







## VIEWPOINT 50

# YEAR IN REVIEW 2017



## 2017 - 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

Elisabeth Bihl



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#### **GREETINGS FROM THE NEW BOARD** ~

On behalf of the newly elected board for 2017-2018, I wish to extend a big thank you to everyone at 50 Quebec. We very much appreciate your trust in us and in turn will do our utmost to contribute our energy and expertise to this wonderful building and its owners. Equally we will make sure that our communication channels to you and with you are open. We are always happy to talk and discuss!

It's just been a month since the AGM, our first board meeting is behind us and as you already know there are some significant renovation projects scheduled for the coming year. There is also the newly revised Condominium Act from 1998, which came into effect as of November 1<sup>st</sup>. It introduces a number of important changes including improved protection for condo owners, along with many new regulations to be studied and implemented. For instance, new board members in the future must complete mandatory training to ensure that board members have a minimum level of condominium knowledge. Much more to come about this next year.

For the rest of 2017 the board extends to everyone the very best wishes for the festive season and a successful Happy New Year 2018.

Elisabeth Bihl President, YCC323



Joyeux Noel et bonne et heureuse annee a tous et toutes!

#### **GREETINGS FROM YCC435 ~**

This time last year, we were enjoying the use of your party room to hold our holiday party, because our party room and lounge were under construction. We greatly appreciated your hospitality. This year, our party room and lounge, which are in 80 Quebec, are open and in regular use, along with a renovated gym in that building. In 100 Quebec, we created a staff room, converted a bicycle room into a new and larger gym, and refurbished the meeting room and library.

Outside, we oversaw phase one of our garage membrane replacement project. For a few weeks, we contributed greatly to the dust and noise in the neighbourhood. Necessary, but inconvenient work. That project is drawing to a close.

We wish everyone in YCC323 a peaceful and quiet holiday season. We look forward to opportunities when our two communities can come together in the New Year.

Judy Cole President, YCC435



#### MANAGEMENT REPORT ~

As 2017 draws to a close, we bid farewell to another successful year of managing YCC323 together. Isan, our Property Manager, assisted the Board on special projects such as extensive renovations of common areas, served as a liaison with contractors and suppliers alike, and responded to emergency situations. He worked with the Superintendents, Radu and Carlos, who as a team continued to perform, in a pleasant, courteous and helpful manner, routine tasks such as the following:

- ♣ Repairing/maintaining the property within technical competence, as well as expanding their own knowledge/skills;
- Promptly attending to any problems related to common elements;
- ♣ Performing preventative and seasonal maintenance programs to ensure that everything is working properly; and
- reviewing floor by floor clean-up to improve the "curb appeal" of the building.

By frequently going above and beyond the call of duty, the Management Team has earned the respect and gratitude of the residents of YCC323.







#### <u>COMMUNICATION & WEBSITE</u> ~



This image created by MC Escher is representative of the committee's work over the past year. On a weekly basis the images in the elevators and in the Lobby are updated. We sketch out a general theme, perhaps focusing on the season, or on special events being celebrated in the local community, city, province, country and globally.

The theme might be dictated by digital submissions from our residents. Travellers provide images of far-flung lands and peoples, while Mother Nature is highlighting local scenery or general views of a city. Nature photography can spotlight wildlife inhabiting High Park or exotic flora and fauna in foreign countries.

Resident artists have also submitted paintings sharing their creative imaginations.

Of course, the primary purpose of the screens is to display notices from committees, Board of Directors and the Management Office, while the visual pleasures of the pictures have started many a conversation with strangers as well as friends in the elevators.

The written word is not ignored. *What's Happening* is published three times a year, requiring various people to provide pertinent information. Once a year, in Viewpoint 50, we encourage submissions from numerous sources, including our sister buildings at 80 and 100 Quebec. The goal is to provide overviews of activities enjoyed over the past year. In addition, a Features section encourages residents to share stories that have meaning in their lives.

Some of you may have noticed technical issues on the elevator screens lately, which are, unfortunately, beyond our control. We hope the problem will soon disappear. On a positive note, to overcome the temporary screen disruptions, a digital messaging system was implemented. When necessary we can forward

information to an email address. This format reaches approximately 80% of the building. As a bonus, we can also notify the townhouses of upcoming events with images displayed on the screens.

Escher's image reflects the numerous items the committee is involved in. These hands wish to express to all our thanks for your support. And a special thank you to those who are regular contributors to our digital library.



A digital version of this newsletter (in all its glorious colours) is available on the YCC323 website (www.ycc323.com).



