

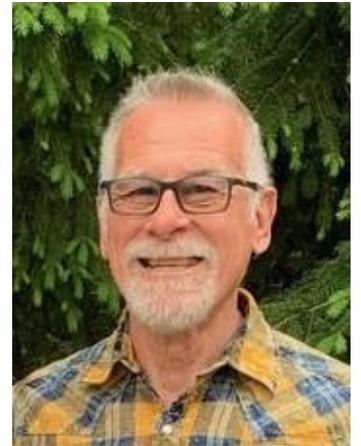


Pine Line

Pine Meadows Community Newsletter

December 2024

The year is flying by, and the flurry of the Christmas season is here again. There are many Christmas traditions for those who celebrate the holiday. For me, I am always reminded of my childhood Christmases without Santa Claus, but not without tradition. As a child, my family lived in The Netherlands, where the celebration of Christmas was quite different. Christmas (December 25) was a religious holiday. However, on December 5th the tradition was the arrival of Sinterklaas (St. Nicholas). I remember him riding on his white steed down the street past our house. Only if we had been good children would a gift be promised. You would be wise to leave some sugar candies and carrots in a wooden shoe for Sinterklaas' horse when he arrived in the evening.



Sinterklaas is the patron saint of children going back to the 4th Century when he was a Greek Christian bishop. Over the centuries, traditions become embellished to suit the culture. As children, we learned that Sinterklaas came from Spain on a ship, docked, and got on his big horse to visit the children. In the Netherlands, he arrived on the evening of December 5th. When I was six years old, I must have been good since I received the gift I had hoped for, a blackboard on an easel so that I could draw and doodle, long before the invention of computers and etch-a-sketch.

I remember Sinterklaas riding in front of our house, led by his assistant, Black Peter. Today, he is considered very controversial. The idea of Black Peter is disappearing for obvious reasons. But back in the Fifties, he was a looming and scary figure. Sinterklaas and Black Peter strewed pepernoten (small round cookies made of flour, sugar, aniseed, cinnamon, and cloves) down the front hallway after my parents opened the front door and said, "*Come look who is here.*" I think that this was an indication that my brother and I had been good children, yet I remember being fearful.

In Canada, we began to celebrate Christmas gift-giving twice as my parents always maintained the Dutch tradition with a gift on December 5th. Then, on Christmas Eve, Santa Claus would bring us something. Pretty cool, I thought. Santa Claus, after all, was a North American invention by the Dutch immigrants arriving in New Amsterdam (New York City) in the 19th Century. Coca-Cola made him into a kinder and sweeter entity, arriving annually on December 24th from the North Pole.

In whatever manner you choose to celebrate in December or January if following the Julian calendar, remember that traditions are great moments to build memories. We all have many good recollections. For some of us, it will be a house full of family and friends; others may celebrate quietly or not at all, perhaps choosing to be away in warmer climates. Whatever you do, enjoy and smile. Perhaps, check in on a neighbour...

Happy New Year, too. The new year 2025 promises to be very interesting.

Chris Rynberk

PMHA President

Email: rynberkc@gmail.com

Cards Cards Cards

For card requests, please contact: Kathryn Dancey 519-843-5216
Marni Henry at 226-486-2432

Our community sent “**Thinking of You / Get Well Wishes**” to the following resident:



Betty Frost, 45 White Bark Way



Condolences

A sympathy card was sent to:

Barbara Brookes, 118 White Bark Way on the passing of her daughter.

Maintenance Cost Review Committee (MCRC)

Barry Wood, Recording Secretary

The Maintenance Cost Review Committee has some good news at last. With the landscaping crew spending a great deal of their time on fall cleanup, the costs for lawn maintenance were greatly reduced for the month of October. As well, there were no highly expensive projects for the month. As a result, our monthly costs were significantly below our monthly fees which means a decrease in the amount owing per household.

The maintenance cost report for October, 2024 has been posted in the Boardroom for you to review. In addition, It has also been posted on the Pine Meadows Homeowners Association (PMHA) website. This report, prepared by the management of Pine Meadows Retirement Community Limited, shows all expense items, revenue items, costs per home per month and many other details.

Please take a moment to look at the report and, if you have any questions, you can contact Nancy Ottewell, the MCRC chair, by email at nottewell@gmail.com and she will be more than pleased to research your questions or you can contact any of the MCRC members.

Basketeers - Assisting Women in New Beginnings

Linda Webster and Joyce Giddings

Sincere appreciation is extended to all residents of Pine Meadows who contributed donations so that we were able to purchase gift cards for the Guelph-Wellington Basketeers to support the Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis.

A total of \$1050.00 was donated by Pine Meadows residents. This is the seventh annual Basketeers Donation Drive at Pine Meadows and we continue to receive wonderful support from our community.

Thank you so much.



Pine Meadows Ladies Group

Lois MacPherson

The Pine Meadows Ladies Group meets regularly with the purpose of providing a time for the women of our community to "learn, share and socialize", and that is exactly what we are planning to do during December.

On December 2: A learning time. We welcome **Mary Lloyd from Sensational You**, lingerie shop in Fergus. We will be learning about the importance of, and comfort of properly fitting undergarments, etc., and of the varied items she carries in her shop. Mary's expertise and willingness to share her knowledge will make this a learning experience.

