

NEWSLETTER

Summer (June & July) 2024

50+ Board of Directors



Tom Beach
President



Vice-President
Vacant



Kelly Potvin
Treasurer



Karen Kerr-Kennedy
Secretary



Gail Coville
Activities Director
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Registration Committee



Sharon Kaesler
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Office Manager



Rosalie Morris-Spencer
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Newsletter Editor
Strategic Planning Committee
Communications Committee



Julie Daxon
Member at Large
Office Helper



Rick Fry
Member at Large
Strategic Planning Committee



Carl Insley
Member at Large

Message from our President

Tom Beach

What a great organization!

We had a really amazing winter term and hopefully our leaders and many volunteers are taking a well-deserved break before we start up in September.

There is still a lot going on behind the scenes as new Board members take on their tasks.

Board member and Office Manager, Sharon Kaesler has been very busy organizing the office with support from Board member Julie Daxon and volunteer Klaus Kaesler. As part of this organizing, we have invested in some new equipment to support our administration – a necessity as we move more and more into electronic communication and function.

We applied for and were granted a free Google workspace for charities. We are working on getting it set up and when it is, it will be linked to our domain and give us common email addresses for key Board positions, a new way to file documents, communicate and coordinate. It will be a learning curve for many of us but an asset for how we work.

Our finance side is up and running with new Board member signatories registered with the bank, and over the next couple months, Treasurer Kelly Potvin will be getting familiar with our systems and our ledger.

Volunteer Mike Libbos spent many hours refining our on-line apply-to-register system. Thank you, Mike, and thanks also to the 272 people who responded quickly to the last call for a test of the system. It was encouraging to see so many taking the time to help refine the system. We don't expect it to be perfect, but it will be an option many have been asking for and will greatly reduce the administrative workload.

Work on the upgrade to our website continues through the efforts of volunteers Carla Vanderhelm and Fiona Fars. They are working on a parallel site so there aren't changes on our current site yet, but there will be before we open the new application system on August 26.

Activities Director Gail Coville has continued to find new activities and locations to hold them. See Gail's report for more information. Rosalie Morris-Spencer, chair of the Strategic Planning committee, new SPC member and Board member Rick Fry and other SPC members have been working on a Policy and Procedures manual for Brockville 50+. This will help us greatly when making decisions at the Board table and at the functional level.

The Board will be taking a break with no meeting in July and will be back in August to review and support plans for getting the Fall 2024 term up and running.

We can always use extra hands for shorter term tasks or for longer term positions. If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

Have a good summer and "See you in September"!

Introducing our new Board Members

Karen Kerr-Kennedy, Carl Insley, Kelly Potvin and Rick Fry are all settling in wonderfully as Board Members.

This month we are pleased to feature Karen Kerr-Kennedy and Carl Insley. Watch for an article on Rick Fry and Kelly Potvin in August!

Karen Kerr-Kennedy

Born in Athens, Karen is no stranger to the area. She moved to Brockville in 1983 to begin married life and raise her family of two boys.

Karen has been a member of 50+ since shortly after retiring from a successful teaching career in 2013. She worked at elementary schools in the area, including Spencerville and Mallorytown, teaching mainly Junior and Primary levels. She also provided Special Education at all levels and was involved with training and writing Individual Education Plans. Actively involved in her schools, she coached and led many extracurricular activities.

Karen enjoys sewing and has tackled some simple quilts. She belongs to a book club. As her husband is in a band, she attends many concerts and has passed on her love of music to her youngest son, an Audio Engineer. She plays Pickleball with the Brockville Racquet Club at Stingers and attends movies at the BAC and enjoys kayaking on the beautiful St. Lawrence River and area lakes. She is a very socially active woman who enjoys regular Euchre sessions and keeps in touch with old high school friends during monthly visits.

During her years with 50+, Karen has participated in Photography, Line Dance classes, Mat Yoga, and Pickleball. She is attracted to the inclusive and welcoming atmosphere as well as the wide variety of activities offered. She strongly believes in the 50+ mandate.

Karen volunteers with a number of groups: she mentors and befriends Ukrainian families new to Brockville; she sews for Days for Girls; and she's a member of 100 Women Who Care. She serves on the BDACI Board of Directors, is secretary for the RTO/ERO local branch, and is President of Area 8 Retired Women's Teachers.

Having joined the Board in May, Karen says she is learning a lot about the organization and its dedicated Board of volunteers, and she looks forward to taking an active role on the Board. She has agreed to be the Board secretary, and intends to launch the Wellness Committee later this year.

With her wide array of experience, participation, and social awareness, the Board of 50+ is very fortunate to welcome Karen. Her organizational skills, generosity of time, and ability to get the job done make her a valuable addition to the team.