#### **CONSTRUCTION MONITORING COMMITTEE** ~

Construction activity on the Grenadier Square property has reached a new level of intensity. Dump trucks, cement mixers, bulldozers and excavators are jostling one another for space on the property. From time to time trucks line Quebec Avenue all the way to Bloor Street.

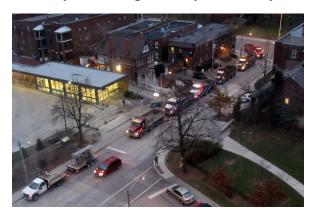
But the main construction-related development is the erection of three tower cranes on the site. Some concern has been expressed about booms reaching out beyond the Grenadier Square property.

Here is what we found out about rules applicable overhanging booms (based on an article in the Construction and Engineering Blog). A crane would not be trespassing on adjacent property if it is erected according to safety standards, inspected regularly, operated properly, by experienced workers, does not carry loads over adjacent properties, and has not caused injuries. In other words, the onus is on the adjacent property owners to show that the crane failed to meet these standards for there to be a finding of trespass.

When we met Grenadier Square staff in April 2017 we were told that their cranes would not carry loads over private property nor load from Quebec Avenue. To do so would require special permission and traffic would have to be directed by the police. To date we are not aware of any complaints related to this issue. In any

case we should be vigilant and report the matter to the police should these conditions be violated (416.808.2222).

In the last few months the construction-related issue that has caused residents the greatest concern is Grenadier Square's trucks parked and idling on Quebec Avenue. We have frequently complained to the parking enforcement office, the police and the Grenadier Square Relations Manager about this. We don't know how much effect these complaints have had, but the problem has diminished recently. We hope it stays that way.





#### **ENERGY AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE** ~

Committee members undertook several significant activities this year.

A link called "Did you know" has been added to the YCC 323 website highlighting key recycling information for all residents of our building.

Members of the committee arranged for the old meeting room furniture to be donated to the Furniture Bank instead of being consigned to landfill. Within two days all the donated furniture was assigned to the homes of needy Toronto residents.

Use of the blue and green bins on each floor appears to have increased during the year. But we can do better. For guidance, please take the time to look at the information flyers posted on the wall in each disposal room. The more we recycle,

and the less garbage we create, the lower the garbage disposal fees payable to the city: a win-win for all of us.

At this time, unfortunately, Toronto does not recycle black plastic. So please do not add any black plastic items/containers to the blue bins.

#### **HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE** ~

Following its inception five years ago, the Health & Safety Committee worked diligently to address concerns brought forward by both the Board and residents, as well as proactively compiling Tip Sheets on such matters as Fire Safety, and personal Safety and Security. These and other Tip Sheets are available on our condo's website (<a href="www.ycc323.com">www.ycc323.com</a>) and all residents are urged to review them regularly.



The Health & Safety Committee has now taken a step back, and will be reactivated when needed on an ad hoc basis. If you have on-going concerns, please report them to the Management Office, and they will be directed to the source that can most efficiently deal with them.

#### **LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE** ~

Many residents have congratulated the Landscape Committee for our beautiful gardens.

Much has happened over the past year. The hedge along Gothic Avenue is growing and will be trimmed in the new year. It has made a big difference in protecting our hillside plants from dogs and the weather. The trees and plants camouflaging the generator are growing and adding colour to the area.

Wayne Hudson, our landscaper, is creating plans to add more colour and some formality to the gardens at Quebec and Gothic Avenues. The greenery of the euonymus grew a great deal this year because of the summer weather and the removal of the diseased pine trees. Plans are being made to enhance the garden area between the visitors' parking lot and the sidewalk along Quebec Avenue. Wayne is also investigating the City Leaf Program which may provide us with some additional trees.

The Board has been requested to provide signage for our neighbours about picking up after their dogs.

Residents wishing to help with weeding are welcome as long as they know the plants; we want weeds only removed! Weeds should be bagged and disposed of in the green bin in the recycling room on P1.

A 'visually interesting' feature is planned outside the alcove space in the meeting room. Stay tuned!



#### **MEETING & GAMES ROOM ~**

The Board is happy to announce that our much-anticipated Meeting and Games Rooms renovations have now been completed, apart from a few final items yet to be installed – the microwave over the stove and an additional shelving unit in the library/conference area.

The Board's goal was to create practical yet stylish multi-functional spaces that meet the needs of as many residents as possible. To this end, the work done by the Meeting and Games Rooms Committee and the feedback provided by residents individually through the user survey, emails and resident meetings were invaluable in shaping the final design and finishes. We hope that you are as pleased with the results as the Board is.

