

YCC323 NEIGHBOUR Highlights

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SEAN CUMMING



In case you know him by sight but not by name, let us introduce Sean Cumming. Our neighbour Sean has lived at 50 Quebec since 1994, first as a tenant and then as an owner. But the association goes back further than that: Sean was actually born within sight of our building!

Sean's father was a journalist with Canadian Press, so long-term assignments meant that his family moved around. Sean went to public schools in New Jersey, Toronto, and Ottawa. He started his higher education at Carleton University (history), then switched to the University of Ottawa (law). After obtaining his law degree, Sean practiced with law firms in Ottawa from 1981-1992. Seeking higher education, he attended the London School of Economics in 1992-1993 and obtained his Master of Law degree.

Sean then did what students long to do; after attending the LSE he took advantage of being in Europe to do a little travelling. Returning to Canada in 1994, Sean settled down to practice law with a firm in Toronto, before setting out on his own in 1998. He soon built up a successful solo practice in both Ottawa and Toronto through referrals from other law firms and personal reputation.

In talking to Sean, though, you don't get nearly as many law stories as you do military ones (and he's a wonderful story-teller). He started out in the Army Reserves in the 1970s, and ended up retiring from the Royal Canadian Artillery with the rank of Master Warrant Officer. Still unwilling to leave the military, he signed on to the Supplementary Reserves until his final retirement.

As a Battery Sergeant Major in the Artillery, Sean was responsible for up to 100 personnel at any given time. He has fond memories of times spent at various military bases from Halifax NS to Chilliwack BC to Frobisher Bay NU, as well as overseas in Germany. When he joined the military, women were not allowed in Artillery, but he has since trained men and woman together, including ones who ended up in Afghanistan.

Sean says that the Artillery is a great way to blow off steam after practicing law! Alternatively, when he's off the base and out of the courts, Sean enjoys swimming, bicycling, and playing bridge, which he learned from his grandfather, The Colonel (yes, he's from a military family). Little known fact: Sean has been a vegetarian since the 1960s.

Sean has also found a way to combine his interest in history with the military by studying military history, of which he has an extensive knowledge – just ask him the next time you see him!

FRANK DELLING



Frank was born in a small town in East Germany named Delitzsch and moved to (West) Germany in 1960. He studied at the University of Darmstadt in Germany where he earned his Engineering degree in Computer Science and Data Communication. Following university Frank decided to immigrate to Canada to work in the Biophysics Department at the University of Guelph. Some years later he joined a computer company in Mississauga as the production manager. Upon meeting his future wife he moved to Ottawa and spent the next 18 years in various management positions with first AIT Canada, Nortel and the Department of National Defence before returning back to Toronto in 1999 to work with the Government of Ontario's Information Technology Management Branch.

Frank is an avid skier, who also loves swimming and hopes to break his squash habits to improve his meager tennis skills. He enjoys music and is a devoted concert goer, likes photography and a good book. He describes himself as a "geek at heart", who never misses an opportunity to relax with his wife Elisabeth sipping a glass of wine while watching a beautiful sunset from their balcony.

CAROLE GINZEL



As Carole says, living at 50 Quebec makes for a lot of “elevator acquaintances”, where you know the faces but not necessarily the names. Now you can put a name to this familiar face!

Carole is another of the “originals”, having watched from a rental unit on Glenlake Avenue while this building was being constructed. She and her husband Henry liked the look of it, and bought in as soon as they could. Henry sadly passed away a few years ago, and Carole is content to still call our building home.

Carole was born in Montreal, then fostered to a family in Calgary. She has relatives all over the Maritimes, and for many years spent her summers in PEI. Reaching even further back, her ancestors were Scottish/English, and it was from 14 generations of seers in her Scottish line that she has inherited her keen insight into people.

At the age of 15, Carole started work as a waitress, the first of many careers. While still in school, she did modelling to earn money to put herself through college (where she majored in design). She enjoyed modelling at charity events, but decided that the vanities associated with modelling were not for her. One of the sayings amongst modelling agencies was “save the smiles; they cause wrinkles”. Being a cashier at the local Safeway was more to her liking, and it paid good money too!

While still in Calgary, Carole went to work for a Texas oil and gas company doing title searches, which had to be kept secret due to the competition for oil and gas properties. When she moved to Toronto, there were no oil and gas companies to work for, so Carole switched to the construction industry. She still has hard hats and steel-toed boots from her time in construction. Her first job in the industry was handling customer complaints, but in order to advance her career, Carole obtained a property management degree and ended up managing four buildings. Unfortunately, this consumed all of her time, so she decided to switch again.