Thanks to Laurie Jeffrey for preparing this article

Introducing our new Board Members

Carl Insley

Carl met with Moyra Riley over coffee and had a great old chat. He is one interesting guy, with a wealth of experience, and he is a blessing to us as an ongoing Pickleball leader and in his newest position of Board Member at Large.

Hailing from Stouffville Ontario, Carl and his wife Rosalyn spent most of their working life in the Guelph area before settling into retirement here in their home near Athens. They have two adult children and one grandchild, Theodore, aka *Theodorable*, who is the light of their life. Rosalyn is an accomplished artist, and you can find her work in galleries and shows locally. Moyra tried to recruit her as a 50+ teacher, but Roz is more introverted than Carl, and prefers to work on her own art. Carl of course is the antithesis of introverted! Isn't that the case in most well matched couples? One of each?

Carl's wealth of useful experience comes from his career as a sales manager in the giftware industry, his history of contributing to his community, and his many and varied hobbies.

Carl clearly "knows people". He is interested in people. Working in sales, those are two key traits that lead to success, and genuine interest just can't be faked. His impeccable record-keeping after customer interactions enabled him to know just when to contact them for reorders and how to best keep them happy and coming back for more. He related several stories of simple and effective solutions that he employed to keep the business thriving. He knew his customers and his product well enough to successfully ride out many recessions. Can't afford a home reno? No problem...You can always afford some permanent botanicals (aka fake flowers) to brighten the atmosphere and your spirits!

In leading pickleball, Carl has become skilled in managing varied personalities and individual needs. His work with a dedicated Senior Centre in Guelph can definitely add to broadening the perspective of our own Board. Carl's most loved hobby, fishing, gives him time to recharge so that he maintains the balance he needs to continue to contribute, while thriving in his own life with Roz. Ask him about his most recent kayaking adventure fishing Stump Lake. He'll tell you what to avoid doing in order to preserve your equipment and your dignity! That trip may not have served to maintain his "balance", but Carl has a sense of humour and adventure that just doesn't quit!



Thanks to Moyra Riley for preparing this article

Message from our Activity Director

Gail Coville

Our new ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS!

A test run in May of our new online application process had over 300 people trying out the new form planned for our Fall Registration. We thank you for your comments, which helps us to improve the process as well as provide better information to you.

Testing out the application form online was simply to familiarize the user with how it worked. Some folks did try to look for the description and schedule, which weren't available. Our new description and schedule will be posted on our website later this summer, allowing lots of time to review each activity, including the new ones that have been added. Please make sure you do a review before selecting your Fall Schedule, as there have been changes to some of the activities including activity level, start time, hours when the activity will be held or room changes. The description of each activity also explains how the leader will be making their selection of participants. Knowing this will help the applicant decide what priority to give to a class a participant attended the previous semester. For many, Priority 4 will still get them into the class if their attendance was good the previous semester.

One observation we made from those who completed the form was that several people selected Priority 1, 2 & 3 more than once. When the time comes to fill out your online application this Fall you will want to pay attention to your priority selection. The 3 top priorities are to assist leaders to select new participants to their activity who chose a high priority and do not have numerous Priorities 1, 2 & 3. If the leader sees there are multiples of the top 3 (eg: more than one priority 1 chosen), then the applicant's choices won't have the same impact as an applicant that only selected one priority 1, one priority 2 and one priority 3.

Applicants who found the form difficult to read will be pleased to know there is now the ability to increase the size of the words. At the very beginning of the application, you will see an A+ and A- to increase or decrease the font size.

We are also excited with the development of our new website, and especially for me the new Activities Program section. The webpages will have information on activity descriptions, the Fall schedule, the process to completing an application as well as a list of Questions & Answers (Q&A), that will be helpful to answer many common questions people have when planning their Fall activities. Once this website is ready to be launched, we will inform our members so that everyone will have a lot of time to view the information prior to applying. We have put a lot of thought into the content and provide instructions to make it easy for you. Hopefully all your questions will be answered.

Keep hydrated and cool this summer. We seem to be in for a sizzling one!

ZUMBA Class *may be* CANCELLED

In our previous newsletter we were quite excited to announce Zumba as a new activity for the Fall. Unfortunately, our new leader recently received a career opportunity she couldn't pass up so she informed me she will not be able to volunteer to teach Zumba this Fall. I recently have been discussing the program with a potential new leader so fingers crossed...we may still be able to run this new activity.

September SOCIAL EVENT

Wall St. United Church gym
Thursday, September 12th 10 a.m. to noon

50+ members are invited to a **50+ Welcome Back Social !!**

This event will replace the social aspect lost from our former Registration Day. Refreshments will be served by the Special Events Committee. Come out to get reacquainted with 50+ friends, and have a chat with your Board and the many great Leaders.