The only significant remaining finishing touch is the selection of art for both rooms. The Board will be seeking resident opinion as to what we should do, and we are currently in the process of formulating a process for this. Stay tuned for further news!

Once this renovation is finished, it will bring to an end a long and busy period of common area renovations starting with the Lobby in 2015, continuing with the Fitness Room, and ending with the Meeting and Games rooms in 2017. In 2018,

the plan is to update the P1 change room washrooms to meet accessibility requirements that will be coming into effect in the near future. The next big interior space project to be renovated will be the hallways on all floors. That project is currently scheduled for 2020.







#### **NEIGHBOURS COMMITTEE** ~

After another successful year of arranging social activities for our residents, the Neighbours Committee is now planning for 2018. We will be continuing with ongoing projects: Afternoon Teas, Sunday Movie Night, Monday Morning Walking Group, and Crafts Workshops.

A new initiative this year has proven popular; there has been a good and consistent turn-out for the Monday Morning Walking Group!

We are intending to hold two drop-in Craft Workshops a month – one on a Sunday and one on a Wednesday. Instruction and supplies will be available for Adult Colouring, Zentangles and Paper Quilling. If anyone would like to work on their own craft (e.g. knitting, crocheting ...) they are welcome to drop in for the company. And if anyone would like to lead a new craft, please contact the Management Office.

We are also hoping to establish a lending library for the DVD movies that have been shown on past movie nights. Stay tuned for more information.

As for Afternoon Teas, we are constantly looking for speakers or ideas for speakers. Please contact Management with suggestions.

Finally, we are always looking for new ideas and new members.



#### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE ~**

Every year a Nominations Committee is formed to source possible candidates for vacancies on the board of directors. The Committee is comprised of current board members and other owners in the building, as required. Persons serving on the Committee change every year.

With the input of the Property Manager, the Committee identifies a number of owners who would qualify for positions. Prospective candidates are contacted and interviewed. The role of a director is discussed, including (in future) the requirement under the new Regulations to the Condominium Act that they must take mandatory training on condominium knowledge.

Candidates are put forward at the Annual General Meeting to run for the YCC323 Board of Directors. The owners then vote to fill the requisite number of vacancies.



#### LIBRARY ~

The Library is back in business – good news for all you folks with nothing to read!

Our Library is up and running again in our newly renovated Meeting Room, better than ever. The selection is excellent, and you don't have to worry about late fees!



The books have been organized by category, with each category labelled and sorted alphabetically as follows:

- **Fiction** entire wall backing on Isan's office except for large coffee table sized Art and Travel books along the top
- **Mystery** entire unit backing on the window wall with oversized books along the top PLUS one shelf below the TV we have a lot of mystery lovers amongst us!!
- Poetry, Quotations and Writing right side shelf under the TV
- **Non-Fiction** right side shelves under the TV
- **Health** middle shelf under the TV
- **Body & Spirit** middle shelves under the TV
- **Hobbies** middle shelf under the TV
- New Contributions & Returns left side shelf under the TV
- Under 16 left side shelves under the TV
- Games left side under the TV
- **Biography** currently in storage awaiting new shelving unit (between 2 windows)

**Under 16** is a brand-new category that recognizes that we have a lot more young people at 50 Quebec. It's a broad category that covers everything from read aloud picture books to youth literature. Right now, we only have a few books and any new contributions will be greatly appreciated.

Finally, re-shelving all the books that we had boxed up and stored during renovations provided us with the opportunity to identify duplicates and those in bad condition. They were donated to Value Village.











### **BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS – DECEMBER 2017 TO JUNE 2018**

MEETING DATE	TITLE	<u>AUTHOR</u>
December 19, 2017	TWO FREEDOMS	Hugh Segal
January 16, 2018	MAD ENCHANTMENT: CLAUDE MONET	Ross King
February 20, 2018	TRASH	Laurie Anne Hoover
March 20, 2018	OATMEAL ARK	Rory MacLean
April 17, 2018	THE ROAD TO CHARACTER	Robert Brooks
May 22, 2018	THE NEST	Cynthia Sweeney
June 19, 2018	THE PIANO TUNER	Daniel Mason

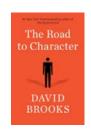
Please note: The new day for meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> <u>Tuesday</u> of each month.















#### **BILLIARDS CLUB** ~

Last year about this time I decided to share my passion for cue sport games by initiating a Billiards Club. An enthusiast group of regulars started to appear at our weekly Thursday night 7:00-9:30 sessions. I provided basic instructions and explained the difference between playing at a professional vs basic amateur level.

