

# BROCKVILLE 50+ ACTIVITY CENTRE

Formerly the Shepherd's Welcome Centre

Newsletter February 2018

613-345-2412

[www.fiftyplusbrockville.ca](http://www.fiftyplusbrockville.ca)

## President's Message

So far, the cold and snow of winter has rarely prevented our members from participating in their favorite activities at the Activity Centre. We are pleased that using the beautiful spaces offered to us in three of our local seniors residences has proven to be a good way to alleviate some congestion at Wall St. Church. We are grateful to The Wedgewood, Bridlewood and the Royal Brock for sharing their space with us.

I wish to thank all of the participants who took the time to respond to the letter I sent out requesting suggestions on how to improve our registration process. We received many good thoughts and ideas mixed with a nice dose of compliments and words of thanks for the work the Board does behind the scenes to keep this ship afloat.

Your thoughts were consolidated, and presented and discussed at the February Board meeting. You helped us take a fresh look at our process and before the September registration we will make some decisions that will help address some of the concerns that were raised.

**Cheryl Nix – President**

## Open House Stats

Some interesting statistics from our January 10 Open House/Registration day at the Legion:

Total Registrations: 327 (including leaders)

New Registrations: 67

Multiple Class Registrations:

6 classes: 3 participants

5 classes: 6 participants

4 classes: 29

3 classes: All others

The multiple class registrations are particularly interesting in light of the introduction of our new policy of applying an additional fee of \$5 per class for each class above the 3 covered by the basic \$25 per semester fee.

## Our Demographic

While in the stats mode, we thought we should share some other data of interest.

As you know, we have been requesting, on a voluntary basis on our waiver form, the age category of our participants as they register.

We recently analyzed the data for the September to December 2017 semester. The breakdown was:

**Total Respondents: 338 (We thank you)**

Age	Male	Female	Total	Percent
50-54	3	11	14	4%
55-59	5	13	18	5%
60-64	8	42	50	15%
65-69	20	72	92	27%
70-74	20	62	82	24%
75-79	15	31	46	14%
80+	10	26	36	11%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Activities Update

Some highlights from Activities Director Bill Carlyle's recent report:

We are offering 19 different activities over 28 sessions.

### New Courses and Instructors:

Mosaic Art: Elske Harris

Euchre: Lawrence Harry

### Use of Retirement Residences:

Currently offering 4 classes at 3 residences:

Royal Brock (1): Art Studio

Bridlewood (2): Book Club#2 and Quilting

Wedgewood (1): Mosaic Art

Nordic Walking: T.I. Mall not available so waiting until weather permits going outside.

Chair Yoga: A special thank you to Gwen Priestley for changing her personal schedule to allow her to continue to lead her very popular Chair Yoga class. This was due to our loss of the Mall as a venue and meant Gwen had to change from a Monday to a Thursday class day, back at the Wall Street church.

## Winter Class Cancellation

Our new more flexible policy has gone into effect and is working. As with every new initiative, there have been some minor glitches and we ask for everyone's patience and understanding as we, and indeed church personnel, make the necessary adjustments.

One particular aspect we would like to draw your attention to concerns those rare occasions when not only are the school buses not running, but conditions are so bad and unsafe that Wall Street Church, as is their prerogative, close the church.

We had one such occurrence on Tuesday, January 23 and the church was closed until noon that day. The decision to close the church is made on the morning of the day itself and it is not easy to get the word out to all

participants. As a result, some turned up to find the church was locked.

We are exploring how we might better communicate such church closures but respectfully suggest that in extreme icy conditions participants err on the side of safety and avoid driving to class.

On the day in question, classes went ahead as scheduled at the church in the afternoon. We later heard from Trevor, the church custodian, that some unkind persons complained that the parking lot had not been sanded.

As Trevor explained, he had called for the sander but it had not yet arrived. It is not easy to clean up after such extreme earlier conditions. A little patience and understanding in these situations is obviously called for. Just a small minority of our participants were complaining we are sure.

## Website Address Change

In our January newsletter we informed you we were planning a website address change. This was to better reflect the new name of our organization.

We are happy to inform you that the change to [www.fiftyplusbrockville.ca](http://www.fiftyplusbrockville.ca) has now been successfully implemented. We would ask you to change your bookmark or favorites accordingly.

As with our new email address, should you continue to use our old website address of [swcbrockville.ca](http://swcbrockville.ca), there is a redirect in place to take you to the new address. This redirect is temporary and will only be in place for another 2 or 3 months. We would urge you then to please begin use of the new address without too much delay.

## A New Publicity Rack Card

In keeping with our task of updating our various means of communication to reflect our new organization name, we recently looked at updating our brochure. We took advantage of this update to go with a two-sided rack card rather than a conventional multipage brochure.

These rack cards are the preferred means of spreading the word nowadays, where people tend to scan first then read. Less is better it is said.

We were happy to use the skills and talents of various locals in designing and producing our new card:

Overall design including logo: Megan Inglis

Photos: Alex Loshak

Printing: GIGPrint off California Avenue

We have posted a pdf of the new card to our website and you may have a look by [clicking here](#).

## Information Session

In our continuing efforts to provide one-off appropriate information sessions to our members by subject matter experts, we have the opportunity to host two topics of interest. These are:

### **Get Your \$ - Understanding Ontario's Tax Credits and Benefits for Seniors**

and/or

### **Overview of Ontario's Estate Administration Tax**

Our Centre has been offered the opportunity of hosting, on March 21 or March 22, one of two, or both, of the above one hour seminars on financial topics specially geared towards older adults.

The speaker is from the Ontario Ministry of Finance. Each seminar usually requires an hour to present, and numerous educational handouts are provided at both.

A minimum of 35 attendees are required to warrant the visit by our guest speaker. For that

reason, we are conducting an online poll to garner the level of interest in such a session.

We invite you to access the poll by [clicking here](#) and answer the question posed. Thanks in advance for your cooperation. The poll may also be accessed from the link provided on our website homepage [www.fiftyplusbrockville.ca](http://www.fiftyplusbrockville.ca).

## Other Sessions of Interest

Two other local organizations have upcoming events that might be of interest to our members.

The first is a special Income Tax Return preparation program sponsored by the local Volunteer Centre. The other is a symposium on Dealing with Dementia under the auspices of the Alzheimer's Society of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville.

Our website [www.fiftyplusbrockville.ca](http://www.fiftyplusbrockville.ca) now has links to the website of each of these organizations. You may find details of the above events by using the links provided.

## Reminders & Useful Information

- Office email: [fiftyplus@myhighspeed.ca](mailto:fiftyplus@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).
- AC Office phone: 613-345-2412
- AC website: [www.fiftyplusbrockville.ca](http://www.fiftyplusbrockville.ca)
- Wall St. Church is a scent-free facility.

**Newsletter Editor: Tony Dunbar**