Gail

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Willingness to work for the betterment of Brockville 50+ Activity Centre.
- Patience, persistence, and a sense of humor.
- Good organizational skills.
- Willingness and some idea of what's involved to compile, create, publish and distribute newsletter monthly.
- Promise to always be confidential in creating the newsletter, and to ensure contents of the newsletter and all actions involved in creating it are in accordance with 50+'s Bylaws and Policies.
- Ability to gently encourage leaders, board members and participants of 50+ activities to contribute to the newsletter.

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

No experience is necessary; just a desire to learn! You can start by assisting, and take on the Newsletter Editor role gradually, with assurance that as much support and hands-on-help that is needed will be available to you.



Want to know more?

Email brockvillefiftyplusnewsletter@gmail.com (Newsletter Editor) or leave a message at 613-345-2412 for Rosalie to call you.

News from Activity Groups

Aging Out Loud - Friday

Leader: Eileen Quinn



Aging Out Loud will be a new addition to the 50+ calendar this fall. As a group we'll be preparing for the transitions that lie ahead by taking a look at the resources available for seniors in Brockville and reflecting on what we can do to prepare ourselves to live the rest of our lives fully. As a relative newcomer to Brockville (having arrived just in time for the pandemic), Eileen has been making connections with local service providers and gathering resources for the course. She is looking forward to sharing this knowledge and learning from everyone who participates in the course.

Art Studio – Thursday

We work on our own, painting in acrylic, oil or watercolor. Some of us draw. We have a wide range of talent and if anyone needs guidance with their project, we all help and encourage them.

Leader: Karen O'Neill



Bridge – Monday

Leaders: Jeff Reusing & Ann Labelle



Bridge is a game that can be played by anyone! It can be very simple or extremely complex, depending on what you want from it. I suspect that I was the same as many of you might be, I played a dozen times in high school, then not again for 30 years. Then when I tried the local Brockville Bridge Club 20 years ago, I was hooked. It took about 3 years for me to get to a strong playing level, but I still learn something new every time I play.

Bridge is a fantastic way to keep your mind active, and it is an entertaining social activity. Give it a try, no experience necessary. Come and join Ann Labelle and me on Monday mornings and keep those little grey cells active!

Mahjong - Tuesday

Leaders: Denise McNish & Colleen Quinn & Suzanne Palmer

For the upcoming Fall semester, the 50+ Mahjong group will only be accepting applicants with sufficient experience with Hong Kong Mahjong to be prepared to play.

For those interested in learning to play Hong Kong Mahjong, you might wish to check out the Brockville Public Library, as they offer Mahjong classes on Thursday afternoons.

Message from your Newsletter Editor

Rosalie Morris-Spencer

Summer 2024, as it seems all summers, is *zooming* by!

In September I will celebrate 3 years of being the Newsletter Editor for Brockville 50+. I need to gradually move to being a “retired Newsletter Editor”. I have enjoyed it all very much, and really appreciate receiving emails from our subscribers with notes of thanks and suggestions for future newsletters. I have helpers! Thank heavens for Laurie Jeffrey and Moyra Riley, who have been a great help in the past year, writing feature articles about members and leaders and board members and activity groups. Thanks also to our trusty proofreading team!

Would you like to be our new Editor? Fear not! I'll help you in every way you need. If you're not ready to take over being Editor just now, for now, how about helping with layout and formatting work?

If you are interested in being involved, whether a little or a lot, *please connect with me* at brockvillefiftyplusnewsletter@gmail.com

Watch for news on our website and in the August newsletter about our new online method of applying to participate in activity groups. From August 26th to September 5th the application form will be live for people to apply for activities. Mark your calendar! There will be instructions on our website to assist you and answer questions about this new way of applying for classes, and how to apply if you don't have access to a computer.

Rosalie

News from other non-profit organizations in Brockville:

The Brockville Community Choir
Come Sing With Us
Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

Do you like to sing?

Do you enjoy choral music?

Enjoy timeless classic music?

WE ARE RECRUITING!

SOME FAQs ABOUT THE CHOIR

Our Artistic Director is Madelyn Mensen

Past major performances - from Mozart's *Coronation Mass* to Forrester's *Jubilate Deo* -
And medleys such as "*Gospel to Gershwin*" & "*To Broadway with Love*"

Adult membership dues are \$100 per session (2 sessions per year)

Students are welcome & there are no membership dues for students

Rehearsals are Wednesdays starting at 7:00pm at St. Lawrence Anglican Church, 80 Pine St.

All are welcome to attend for up to 3 rehearsals with no commitment

For further information about the choir visit our website



Registration &
1st Rehearsal

Sept. 4, 2024
6:30pm

www.brockvillechoir.ca

Website: <http://fiftyplusbrockville.ca> Email: fiftyplus@myhighspeed.ca

Office Address: 5 Wall St, Brockville 613-345-2412

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