We quickly developed a spirit of camaraderie! It was all about learning, having fun and socializing with fellow residents here at 50 Quebec. A shout out to our most senior member, who often dropped in for a couple of games and shared stories of growing up in Toronto. What a great way of enjoying a few hours when the cold weather arrived, and our games room was a short elevator ride away!

Although playing on very old and damaged toy-like equipment (table and balls), we soldiered on, knowing that it would be replaced once the room was renovated.

Now we have a new games room! Although I lobbied hard for the best used Diamond table, we ended up with a brand new, very attractive Brunswick table with a set of real pool balls and four decent cues. This new table is more than adequate for the casual user wanting to have fun!



Unfortunately, because of circumstances beyond my control, moving forward I can no longer commit to hosting our club every Thursday; I hope someone else will step forward and continue to lead the good times enjoyed by many this past year!



#### **BRIDGE CLUB ~**

Bridge players enjoy the game and especially enjoy the fun and camaraderie. We constantly are helpful to each other and, of course, never keep score because we want to relax and cut the stress of competition!

Of course, we also love the variety of treats brought by members each week. Coffee is available; tea drinkers may bring their own because they have such a variety of individual tastes.



If we have an uneven number of players we use a simple strategy of the player who cuts the cards making way for the extra players; this way there is no lull in the games, and everyone plays without waiting long.

So you see, if you want an enjoyable afternoon of cards with congenial players, come and join us on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the new Library.



## WANTED

#### CARD ENTHUSIASTS ...

... to populate and enjoy the new Library!

Play is resuming – in beautiful new surroundings – in both

#### BRIDGE and EUCHRE

and we would like to see as many new faces as possible around the tables!

If you are an old hand – or are willing to learn – you're welcome to join!

**BRIDGE** – Tuesday afternoons, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**EUCHRE** – Wednesday evenings, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

## COME PLAY WITH US!



#### **EUCHRE CLUB ~**

I was recently asked why I attend our Wednesday evening "Euchre night" every chance I get. To me, it is a social event and I enjoy it very much.

Two years ago, I did not know how to play euchre. Two special ladies in the Euchre Club taught me how to play the game, and still encourage me. I can now play on my own with very little coaching.

We play euchre for one and a half hours (sometimes longer), and tease each other every chance we get. We also have nice treats, which players take turns bringing.

Because it is so enjoyable, I missed not playing this past summer due to renovations. The renovations are now complete and we have a beautiful, functional room to play in.

I can't wait to start playing again with our neighbours and friends!

Thank you to everyone who makes these social events possible for all of us to enjoy!

#### EXERCISE CLASSES ~

Look out, aches and pains – Exercise Classes are back! Share laughter, moans and groans, as we all exercise together.

Classes, led by a professional trainer, are held weekly in the Meeting Room, and are free to all seniors (55+).

There are two levels of classes – one challenging and one easier. Wheelchairs and walkers are welcome!

Notification will be posted to advise us when classes are starting up again.



#### **SWIMMING POOL** ~

It was another uneventful summer in the shared swimming pool this year. Activities around the pool are a different story.



As exhibit 1, pictured here is Dana, our regular early morning life guard. She is dressed for the middle of winter, complete with touque and covered with a blanket – not a sight you are used to seeing when entering a pool area!

Exhibit 2 – Enjoying the sun and replenishing your Vitamin D levels is very disconcerting when Paul Bunyan and his friendly group of tree huggers arrive to remove an old majestic oak tree before it decided to do a belly flop into the pool.



Finally: Stormy weather you say? Intrepid swimmers jumped to the rescue of our wayward sun deck furniture. As reported by the rescue co-ordinator:



My memory of the perilous event may have been affected by the adrenaline rush brought on by the struggles, against wind and waves, to save the hapless chairs from an imminent watery grave in the chlorinated depths of the pool.

Fortunately the chairs were all safely rescued and will be able to verify, and recount, the events for future generations and which will

forever be remembered as The Great Labour Day Recovery of 2017!!!

Join us again next year – you never know what to expect around the pool!

#### TENNIS CLUB - SUNDAY ROUND ROBIN ~

For over 30 years, the residents of our condominium group (YCC 323 and YCC 435) have been meeting on Sunday mornings for a social Round Robin on our tennis courts. To be part of our Round Robin, all you have to do is to bring a new can of tennis balls once a season.

All those who turn up for the Round Robin play as a member of a single group. The objective is to have each person play with as many different players as possible within a three-hour period. One person is responsible for selecting the 4 people who play in each match.

