speak loudly
20. Continues to have
22. Kathleen & Eleanor, e.g.
24. Puzzle co-creator's initials
26. Erb, e.g.
28. Nonsensical compass direction
29. The pool on busy days, e.g.
32. \_\_\_\_\_ the right shoes for tennis!
34. \_\_\_\_\_ pen, for allergies
36. "\_\_\_\_\_ a boy!" announcement
37. Beechwood Park Homes Assoc., \_\_\_\_\_
38. Separates the tennis players
39. Not of this world
40. One is not enough for safe distancing
43. Loves and respects
46. Tiny, \_\_\_\_\_, and tiniest
48. A past name for Russia
49. \_\_\_\_\_, fours, sixes, eights
50. Came together
52. A large \_\_\_\_\_ of orange juice
54. Canoe, phonetically...kind of
55. Said before an officiant
56. \_\_\_\_\_ I, song by Galantis
57. H\_\_\_\_\_
58. Attempt
59. Bacon & \_\_\_\_\_



### DOWN

1. Bring your own when visiting the produce stand
2. \_\_\_\_\_ tennis in the summer!
3. Type of association
4. Artist's studio
5. To say a question
6. 293 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Small children are very \_\_\_\_\_
8. Bracelet or necklace material
9. Helmet, pads, and jersey, e.g.
10. Logo for 9 down
11. Parent & \_\_\_\_\_ class
19. Lifesaving Society, for short
21. Button on a keyboard
23. Between 13-19
25. Temporary care
26. Type of lesson at BPHA
27. Doctrine feud
30. A way to greet your neighbour
31. Don't give any
33. These speak louder than words
35. Contraction of it would
41. Follow
42. Small US State
44. \_\_\_\_\_e and yo\_
45. Take \_\_\_\_\_ with
47. \_\_\_\_\_ less greenhouse gas!
49. Boxing goal
51. Plaything
53. Something to calculate when mortgaging a house

*Thank you to everyone who sent in material for the spring newsletter. It's great knowing the community is staying connected and active during the pandemic. With the warming weather, I look forward to seeing friends and neighbours outside enjoying all that Beechwood Park has to offer. If you have stories or suggestions for the next newsletter, you can email them to me anytime. Special thanks to Steve Singer as a contributor and mentor and to Tracey Nairn for ideas and edits. Bye for now.*

*Sincerely, Ivy Friedman [ivyfriedman@gmail.com](mailto:ivyfriedman@gmail.com)*

“Without diversity of opinion, the discovery of truth is impossible.” Alexander Von Humboldt