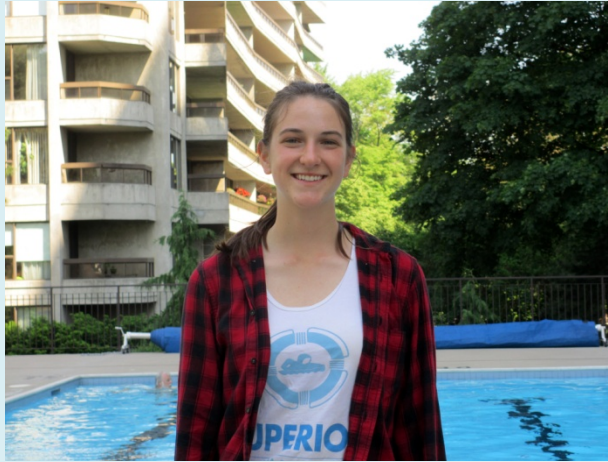
Her next, and final, career was in the sale of condos. She was obviously good at it, because the first year she was named Rookie of the Year. Part of the sales job was selling upgrades to new condo owners. To cash in on this, the company established a division that concentrated solely on upgrades, and the whole staff consisted of Carole. The division grew, as did the staff, and she ended her career as the Director of Options and Upgrades.

Throughout her varied careers, Carole continually took courses and seminars, and still likes to learn new things. She and Henry enjoyed cruises and together they travelled to many interesting and exotic places. One of her favourite stories is of going to China during the strict communist regime: 500 “foreigners” were loaded onto buses, with guards at the front and rear doors, and taken to the Great Wall of China – no sneaking out for a look at any other part of the countryside.

During her lifetime, Carole has had to overcome numerous physical challenges, and to redefine life as a widow. She is very much a people person, and enjoys a large circle of friends. And although she loves travelling, Carole is always happy and satisfied to come home to 50 Quebec Avenue.

Lifeguards – 2013 Swim Season

ALANNAH



Some of you may recognize Alannah as one of our lifeguards from two years ago. She has been qualified as a lifeguard for four years, and this is her third year of active duty. She has all the requisite training, including CPR and first aid, although she has had to deal mainly with cuts and bruises up until now. Alannah is happy to return to our pool, which apparently is a plum assignment, given the location, condition of the pool, and most importantly, friendly swimmers.

Although she lives in Toronto, Alannah is just about to enter her second year at the University of Victoria. Family ties on Vancouver Island and the desired curriculum drew her to UVic, where her favourite subjects last year were biology and chemistry. She also has the opportunity there to study Chinese (Mandarin), which on the West Coast rivals French as a second language. Apparently not getting enough of studies during the winter, she is currently enrolled in Ryerson University, taking a summer course in math.

When asked about hobbies, Alannah said she doesn't really have time for them, then rhymed off: training her horse Bella, reading Russian literature and all kinds of mysteries (a favourite – The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency), and knitting on-and-off. She was very impressed with The Gulag Archipelago by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, and has been looking for more of his writings; if anyone knows of any of Solzhenitsyn's works of fiction, please pass them on to Alannah. And like a true lifeguard, she enjoys spending off-hours at the pool.

(We've coined a phrase for people who like to spend time at the pool: pool penguins. Are you a pool penguin?)

DYLAN



Dylan is the newest member of our lifeguard team. He got his certification and first pool assignment last year, and this is his first year with us. A very conscientious lifeguard, he refused to be interviewed until his partner returned from lunch so that one of them was always keeping an eye on the pool. Although he has not yet had to rescue anyone, he says it would just be part of the job and he is fully trained in CPR and first aid.

Dylan is preparing to enter his first year at Ryerson University, where he will major in history. This might lead him into a law career, as law was his favourite subject in high school (in the absence of music, which is his real favourite subject). He is also interested in a possible career in the civil service.

Dylan is involved in the usual activities, such as skateboarding, watching Star Wars (especially episodes IV-VI), and reading magic realism writers like Gabriel Garcia Marquez. His real love, however, is music; he plays guitar and writes his own lyrics and music. He is as knowledgeable about the music of his namesake's era (Bob Dylan, that is) as he is about the current trends, and enjoys all genres. In fact, he quoted Hugh Laurie, who said "there are only two kinds of music, good and bad". Dylan invites you to visit the pool to learn more about his favourite subjects, or check out his music at <http://www.youtube.com/user/dylanm32?feature=watch>.

SUSANNAH



We welcome Susannah back for another year guarding our pool. Her main job was at another pool last year, while she acted as our back-up lifeguard. Now she's on the main team, and this being her fifth year of life guarding, she is more than capable of handling any situation. She enjoys the water so much that she not only takes full shifts here but also teaches swimming at a nearby high school.

