

Newsletter

A Communications Committee Publication

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2010

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Committee News

A Word of Thanks

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Name Our Newsletter

Welcome to our new and as-yet unnamed quarterly community newsletter. Each edition will feature committee and Board updates and contributions from residents of Somerset Gardens. This first edition is an experiment and a work in progress.

The Communications Committee considered a couple of names for our new newsletter: The Somerset Scene and The Somerset Gardens Gazette. We would like more name ideas from everyone or your opinion on the two suggestions before we make a decision. Please submit your newsletter name suggestions to the condo email address: somersetgardens@live.com.

Newsletter Submissions

Do you have any news that would interest our community? Perhaps you would like to contribute a book or restaurant review, or you may have a letter for the editor.

Please send your submissions for the next edition to the condo email address no later than June 15.

From The Board

Spring Into Action!

Warm and sunny greetings to all our residents and owners here at Somerset Gardens! In the long winter months it's easy to forget that all the life and activity of the hotter seasons is still there, just below the surface, waiting for its chance to resurface, re-energize, and renew. And life here in our home is no different. As residents throw open their windows to breathe the fresh air and return to our rooftop garden to relax in the hot sun, so too is your Board gearing up for new action this spring.

We have been working intently on updating the condo rules handed down to us by Teron, ironing out Board policies and procedures, and developing a communications strategy. We have also been overseeing the work of engineering firms to fulfill our responsibilities to develop a robust reserve fund, long term maintenance plan, and a full report on common element deficiencies for Tarion. And these are just the big-ticket issues! We are regularly working through resident requests for information and action, and have sundry practical and legal issues to keep us busy.

We are very excited about our new strategy to enhance communications here in Somerset Gardens – and this is an initiative that is already beginning to bear fruit this spring. Many people have raised the issue of communications with the Board, and we recognize that we need to make it easy for residents and owners to make their voices heard and to see the effects of their input. Your Board is committed to being a responsive communicator, and we are happy to say that, with the help and support of volunteers on the newly formed Communications and Social Committee, communications at Somerset Gardens are set to grow and improve dramatically.

Your Board, if you haven't met its members yet, is a team of dynamic individuals who are committed to sound management principles, responsible governance, and positive community growth. The mandate of this Board is, by law, to manage an asset: to ensure that our monetary investments in this condominium corporation are protected. However, we all recognize that this building is more than just an asset; it is a home. As such, we are additionally committed to work with resident committees and interested individuals to encourage, support, and reward the emotional investment that we each have in truly making our house a home for all.

Do You Remember?

When we entered our condo by a slippery ramp, with a roof (if it had not been blown away) and a railing that sometimes required more support than it offered ?

When there was no access to garbage chutes (apparently because pipe(s) and/or wire(s) were directly below chute exit)?

When only 1 elevator was in service and residents, tradespersons and building materials shared it (open eyes and ears gave access to all kinds of information)?

If you do remember, your arrival at Somerset Gardens was in the early days.

-NOW we have a real ramp, proper steps - and real municipal address numbers;

-garbage chutes are accessible and convenient;

-2 elevators are available for our use.

This progress allows all of us to continue striving towards becoming the caring community envisioned by Multifamily Housing Initiative and St. John's during the many years they spent planning this condominium for persons of all income levels, all ages, all races, all faiths and all levels of education.

Here's to our homes realizing the full potential of that planning, Y E A H.

Max, 804

Tired of Junk Mail?

If you tape a note at the bottom front of your mail box, saying "no advertising please" or "no unaddressed mail ", the postie will no longer deliver unaddressed mail, except mail from the government or political candidates, which Canada Post is obliged to deliver.

Max, 804

Haiti Help

From Somerset Gardens to Haiti - Following January's earthquake in Haiti a very caring one of us provided a collection place and first stage transportation of footwear donated by Somerset Gardens people. It was great to have a means to reach out and help a little. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Max, 804

Garden Committee News

Last May we held our first Annual Spring Planting Party and Barbecue...it's almost that time again! We had a busy year last year and look forward to more new additions of flowers and friends as we enter a new gardening season. We welcome any new members to the committee to join us. Please contact us at the condo email address: somersetgardens@live.com.

We will once again have garden plots. If you wish to renew your plot or have one this year please advise the committee via the condo email address or respond to any notice posted by our coordinator.

The roof top garden and patio and the sunroom are great places to sit and enjoy the sunshine all year round or to help our garden grow! We remind you that smoking and pets are not permitted on the rooftop.

The Garden/House Committee Fund

THANKS to all of you for donating bottles that sustain and grow our fund so that we can purchase garden and furniture additions to Somerset Gardens! The fund is doing well.

PLEASE completely empty your bottles before you put them in the garbage rooms and please do not leave other recyclables in the bottle containers.

House Committee

The House committee, formerly know as the rooftop planning committee, is responsible for planning and presenting furniture and decor plans to the condo board for approval, then seeking out quality options for purchase. The House committee currently consists of Krister Partel, Linda Banys, Diane Hopkinson and Taya Morris. During the last fiscal year the House committee purchased all of the outdoor rooftop and sunroom furniture as well as two large pieces of art for the lobby with much help from the bottle drive funds. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the House committee please email the condo.

Join a Committee

Help Build Our Community

Our committees need your energy and ideas. Our condo is young and now is the time to help us build a friendly and effective community. Watch the elevator notices for upcoming committee meetings and feel free to drop in to find a committee that is a good fit for you. Or, send an email to the condo for more committee information.

Your Board

Allyson Downs
President

Luc Greenwood
Treasurer

Krister Partel
Secretary

Bruce Marshall
Director at Large

Sue Taylor
Director at Large