The Round Robin starts at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. every Sunday. Each match lasts for 30 minutes. Players can drop-in at any time and leave as they please.

Players must be at least 16 years of age. There is no upper age limit; our oldest regular player is 90+ years of age!

The Round Robin is competitive and is for players with a wide range of tennis skills. Although we play competitive games, the objective of the Round Robin is to have fun and meet new players.

We have an annual potluck dinner in the fall. This potluck is usually held in the party room at 50 Quebec.

The 2018 Round Robin will start in the spring as soon as the nets are up (weather permitting).





#### **COOKING CORNER** ~

Here is a recipe that can conjure up the colours, fragrance and textures of traditional Indian cooking. Whole spices and yogurt can turn a simple can of kidney beans into an exotic and interesting (and nutritious) dish.

#### **Canned Kidney Beans in Yogurt Sauce**

#### WHOLE SPICES

4 large cardamom pods

1 cinnamon stick about 2 inches/ 5 cm long

2 whole dried cayenne peppers (optional)

5 cloves

10 black peppercorns

1 Tbsp. /15 mL canola oil

One 19 oz. /532 mL can kidney beans drained

1 Tbsp. /15 mL Hungarian paprika

 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup / 125 mL yogurt beaten until smooth

1Tbsp. / 15 mL chopped fresh cilantro

Heat the oil in a saucepan. Add the whole spices and cook on medium heat for 2 minutes until they become fragrant. Don't let them burn. Add the drained kidney beans and cook on medium heat for 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the paprika making sure that the paprika does not burn. Reduce heat to low. Add the yogurt one spoon at a time while stirring constantly. The yogurt should be absorbed smoothly without separating. Continue adding the yogurt, keeping the

sauce from becoming too dry. Add a few spoons of water if needed. Cook for another 5 minutes till the beans are tender. Remove the whole spices before serving.

Garnish with chopped cilantro and serve with rice or toasted pita bread. Enjoy!



#### FAMILIAR PLACES LONG AGO ~

We are fortunate to live in a well-established area of the city. Local transportation provides quick access to Bloor West Village, The Junction and Roncesvalles Village. For some of us these are prime areas to explore by bike, running or walking. The 399 acres of High Park are probably the prominent physical attraction. With its long history, you might find the following of interest as you compare the current environment to historical pictures extracted from the digital archives of the Toronto Public Library.

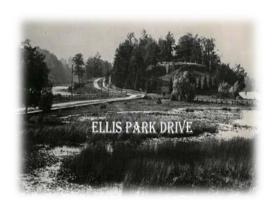


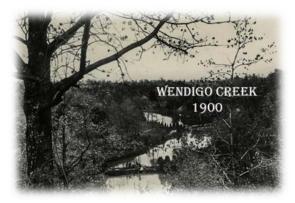
This entrance pre-dates the expansion of the park to the east and west. It was an entry to the Howard estate.

As you stroll west on Bloor Street to Ellis Avenue, you will pass over a land fill area that now restricts the water flow from the north portion of Bloor Street. The creek can be tracked back to Annette Street at Laws Avenue.

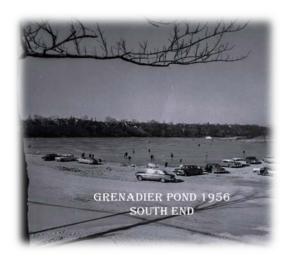


The Gardner Expressway, Lakeshore Boulevard and the Queensway now separate High Park and Grenadier Pond from Lake Ontario. Before the construction of these thoroughfares, residents could drive to the southern part of the pond and enjoy sand beaches and a swim. This area would be a respite from the more formal amusement area at the Sunnyside swimming pool and fair grounds.





To reach the east end of the park, city travelers could take a streetcar. Although the Queen streetcar now continues out to and beyond the Humber River, the main terminus of the line was at the foot of Roncesvalles and Queen, just east of St. Joseph's Hospital.



Grenadier Pond and Catfish Pond originally flowed directly into Lake Ontario. Expansion routes to the west of the Humber river reclaimed the land. Underground water pipes now control the water flow to the Humber. Outflow is moderated by a weir at the foot of Ellis Avenue.



#### **HOGMANAY** ~

Hogmanay ... not really a Scottish word, might have come from the French, or more likely the Norse. But we Scots really took to the underlying idea, as have many other northern cultures. The days begin to lengthen; the worst is over; it's time to look to the future. Let's celebrate that and wish for the best for friends and family!