Susannah graduated from Sheridan College in Oakville this spring, with an advanced diploma in Visual Creative Arts. She plans to expand her art portfolio over the summer and do more graphic arts on the computer, in order to have lots of material to show prospective employers in the fall. She enjoys designing all types of things, from patterns for carpets to websites, and is confident that there are opportunities in her chosen field.

Susannah is still into music as well, and has talked to some friends about forming a band – to play “psychedelic beach punk” (you'll have to ask her what that is). She writes her own songs, beginning with the lyrics and then setting the words to music. She also enjoys writing poetry and especially appreciates the singer-songwriters whose lyrics are poetry to her ears. You can see/listen to one of Susannah's latest songs at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OoVFS442Ug>

Lifeguards – 2012 Swim Season

For the 2012 swimming season our pool was monitored by 4 young lifeguards as highlighted below:



CIARAN



Some of you may remember Ciaran from last summer, when he started supervising our pool, although he actually has three years' worth of experience as a lifeguard. With a National Lifeguards certificate, which includes first aid and CPR training, Ciaran keeps a watchful eye on beginners and experienced swimmers alike who enjoy the pool and camaraderie of the deck. While he has never had to rescue anyone here, he has saved swimmers in other pools. Perhaps that's one reason why he is mulling over initiating a "survival swimming" course, which is only in the let's-think-about-it stage but sounds like a great idea to us.

Ciaran hails from Toronto and attends Queens University in Kingston, where he carries a double major. He is enthusiastic about his film industry studies, and is Co-President of the Film Club at Queens. He recently won the "Viewer's Choice Award" in Kingston's Focus Film Festival for his short film "Lazy Daze" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obEdKSdMozM>)! As part of a small department at

Queens, Ciaran has experienced all aspects of film work from director through crew to actor, but considers himself primarily a writer.

His university studies, combined with his lifeguard career, leave Ciaran little time to engage in other activities. He swims for pleasure as well as work, and plays soccer and football. He reads a wide range of books, from *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* to non-fictional exposés of the financial world, and is quite impressed with the library at 50 Quebec. And then, of course, he does what every good university student does for relaxation – hangs out with his buddies.

MARKO



Marko is another returnee lifeguard, having supervised our pool last year as well. He has been a certified lifeguard, through the National Lifeguarding Society, for two and a half years. Although he has not had to perform any rescues yet, he has the requisite swimming, first aid and CPR training to help any swimmers who find themselves in trouble. Marko also helps take care of the pool, of course, and was busy filling out the Swimming Pool Operation Log when your intrepid reporters arrived.

Marko is about to enter his first year of studies at the University of Toronto, majoring in computer science with a minor in business. With computer science being such a broad area, he has decided to specialize in programming, including both writing programs and solving problems with someone else's programs. Marko says it's even possible to write a program to solve Sudoku – and here we've been doing it the hard way all this time!

Marko was born in Serbia and returns there for vacations as often as possible – in fact, he just came back to the pool early in July from his latest trip to Serbia. He is tri-lingual, with French as his third language. He obviously enjoys the water, citing water polo and fishing as his hobbies. When asked whom he would like to spend an evening with, he immediately responded Jessica Alba. However, with a little more prodding, he spoke of the Serbian inventor, Nikola Tesla, an apt choice for someone who obviously loves his homeland as well as his adopted country.

PERSE



This is Perse's first year as a lifeguard at our pool. She is on the first-string team with Ciaran and Marco, and like them has earned the Lifesaving Society certificate. She was certified one year ago, and will be re-certified in another year's time. Perse is also certified to teach up to the bronze cross level. While she has never had to save anyone from a swimming pool or use her first aid or CPR training on the job, she has performed first aid on the TTC! Perse should be well able to face any medical emergency that arises here.

Perse lives in the area, close enough to walk to work. She is going into her second year of biomed at the University of Guelph this fall, working toward a BSc degree. Once she graduates, Perse will be going to veterinary school, and will eventually use her medical training to work on the animals she loves. She already works part-time in a veterinary clinic. Perse's current menagerie consists of two cats, one bunny, and a horse that is stabled in Uxbridge (but only for lack of room in the backyard in Toronto).

In addition to riding, Perse played the violin for 13 years. Unfortunately a combination of work and higher education leaves her with little time for music now. But she always has time for her friends. And while her name refers back to the Greek goddess Persephone, wife of Hades and Queen of the Underworld, her smiling face and cheerful personality belong right here aboveground at the pool.

