



Welcome News



Brockville ON, September 2016

613-345-2412

www.swcbrockville.ca

President's Message

When I was a child I loved summer; who didn't? But as the end of August arrived I happily anticipated going back to school. Seeing school friends and moving into the next grade was exciting. That's how I feel right now and I hope you do too. It's time to pick up your paddles, birdies, paint brushes, needles and thread, soft soled shoes, instruments, books, cameras and voices and get fit, have some fun and learn something new!

The Board of Directors have put on their various hats to create another successful registration day and fall semester at SWC. Bill Carlyle, our Activities Director, with the assistance of Marian Rafferty, has been busy confirming the return of our faithful volunteer leaders, firming up some new activities and leaders and making sure that the days, times and places for everything are in order. Ralph Greenhalgh will take care of the financial side of things and Debby Greffe will organize the registration space and gather coffee and goodies so those who wish to can sit down and talk to friends they may not have seen since May. The rest of us will just fill in wherever we are needed.

I look forward to serving as your President for the next two years. Tony Dunbar, as Past President will be my mentor; and I pass the baton to him for writing the newsletter. Thank you for picking it up Tony. With the building of Wall St. Village I am sure there will be some new challenges over which the BOD may have no control. However, if you as a volunteer leader or as a participant have a good suggestion for any challenge that arises, I

encourage you to share it with a board member. Otherwise, I can only ask that you keep in mind this is a temporary situation and it will pass!

Cheryl Nix - President

Open House Information

Date: Wednesday, September 7

Time: 9:30 – 11:30 am

Place: Brockville Legion, Park Street

Please note the change in venue. This is due to the impact on parking of construction near Wall Street United Church.

The Open House will follow the same procedures as used in previous semesters.

Participants will:

- fill out registration forms and waivers,
- sign up with the leader of their chosen classes,
- obtain leader's initials on the form,
- pay \$25. (by cash or cheque) for the Fall semester at the payment table.

Registration forms will be available by email or on the SWC website for participants to fill out beforehand. However, there is NO Pre-registration neither on-line nor in person. A person may register for a friend at the Open House if that person is unable to be there. Also, anyone can register, subject to class space availability, at the SWC office as of Thursday, Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon and every Monday through Thursday (same hours) during September.

As usual, there will be refreshments available for those who wish to take the time to catch up with friends.

Course News and Updates

Our Activities Director, Bill Carlyle, with the help of Office staff and others, has been busy and reports:

Art Studio:

A second art studio will be provided at the Thousand Islands Mall

Chair Yoga:

Two classes will be again offered by Gwen Priestley at the Thousand Islands Mall.

Choral Music:

Rod McAvoy our experienced and dedicated choral director has announced a change in focus.

Rod will now offer a **Women's Chorus** to more accurately reflect the actual composition of what was known as **The Choir** last semester. The **Community of Song** will again be offered under Rod's direction. (See below for more details regarding these two groups.)

Computer Classes:

Unfortunately, owing to business pressures, William Thomson will not be returning to lead these classes. We thank William for the gift of his time and talent over the past number of years. William has kindly offered, rather than a session of regular classes, to provide us with a number of specialized presentations on areas of interest over the semester. Details to follow.

Meditation:

This new class will be offered by Sonia Haynes in six week segments.

Pickle Ball:

A third class will be added on Wednesday mornings.

French:

Conversational, beginners and intermediate, will again be facilitated by John Bonser. No Instructional French classes unfortunately. We still seek a volunteer French Language instructor.

Spanish:

Will again be offered with instructor Elizabeth Stratton.

Other:

The remainder of our courses, as offered over the last couple of semesters, return, from Bridge to Low Impact Exercise to Music Notation to Tole Painting

Above represents the status of various activities and classes at newsletter publication time. A complete detailed schedule will be made available as soon as it is finalized.

Choral Music at SWC

From our choral director Rod McAvoy:

Community of Song -- Wednesday afternoon, 1:30 - 2:15, Heritage Room

Singing is a natural and healthy function of the human body! Everyone can sing, but it is a sad fact that many of us have been told to keep silent or just mouth the words.

Community of Song is an opportunity to sing in a group where there are no performance expectations and no-one listening to see if you are "good enough". No singing or musical experience is necessary.

Each session begins with gentle tension-releasing stretches and vocal warm-ups to get the throat wakened up. We then spend about 30 minutes singing folk-songs, African-American Spirituals, and rounds. (We are limited to music that is free of copyright so that we can reprint the words and tunes in our booklets.)

We never, never take ourselves too seriously and always laugh.

Women's Chorus - Wednesday afternoon, 2:20 - 4:00, Heritage Room

This group sings a variety of music in two and occasionally three parts. We have a dedicated core group established, and they are eager to grow! Being able to read music helps, but is not essential if you are able to learn by

repetition. We are trying to choose music to fit a variety of skill levels.

We've recently purchased arrangements of some Broadway tunes, including 'I Could Have Danced All Night', 'Do-Re-Mi', 'Consider Yourself', 'You'll Never Walk Alone', 'Edelweiss' and 'Singing in the Rain'. We have also been learning some folk songs and original music arranged or written by me, Rod McAvoy.

We anticipate making our "debut" at the SWC Christmas Luncheon!

Parking Update:

Yes, we know, everybody's favourite topic!

Paul Bullock, recently elected as chair of the WSUC board, has kindly provided us with the following update:

Demolition is about to start on the houses to the north and east of Wall Street United Church. The ones on Victoria Ave. will be the first to go. Once these have been demolished and new underground phone, electrical and sewer services have been installed, a temporary gravelled parking lot will be established. When the houses, north of the church on Wall Street, start to be demolished the parking will no longer be available on the north side of the church. There may be a period when there is a real reduction in on-site parking and we ask for your patience during this period.

Once construction on the Wall Street Village is complete, we will end up with a few additional parking spaces and all the parking will be on pavement, no more dirt or gravel!

Submitted by Paul Bullock

Board of Directors

At the inaugural August 2 board meeting a number of important appointments were made. Principal amongst them was the appointment of former 1st Vice-President and Newsletter

Editor Cheryl Nix to the position of President of the Board. Cheryl replaces Tony Dunbar who stepped down after 4 years at the helm. Congratulations Cheryl and we know you will capably and enthusiastically lead SWC over the next number of important years.

The board as now constituted:

President – Cheryl Nix

1st VP & Office Manager – Marian Rafferty

2nd VP & Asst. Activities' Director – Bill Checkley

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer – Ralph Greenhalgh

Activities' Director – Bill Carlyle

Director & Social Convenor – Debby Greffe

Director & Office Asst. - Bev Nixon

Director at Large. – Linda Campbell

Past-President, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor– Tony Dunbar

SWC Office

The SWC office will be reopening on Thursday September 8. Business hours will be Monday through Thursday, 10 am to noon. Our volunteer staff of Marian Rafferty and Bev Nixon will be happy to assist you.

Reminders & Useful Information

- Office email: swcadmin@myhighspeed.ca
- Office Location: take the elevator to third floor, turn left
- Office hours: 10:00 – 12 noon, Mon. – Thurs.
(except during June, July and August).
- Wall St. United Church is a scent-free facility.
- Note: website address & phone number have been moved to the Newsletter header