When I was little, we went to spend Ne'erday (the other name for it) with my Grannie – preceded by several days of team effort, like polishing furniture, starching linens, and baking, so that the New Year would be welcomed as she intended it to continue! Nothing left undone! (There have been years when I've been in the basement at 10pm on December 31st attacking an ironing pile to honour that tradition!) Then on the evening of the 31st my family gathered in its best clothes, around the fireside, the table set with shortbread, fruit cake, sausage rolls, ginger wine and lemonade, maybe advocaat and whisky and wherewith for a cup of tea. We chatted, listened to music on the wireless and later TV (Grannie's was bought to watch THE Royal Wedding 70 years ago). Toward midnight glasses were filled, and as Big Ben struck we toasted the New Year and one another, and Grannie and old Mr. Hill next door knocked on the wall by the fireplace by way of greeting.

Soon after came the ring of the doorbell. The "First Foot" Tradition specified a tall, dark stranger carrying a lump of coal (Lang may your lum reek) and something to put on the table. Hospitality was offered and shared, neighbours came, chatted a while, and moved on. Often the women of the house stayed home to entertain, and the men and young folk circulated. As a teenager, I joined the latter doing the first footing around friends' homes. There are tales of enthusiasts still circulating with their bottles around January 7th!

I enjoyed the same sort of tradition in India, when during the Pujas people make a point of visiting friends and family to exchange good wishes. You don't need to wait for an invitation, you just come, bearing sweets, and are sure of a welcome!

I must confess that nowadays I may manage to stay awake for a glass of sherry at midnight, but am happy to offer hospitality any time after breakfast on January 1<sup>st</sup>!

#### **HOW WOMEN IN CANADA GOT THE VOTE** ~



Canada was still a part of the British Empire in 1914, so when Britain declared war on Germany, Austro-Hungary and Turkey, Canada was automatically at war with them as well. It was up to Canada to decide what troops it would send. The Conservatives, under Robert Borden, had been elected with a majority in 1911. They were for strongly supporting Britain.

Initially there was a high response to a call for volunteers, with the majority being recent immigrants from Britain or one of its allies. An all-volunteer corps of over 100,000 men was serving in France by the end of 1916. In 1917 they suffered heavy losses at battles like Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele. They were still able to replace their losses with volunteers, but it was clear that conscription would be needed to keep it at full strength.

There should have been a new election in 1916 but it was postponed until the end of 1917 in the hopes of building a coalition government as in Britain. The Liberals refused to back a draft because the war was deeply unpopular in Quebec and there were riots there against the idea.

The December 1917 election became all about conscription. To stack the deck, Borden passed the Wartimes Election Act. It took the vote away from people who became citizens after 1902 and were born in one of the enemy countries. It also gave the vote, for the first time, to women as long as they were the mothers, wives, widows, sisters or daughters of soldiers serving overseas. A second Act allowed soldiers overseas to vote in any riding they chose. Borden was re-elected easily, and 120,000 men were drafted although only 40,000 were sent overseas.

In May 1918 the vote was given to women in Federal elections on the same basis as for men. Most provinces followed quickly although Quebec held out until the Second World War.



A loyal Government has placed a weapon in your hand to defend yourselves against the murdering burglar who would treat you as he has treated your Belgian sisters. Make good use of it by supporting that Government.

The Brantford Expositor, 8 December 1917

#### LET'S GO, MARLIES! ~

If you like hockey and you live in Toronto, chances are you're a Leafs fan. There are people out there who prefer other teams, like the Boston Bruins or the Ottawa Senators



or even the Montreal Canadiens but generally Torontonians just love their Maple Leafs.

Toronto is also one of the lucky cities within the NHL to have their AHL team play in the same town. Fans can see both current and future Maple Leafs in person. Originally, the Toronto Marlies played out east in Moncton, NB, as The New Brunswick Hawks, under the shared ownership of the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Chicago Black Hawks. This joint ownership lasted four years until Chicago decided to develop its own farm team. After several moves, they became the St. John's Maple Leafs, the first professional ice hockey team in Newfoundland and Labrador. Luckily for Toronto fans, Maple Leafs management decided to bring them back to Ontario and in 2005 they made their debut as Marlies at the Ricoh Coliseum in the CNE grounds.

Going to a Marlies game is a true hockey experience. For sure it's a lot of fun to go to the ACC for a Leafs game, if you can get tickets – or can afford them. But going to a Marlies game at Ricoh offers fans exciting up-close professional hockey at an affordable price. The seats are great – Ricoh holds 8,140 versus 19,800 at the ACC, so it just feels more personal. And the snacks are cheaper too! It's a very fan and family friendly environment and there are always pre-game interactive activities in Marlies Alley such as hockey shooting challenges. Marlies Alley opens 90 minutes before every game, and it's fun for both kids and adults! There's also extra entertainment during intermission. Following the game there are opportunities to meet players and get their autographs.