SUSANNAH



Susannah is that important part of any team – the back-up. You will see her at various times over the summer, as she fills in for the regular contingent of lifeguards. She has the Lifesaving Society certificate, is further certified to teach lifesaving, and has four years experience guarding pools – or rather, guarding swimmers. In addition, she and the other lifeguards take care of the pool itself, and have to start getting the pool ready an hour before it opens (they say the biggest irritant is the loud noise of the pumps). Susannah has carried out many DNS rescues (that is, distressed non-swimmers) over the years, most often involving kids who take off their life-jackets. In emergencies, her extensive training kicks in and she feels comfortable taking charge of any situation.

Susannah recently moved to the High Park area from Mississauga. However, she is still a student at Sheridan College in Oakville, which will make for a long daily commute by public transit come fall. Susannah is enrolled in visual and creative arts, studying sculpture and other forms of art, and is, appropriately, left-handed. She hopes to eventually pursue a career in an art-based environment.

In addition to her studies in art, Susannah paints (acrylics and water-based oils) as a hobby. She has also been playing the guitar for at least seven years, and singing. She comes by music naturally – her father sings in a rock & roll band. She's even on the internet; you can listen to a couple of Susannah's songs on <http://www.thesixtyone.com/zannosmith#/artist/Zanno3000/songs//>

BILL DAVIDSON



You've probably run into Bill at one time or another over the years; now you can put a name to the face. Bill and his wife Emily must have really wanted to live at 50 Quebec; they were on a waiting list for three years before the particular location they wanted went on the market. They have remodeled and redecorated several times, and currently reside in the same warm and welcoming apartment they first moved into in 1983.

Bill was born and raised in Winnipeg, and the wide-open prairie skies beckoned the young lad. After serving as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force for eight and a half years, Bill switched to commercial flying with CP Air (now Air Canada). Trained as both a pilot and a navigator, Bill flew most types of planes to just about everywhere in the world. He was flying 747s on the Pacific routes to Bangkok, Hong Kong and Tokyo (just to name a few) prior to his retirement. Then came the birth of his first grandson, and after 31 years as a commercial pilot, he discovered something even more amazing ~ grandchildren.

Bill still keeps his hand in at flying. Last year he flew a Harvard (shown in the above picture) doing aerobatics in Langley, BC. He is very interested in military museums too, with the latest visits being to the US 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah, GA, and the National Air Force Museum in Trenton, ON.

Bill is also an enthusiast when it comes to technology, and recognized early on the benefits of marrying computers and flying. He was one of the pioneers of the Apple Users Group in Toronto (1978), and even wrote programs, being one of the first to create a tax spreadsheet on computers. At that time he gave the program away for free to anyone who wanted to use it ~ only to watch a couple of years later as someone else patented a tax program and undoubtedly made a ton of money from it! He still follows the latest technology, and thinks computers are great as long as they don't try to take over the world.

Computers and the internet have made Bill's third enthusiastic pursuit easier as well. He is an avid genealogist and tries to spend some time every day tracing even more lines of relatives. He has 75,000

people documented in his family tree, and if you think that's a typing error, just ask Bill for his website address and count them for yourself!

In retirement, Bill's days are full, although he always has time to spend with his children and grandchildren via Skype. And at the end of the day, he is happy to relax at 50 Quebec Avenue.

ELIZABETH FREY

• January 23, 2015 •

Elizabeth is one of our clients in the Adult Day Service (ADS) program. She is energetic and always of a positive mind, wanting to help where she can and use her experience to bring more attention to her "second family" at West Toronto Support Services (WTSS).



Elizabeth Frey, age 25

Born in Germany she witnessed many of the terrors of the Second World War and yearned to hone her passion of photography to help prevent future horrors around the world. Her adventurous spirit started early in life and during this time, she would sneak onto supply planes between Berlin and W. Germany and risk being caught by authorities. Because of the Russian blockade at the time, electricity was scarce and power would only be available for 1 hour a day. She recounts spending late nights in a lab developing her photos.

In 1951, she moved to Canada with her mom, brother, and sister. They had \$30 between them by the time they landed in Toronto. Life couldn't be any worse for her family after witnessing homes being bombed back in her home country. A new chapter in her life began! Only 2 days after her arrival, she managed to secure a job as a Dark Room Assistant at the Monetary Times, a trade magazine publisher. But her success and fame didn't take off until she became a freelance photographer a few months later – a challenging task in itself in a male dominated industry at the time. Her dream job was to work at the Canadian Red Cross as their ideals matched her own. In pursuit of this, she worked at the International Tradeshow and The Globe & Mail and began making a name for herself.



