

Formerly the Shepherd's Welcome Centre

Newsletter August 2018

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President's Message

Our Fall Registration fast approaches and the Board is looking forward to introducing our members to a new streamlined registration process. Our new Newsletter Editor, John Bonser, will explain what it will look like in this newsletter. The main features are plenty of parking, more space in which to register for your individual activities and a speedier process overall, especially for our returning members! The Board has worked hard to make these changes happen for your benefit. We look forward to seeing all of our returning members and new folks on Wednesday, September 5th.

We are happy to say that Tony Dunbar has agreed to fill in as an Acting Treasurer for this registration. We welcome Jo Ann Brinkworth and Sue Hunter to the Board. Jo Ann has been attending the Board meetings and creating our minutes since last semester. She streamlined the Pickle Ball registration process and thus gave us a pattern to help reduce line up times for other activities. Sue comes to us with a wealth of work experience and will be a real asset to the AC Board.

This will be my last message as President. It has been a pleasure to serve the AC members in this role. The AC Board is a caring team of dedicated volunteers who are committed to the AC mission of providing activities to keep those 50 and over physically, mentally and socially active. They work hard to respond to the needs and concerns of AC members. When a call goes out for new Board members, I hope

some of you will consider stepping forward to share your skills for a term (which is two years). Without the Board and our incredible volunteer office staff and instructors and leaders there would be no Brockville 50+ Activity Centre.

Cheryl Nix

President

Open House Information

Date: Wednesday September 5th

Time: 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Place: Brockville Memorial Centre

Please note this change of location to avoid confusion on Registration Day

As mentioned earlier the Board has reviewed our Registration Process and plans to implement the revisions to the process on September 5th.

To avoid the large line ups early in the day experienced in previous years, and to ensure availability of courses requested, those who attended the course in the previous semester will be guaranteed a place provided that they show up (or have someone represent them) during the allotted registration times.

Participants must have completed a registration form and a waiver form in order to register for their chosen course. Without these completed documents they cannot register. All are encouraged to obtain the appropriate forms through the 50+ Activity Centre website

beforehand, however as always there will be forms available at the Memorial Centre. A notable change from previous years is that the waiver form will be retained by the leader of the first course for which you register. That leader will initial the registration form to show that the waiver has been received and you will then be able to register for other courses without having to show the form again.

As in the past completed Registration forms with leader's initials will then be presented to a cashier along with the appropriate fee (\$25 for first three courses and \$5 for each additional course).

When the office reopens on **Monday September 10th**, it will still be possible to register subject to availability of space in the chosen course.

NOTE: The office will NOT be open on Thursday September 6th, the day after Open House, to process class registrations as was the practice in previous years.

A Challenge

Each Registration Day brings with it an increase in the number of participants in our programs. This is certainly understandable as, for an affordable price, we not only provide learning opportunities, but also serve as an important hub for social interaction. The ability to provide these opportunities is however limited by the degree to which members are prepared to step up and offer their services to the Activity Centre as Leaders, Board Members or Office Staff. We recognize that our members possess a wealth of knowledge which could be applied to expand our programs and allow the Activity Centre to grow while still maintaining a membership cost affordable for all.

Therefore we offer a challenge to all of you who may have some free time to consider offering your services thus ensuring that we can continue to offer important opportunities to the retired community of Brockville and area.

We do have an immediate need for a volunteer to serve as Treasurer now that Ralph has retired from the position. We have rewritten the job description to share the responsibilities more evenly throughout the Board however the financial responsibilities of the position remain with the Treasurer. A copy of the job description can be requested at the office and will also be posted on the website.

Course News and Updates

Thanks to Activities Director Bill Carlyle who has, as usual been very busy pulling together the activities program for the coming semester we are able to offer a wide range of activities for our members. While many of the programs you see on the registration form are old favourites, there are nevertheless, a number of important changes.

We are pleased that we have added a new leader and two new activities to our program:

Catharina Breedyk Law will be teaching a class in Drawing at the Royal Brock. This class promises to be fun for anyone who enjoys drawing, and it will be open to all; however, there is an enrolment limit of 12.

Peri Howlett, who has previously taught Music Notation, will be introducing a new class: Maximal Bell Ringing. This class will be limited to 8 participants who have already taken Peri's Music Notation course or who can already read music. There will be Minimal classroom theory and Maximal bell ringing.

Elizabeth Stratton, who has provided her students with a wonderful, engaging language experience in her Spanish classes, has decided to step back from teaching for a while. Unfortunately, we

have no one to replace her. She will be missed.

Another leader who will be sorely missed is Jo Ann Lefort. Jo Ann has taken a leave as leader /facilitator in Conversational French. We look forward to her return. We are hopeful that we will be able to name a replacement for Jo Ann very soon.

Office News

The office at Wall St united Church will reopen for Activity Centre business on September 10 at 10 am.

It will then be open during the semester from 10am to 12 noon Monday to Thursday.

Once again, the office will NOT be open on Thursday September 6th, the day after Open House, to process class registrations as was the practice in previous years.

Farewell to Retiring Board

Members

President Cheryl Nix has confirmed that she will be retiring from the Board in the foreseeable future but will continue to serve as Past President for a short time. Also Tony Dunbar who has served the Board in so many areas will also be leaving. He has however indicated that he will continue to serve as a volunteer webmaster and also to offer advice and assistance to all of us.

Also Treasurer Ralph Greenhalgh after serving as Treasurer for 18 years has stepped down. Ralph went above and beyond in his interpretation of the treasurer's role and his dedication and attention to detail will be sorely missed.

We all owe a major debt of gratitude to these three who are shining examples of dedication to the community.

Editorial Note

I know that our members have come to expect professional quality publications during the years for which Tony Dunbar has assumed editorial responsibility. I am therefore assuming this role with some trepidation and ask that you are understanding if the newsletter lacks something in appearance. I will however try to compensate for the reduction in quality by ensuring that it contains all the information necessary to keep our members fully informed.