When you're at the game make sure you look for Duke the Dog, who is the Marlies' official mascot. He's always roaming around the arena trying to distract the opposing teams and generally causing mischief for them. At Family Sunday games, he is joined by Pup, a younger and just as cute little mascot. Duke loves to play on the ice during intermission and he loves to say hello.

Are you ready now to head on down to Ricoh to see the future Leafs in action?













#### **NEW HORIZONS** ~

My partner and I both play in a band for mature adults called the New Horizons Band of Toronto. We play trombone and bassoon and have done a number of concerts.

New Horizons International is an organization started by a music professor in Rochester, New York, that promotes band music playing for people over 50. There are now hundreds of New Horizons bands all over the world, including quite a few in Ontario. They are happy to teach people who have never played an instrument as well as those who haven't played for a long time.

At the Toronto New Horizons band, there is a "petting zoo" in the fall where people can go and try all the instruments before choosing one they want to play in a band. Then weekly classes begin at different levels and the instructor guides everyone to acquire the skills they need, all in a fun, relaxed and social setting where you get to play real band music from the start.

After several years you can find yourself in one of the upper level bands performing "gigs" at street festivals, schools, retirement homes and church events. You can even go to New Horizons band camps for a really immersive experience.

Being in a band is a good way to make friends and enjoy music-making. The motto of the New Horizons organization is "Your best is good enough".

To learn more about New Horizons, just follow these links:

http://newhorizonsmusic.org or

http://newhorizonsbandtoronto.ca/index.html



#### THE JOY OF BOOKS ~

The magic begins the moment you turn the page. You are swept into an adventure. Your imagination and the written words take you away.



We can go on adventures with Harry Potter or James Bond.

We can travel into space or into waters filled with unknown creatures.

Books with pictures take us to far-away places and words create knowledge about that place.

We learn about our beginning and how we developed ... the growing knowledge of our achievements to date.

Our love of books began as children. If we were lucky, we fell asleep listening to our favourite book.

Teaching us, entertaining us, challenging us ... the Joy of Books!



#### THE LOVE OF TRAVEL ~

*Wanderlust*, the strong desire to set foot on unfamiliar soil, has always intrigued and fascinated me. It's my motivation to keep challenging and educating myself while opening up my mind, heart, and soul to life-enriching experiences both at home and abroad.

In a nutshell, I like to SMILE ... (Share, Meet, Inspire, Learn, Experience) Travelling fills me with happiness and makes me smile!

Moreover, smiling is contagious, good for your well-being, and a great way to start the day. No matter which country I visit, the universal smile speaks volumes, and is often all it takes to get a conversation started. Followed by a casual hello, a whole new world potentially opens up to you. You may be meeting your partner or making a new lifelong friend. Life in itself is a personal journey filled with twists and turns, soul-searching, diverse opportunities and amazing adventures; travel is one large piece of that puzzle.

"I'm not the same having seen the moon shine on the other side of the world" (Mary Anne Radmacher). The grass may not always be greener on the other side, but it sure is fun stepping over to discover what's there, and to view life from perspectives other than our own.

Just as the moon presents a different face as it orbits Planet Earth, so do the breathtaking regions of the world shine and showcase nature's beauty in their own unique and spectacular way. Landscapes, seascapes, terrain as vast and varied as the people and creatures that inhabit Earth, are there for us to explore, appreciate, respect and protect.

Travel unlocks valuable doors leading to personal growth, universal understanding, human connection, empathy and the appreciation of simple pleasures.

I live to travel, and travel to live! And always with a SMILE!



#### THE MAGIC OF NEWFOUNDLAND ~

As we celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, let's recognize the places that make our country wonderful. September marked my first visit to Newfoundland, and I'd like to share a few of my favourite spots with you.