Elizabeth Frey – present day

One of her big decisions was an opportunity to go to Cuba. As most photographers didn't want to go at the time, it was an inopportune time to go and show her skills. On her travels there, she met Fidel Castro and although he didn't like his photo taken, she got some great shots. One in particular was published worldwide.

In the 1950's Elizabeth published a book of photos and text called "Toronto – we love you". Inside were photos of the Trudeau Family, including Justin Trudeau who was only a few years old at the time.

Other work she was involved with included Fred Varley from the Group of Seven and some co-authored projects with Dora Pedery-Hunt. One of Elizabeth's favourite photos was taken during her time visiting Vietnam, but was never published, partly because it showed an injured young girl. She not only witnessed the dropping of napalm bombs, but also the affect it had on the victims – especially the children. Elizabeth has always felt it was her duty to help these victims but she never was able to make it back to Vietnam.



"Toronto We Love You" by E. Frey

After she retired, the National Archives in Ottawa bought 19,000 of her career photos and films. Although she never worked for the Canadian Red Cross, her career was varied and exciting.

Elizabeth attends our ADS program 5 days a week now and her time as a photographer is over. However, she still inspires others and wants to see the ADS program grow. She sees our centre as an important place within the community and has lots of ideas to offer!

Thank you to Elizabeth for her time and allowing us to publish this story and photos.

Reprinted with permission: Silver Circle West Toronto Services for Seniors. Westside Connect, January 2015

JOYCE REYNOLDS



In a building that still has some original residents dating from 1976, Joyce is a relative newcomer. She was looking for a condo in 2004, and says that the first time she stepped inside 50 Quebec she felt the warmth of the building and knew she wanted to live here. She was lucky to find an apartment for sale immediately and, surrounded by “wonderful” neighbours, has felt at home ever since.

Joyce is a Down Easterner, having been born in Cape Breton and raised there and in Prince Edward Island. She remembers making the rounds of parishioners with her father (a minister) and being privileged to sit in the formal parlours of country homes, listening to stories of pioneer ancestors and looking at treasured family photo albums. She credits this period with awakening her lifelong interest in people and in helping others.

The family moved to Ontario, where Joyce completed high school. She then studied nursing and pursued a career as a registered nurse at Ottawa Civic Hospital. She met her future husband, Howard Reynolds, at a boys camp where he was waterfront director and she was the nurse for

the summer. They were married three years later and settled in Montreal, where he started working his way up the corporate ladder in an insurance company. One of Joyce's fondest memories of this stage in her life was accompanying her husband on trips to many interesting locations in North America and the British Isles.

While she enjoyed the time spent raising their two sons (and she now also has "one perfect granddaughter"), Joyce found that she wanted more out of life than being a hostess and corporate wife. So she enrolled in McGill University, majoring in early childhood education. Joyce achieved a further degree in the same discipline from Ryerson when her husband was transferred to Toronto. This was the start of her career in helping other women.

With this background, Joyce has either initiated or worked on numerous programs involving parents and children, especially training and prevention programs such as mother and child drop-in centres. A common aim of all her programs was to help mothers with no other outlets except their children gain confidence to expand their lives. Joyce has recruited and trained numerous volunteers over the years, with one of her most satisfying accomplishments being the choice of a particular volunteer to run a program in the Jane/Finch area; the volunteer was so successful that she is now sought after world-wide for her expertise.

Joyce's husband Howard passed away a few years ago, and she is not as active as she once was. However, she remains involved in the church and looks forward to lunch at Tim Hortons with the ladies after Sunday service. She enjoys art classes at Swansea Town Hall and loves teasing her classmates about the next masterpiece. Mall walking has been replaced with aquafit classes, and Joyce says as long as she can drive her car, she'll be going places.

Joyce's main passion these days is the family cottage north of Kingston, fittingly on the same lake where she met her future husband all those years ago. She enjoys paddling about the lake in either her kayak or canoe, or just sitting on the dock waving to passing boaters. Joyce is currently serving a third term on the board of the cottage owners' association, and is heavily involved in efforts to preserve the lake, which is one of the few trout lakes in Ontario. As she puts it, she lives here, but her heart is there.

Joyce is quite happy to reside at 50 Quebec, however, and she especially appreciates the friendship and helping hands extended by the other residents on her floor ("the right floor in the right building"). She has volunteered for the Neighbours sub-committee and recently hosted the first gathering of Neighbours on her floor. Joyce would love to see the Neighbours concept adopted on every floor, because helping one another is still a guiding principle in her life.

Now that you've met her, please say Hello to your neighbour Joyce Reynolds whenever you see her around our condo building.