

Fifty-Five Plus News

May 1, 2021

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www.townofws.ca/55plus

BREAKING NEWS

CONTACTS:

If you're reading this, it means you've survived April, "the cruellest month." We can only hope that the pandemic recedes as more and more people get their vaccinations.

Recreation Programmer

Jen McEachen
905-640-9992
Ext. 2

Virtual Yoga--Chair with Wendy will run from May 4 to May 25 on Tuesdays from 9:45 to 10:45. Virtual Zumba with Garlice will run from May 6 to 27 on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:15.

Reception Desk

905-640-9992
Ext. 1

Obviously, with the current stay-at-home orders, there will be no in-person programs running. Those orders end on May 19. Jen would like to know what outdoor programs you might like to see in June. Would you enjoy a walking program? Would you enjoy a historical tour of Main Street? Are there workshops/seminars you would like to see? Please contact Jen at jen.mceachan@townofws.ca.

Winter Hours:

Closed
until
further
notice.

Vaccines are now available at Soccer City, the Stouffville Medical Centre, both Shopper's Drug Mart locations, IDA, Rexall, Metro, Great North Pharmacy and WalMart Pharmacy. Age restrictions apply and appointments are required. Please encourage every Club member that you know to avail themselves of these opportunities.

FROM THE 55+ STAFF WORKING GROUP

No meeting of the 55+ Club Staff Working Group has been scheduled for May.



MAYDAY

The “mayday” procedure word was conceived as a distress call by Frederick Stanley Mockford in the early 1920’s. Since much of the air traffic at the time was between Croydon and Le Bourget Airport in Paris, he proposed the term “mayday”, the phonetic equivalent of the French “m’aider.” The previous distress call had been the Morse code signal SOS, but this was not considered suitable for voice communication. In 1927, the International Radiotelegraph Convention of Washington adopted the voice call “mayday” as the radiotelephone distress call in addition to the SOS radiotelegraph (Morse code) signal.



MOTHER’S DAY

The modern holiday of Mother’s Day was first celebrated in 1907 when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St. Andrew’s Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. By 1911, all U.S. states observed the holiday. By the early 1920’s, Hallmark Card and other companies had started selling Mother’s Day cards. Jarvis became resentful of the commercialization and organized boycotts of Mother’s Day.

VICTORIA DAY



The birthday of Queen Victoria was a day for celebration in Canada long before Confederation, with the first legislation regarding the event being passed in 1845. It was noted on that date in 1854, the 35th birthday of Queen Victoria, some 5,000 residents of Canada West gathered in front of Government House in Toronto to “give cheers to the queen.”

Following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, May 24 was made by law to be known as Victoria Day, a date to remember the late queen and in 1904, the same date was made by imperial decree Empire Day throughout the British Empire.

Over the ensuing decades, the official date in Canada of the reigning sovereign’s birthday changed through various royal proclamations until the haphazard format was abandoned in 1952. That year, both Empire Day and Victoria Day were moved to the Monday before May 25 and the monarch’s official birthday in Canada was made to fall on this same day every year between 1953 and January 31, 1957, when the link was made permanent. The following year, Empire Day was renamed Commonwealth Day and in 1977 it was moved to the second Monday in March, leaving the Monday before May 25 only as both Victoria Day and the Queen’s Birthday.



BIRTHDAY PEOPLE

Carol Morin, Donna Beckett, Irma Pescador, Marie Ryan, Mary Raybould, May King, Monica Van Maris, Wilf Morley, Marg Curtis, Hilda Dupuis, Lorne Geddes, Rick Lightfoot, Maureen Tracey, Mary Davidson, Michelle Garbutt, Pat Ogston, Kim Arthurs, Jeannine Clarke, Cheng Chi Deng, Cathy Edwards, Betsey Gorniak, Kamalarani Gunabalasingam, Raymond Hewlett, Susan Hillar, Janet Houghting, Sarojinidevi Krishnananda, Murray Lewis, Monika McSwiggan, Sundaralingam Rajalingam, Arunthavai Shanmugalingam, Percy Surti, Consuella Tabone, Karen Youroukis. Celebrate!



THE SKI TRIP

Jack decided to go skiing with his buddy, Bob. They loaded up Jack's minivan and headed north. After driving for a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard. They pulled into a nearby farm and asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could spend the night.

"I realize it's terrible weather out there and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed," she explained. "I'm afraid the neighbours will talk if I let you stay in my house." "Don't worry," Jack said. "We'll be happy to sleep in the barn. And if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first light." The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night. Come morning, the weather had cleared, and they got on their way. They enjoyed a great weekend of skiing.

About nine months later, Jack got an unexpected letter from an attorney. It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the attorney of that attractive widow he had met on the ski weekend. He dropped in on his friend Bob and asked, "Bob, do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on our ski holiday up North?"

"Yes, I do." "Did you happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house and pay her a visit?" "Yes," Bob said, a little embarrassed at being found out. "I have to admit that I did." "And did you happen to use my name instead of telling her your name?" Bob's face turned red and he said, "Yeah, sorry buddy. I'm afraid I did. Why do you ask?"

"She just died and left me everything!"

(And you thought the ending would be different, didn't you?)

A FOLLOW-UP FROM FLORIDA

Graham Sparrow and his wife Jan Douglas have returned safely from Florida. As Graham notes, "Sharing experiences help us to understand what others are going through". Here are Graham's remarks about their stay in Florida.

We decided to head home on the 12th of April, with good weather in the forecast for a 3-day drive. We also needed to return our stranded Canadian vehicle left behind last March.

Our winter was fine. We had a "bubble of buddies" to play cards with, watch movies and play Pickleball. Very few Canadians at SunNFun (maybe 12?), no Brits and lots of vacant units, and some for sale.

Not as many activities, but there was bingo, some bands around the pool, etc. but the "bar crowd" seemed mostly unconcerned about masks and social distancing.

We'd shop once a week for groceries, and wine ... don't forget the wine...and go for brunch on Sundays with our friends on the outdoor patios ... what a luxury!

Woodland Hall at SNF is a large banquet hall with lots of space and high, high ceilings, and a good PA system.

After consulting with a good dance friend, we came up with a Covid protocol for two line dance classes (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Numbers were lower this year, everybody followed the rules, and no problems ... with a total of almost 40 classes.

Oh, and the governor of Florida agreed to vaccinate all Florida "residents" for free, and with proof of age and residency, we got our Moderna shots completed almost a month ago ... whew ...

From what we know, it seems that Sarasota County is way ahead of Ontario. The on-line booking worked well, and the injection site we visited ran smoothly ... an hour from door to door. At last check, Sarasota County alone had given over 200,000 shots!

We crossed at Windsor on the 14th, but then had to get another Covid test in Detroit since the negative tests we had on the Monday in Sarasota had expired ... even though we had proof of our Moderna ... what craziness. We're scheduled to take another test tomorrow [April 23] online using the kit they provided at the border ... even crazier.

Anyway, we've been very lucky to safely return to the country of our choice, and look forward to walking with friends (6 days from now) and visiting family after all this time away.

Graham Sparrow and Jan Douglas

OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS



FAMOUS TOPICS IN ART HISTORY:



**HERCULES ATTEMPTING TO
GIVE HIS CAT A PILL**

KEEP SMILING!



**PRESCRIPTION FOR
MENTAL HEALTH
DURING THE PANDEMIC**



**ONCE A WEEK, DRESS UP LIKE YOU MEAN IT!
(thanks to Gennie Cuthbertson)**