- 1. **St. John's.** This welcoming city offers a walkable downtown and plenty to do. The Rooms is a must-visit provincial museum and art gallery, housed in a beautiful, light-filled building with great views of the harbor and a good restaurant. An excursion up Signal Hill provides military and communications history, geology, and a chocolate-themed café.
- 2. **Irish Loop.** In fine weather, drive south from St. John's, stopping first at Bay Bulls for an O'Brien's Whale and Bird tour. In summer when the capelin is running, you'll be treated to puffins and whales in Witless Bay Ecological Reserve. Continue down to Ferryland and be sure to have lunch at Lighthouse Picnics. You park, hike a kilometer out to the lighthouse, and take your picnic and blanket (all provided) to eat on the glorious, windswept headland.
- 3. **Nature.** My other favourite road trip was southwest from St. John's, first to Salmonier Nature Park, and then to Cape St. Mary's Ecological Reserve. Salmonier features a two-kilometer boardwalk trail through fragrant evergreen forest, with majestic local animals along the way. Cape St. Mary's is North America's most accessible bird sanctuary. Let the sight of thousands of seabirds riding the wind currents, wheeling and diving, fill you with the pure joy of flight.
- 4. **Hospitality.** Newfoundland is known for its warm hospitality, and two hotels stand out as absolute delights. The first, in the charming fishing village of Quidi Vidi just outside St. John's, is The Inn by Mallard Cottage. Think "hip minimalist fisherman with a generous free bar", and the internationally renowned Mallard Cottage restaurant across the road. The second is Fogo Island Inn. You've seen it featured in travel and design magazines, and I had the pleasure of writing an article about its experiment in economic development. Is it as special as it sounds? From its friendly local hosts, to its hand-made furnishings, to its excellent table, the answer is a resounding, "OH, YES!"

If you haven't been yet, do visit Newfoundland! You'll leave a bit of your heart behind, but come home with more of your soul.

#### TOFINO, GEM OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC ~

Want to take a vacation but don't want to leave Canada? I recommend you head west to the Pacific Ocean and a little-known place that is slowly becoming a ecotourist destination, Tofino, B.C. located on the West coast of Vancouver Island.

From Vancouver, make your way to Horseshoe Bay, then board a ferry to Nanaimo across the panoramic Strait of Georgia. Once in Nanaimo take the Pacific Rim Highway west until you reach the district of Tofino. The total trip takes about five hours, but if you are really in a hurry, a plane ride will get you there in about an hour. No matter which mode of transportation you choose, the scenery by land and air is well worth the trip.

The district of Tofino has a population of about 1800 people and has plenty of hotels, motels, campgrounds and B and B's to choose from. It is ideal for surfers, hikers, campers, sightseers and of course, photographers like me.

My ten-day vacation in Tofino was mostly spent exploring and photographing the scenery and the abundant wildlife. Walking the two main beaches, hiking the trails and taking boat rides, I managed to get several thousand photos of the diverse wildlife here. Besides photographing birds, animals and sea creatures who call this place home, I found photographing the landscape a breathtaking experience, especially along the two main sandy beaches, Long Beach and Chesterman Beach.

On most days I was up before dawn walking these beaches photographing the misty morning ocean terrain and surfers who were riding the waves in their wetsuits. In the evenings, I could be found photographing the brilliant sun setting over the Pacific Ocean.

For anyone who enjoys rugged landscapes and natural settings, Tofino is an ideal place to enjoy them whether you are a photographer or not. It is a place that should be on any nature lover's bucket list.











#### **EDITORIAL**

We are a Village!!!!

September: the pool is closed and the quarterly publication "What's Happening" has been circulated. The editorial board is now faced with the daunting task of the "Viewpoint 50 Year in Review 2017" project. This is a yearly concern: will we find sufficient contributors? Do we pick a theme? Is the publication still relevant? Can we still be considered a "Village"?

The first requests for information are sent to the Board President, Management Office, various committees and the informal social groups (bridge, euchre, book club, etc.). We do not fret over this group. They are stalwarts for the village publication.

Feature articles, narratives that educate and entertain readers, are more problematic. We would like to brag that we have this down to a science. Sorry, not the case. Serendipity is the major component. A digital image sent by a resident for posting may provide an inspiration for a story. East Coast, West Coast and Love of Travel in this issue were the result of requests to the photographers.

A conversation overheard at an afternoon tea provides the historical significance to women obtaining the right to vote included in this issue. Listening to an authenticate Scottish accent was encouragement enough to pursue a story on how the New Year (Hogmanay) is celebrated in Scotland. Village life shared.

These stories are included for your pleasure and we thank the authors for their time and effort.

Communication, however, is not restricted to the printed word. The recent upheavals of the meeting room and games room allowed residents to express their thoughts. Digital images displayed in the elevator or lobby encouraged discussion. Unfortunately, the construction on Quebec Avenue has been a major irritant which will last for several years. We can be assured the window and panel project scheduled for next year will form a major discussion point for residents. These discussions represent the "Village Watercooler".

As we finalize this year's report, we thank all those involved. A quick review of the contributors set out on the last page shows only a small part of our Village.

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#### JOINT BOARD WITH YCC435

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