December 9 will be a sharing time. A time when we will recall times of Christmas's past and our plans for Christmas this year. A time when ladies may bring their special items, recipes and memories and share them with the group. Including in that sharing will be projects we have worked on and ideas of things we might do in 2025.



December 16, will be our Christmas Social Time. our Christmas Pot Luck lunch. A true pot luck lunch with no organizing of who brings what. We will start our afternoon at 1 pm, Half an hour earlier than usual and ask you to bring plates, cutlery, etc. Coffee/tea will be provided. Following lunch we will have a social time.

We will not meet over Christmas holidays, but plan on meeting again on January 6, 2025

Display Case

Joyce Giddings

Gnome For the Holidays

Merry Christmas

We thought we would do something a bit different for the Christmas display this year. Over the past few years there have been Christmas Villages, Angels, Snowmen, Santas and teddy bears. This year we are celebrating gnomes. But what do gnomes have to do with Christmas?



According to Scandinavian folklore, gnomes come out on Christmas Day and deliver gifts and spread cheer and Christmas Spirit. They are usually bulbous-nosed little men (and women) with long white beards, and wear pointed or knit caps that cover their eyes. They live underground where they protect plant life (and their stashes of buried treasure).

Here's hoping you too, will be visited by a Christmas gnome, bringing good luck, happiness and warmth. I am always looking for suggestions for the display case. If you have any ideas, please call me at 519-843-6244 or email me at joycegiddings1@gmail.com.

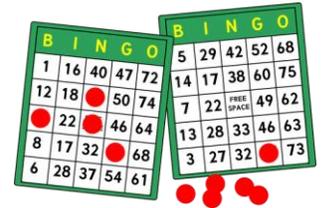


Social Committee Updates

Chris Larsen

Christmas Bingo Monday Dec 9 at 7pm

We are implementing a new approach to Bingo Prizes starting with the Christmas Bingo. The prize amount per game will be fixed at \$25 per game instead of being based on the number of tickets sold. The Jackpot game will be paid out at \$75. There will also be door prizes for special event bingos like Christmas. We hope this will make the night more interesting and exciting.



New Years Eve Dinner and Dance Dec 31st at 6:30pm

Dinner this year will be 3 course meal starting with Garden Salad, followed by Pork Tenderloin stuffed with selected fruits accompanied by a medley of baby potatoes and vegetables. The non-meat option will be Baked Salmon and for dessert cherry cheesecake. Please let us know about dietary restrictions when purchasing your tickets and we will make sure our Caterer – Everton Academy of Culinary Arts meets your needs. Complimentary Red and White wine from Vinden Estates will be provided free with the meal.

The DJ for the evening will be Digital DJ. We have made sure she doesn't forget Auld Lang Syne. The signup sheet already has 8 full tables so get your name up. Tickets can be purchased for \$75 per person at Coffee Klatch, Happy Hour or from Chris Larsen 29 White Bark Way.

E transfer is acceptable using email chrislarsen48@hotmail.com (make sure you don't leave out the "r")

Message from Dana re Vacation and Office Holiday Closure

- Vacation: Fri Dec 6th – Sun Dec 15th (back in the office Mon Dec 16th for the week)
- Office closed week of December 23rd
- I'll be back in the office December 30th, 31st and Jan 2nd (Mon/Tues/Thurs)

For **TRULY URGENT** matters, I can be reached by phone or text at 905-703-6411.

Koffee Klatch

Jackie Piercey



December 4th

Mrs. Brown's Boys – Ultimate Funniest Moments

Hilarious British comedy

WARNING – some coarse language and adult content



December 11th

Social Time (You Tube)

The Camino de Santiago, or The Way of St. James, is an ancient pilgrimage trail originating in medieval times. **Caroline Laing** will tell us of her travels and experience along the way.



December 18th

“Mr. Bean Massive Turkey / Mr Bean Clips / Mr Bean”

29.03 minutes

How not to stuff a turkey



December 25th

NO KOFFEE KLATCH

*Have a wonderful holiday.
See you in the New Year.*

Aimez-Vous Parlez Francais?

How would you like to try something new and a little bit fun? The Pine Meadows French Connection is a small group of residents who get together every week for an hour to practice our conversational French. The group has a varying range of comfort and familiarity with speaking French. We try to build our vocabularies and keep our skills (and confidence) up in a pleasant and supportive environment.

If you can converse in French and want to stay in practice, we welcome you to join us on Sunday mornings at 11:00 for an hour. For more information, contact Avon Giddings, 121 Bristlecone Court, 647-967-2111, or avongiddings@gmail.com.





Birthdays and Anniversaries for December

The following are the names of Pine Meadows residents who are celebrating either a birthday or anniversary the month of December.

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries:</i>	
Mary Drew	December 8	Ted White and Karen Hampton	December 5
Nicole Bernou	December 9	Doug and Rose Blinkiron	December 7
Keith Solomon	December 11	Fred and Melanie Newton	December 18
Bonnie Bottomley	December 12	Don and Joan Ferrier	December 28
Kathryn Dancey	December 14		
Pearl Davis	December 15		
Sharon Wansbrough	December 22		
Ken Lindsay	December 29		

Congratulations Everyone!

To have birthdays and anniversaries noted in the Pine Line each month and announced at Koffee Klatch, please send your info to Jackie Piercey. Her contact info is (piercey.jackie@gmail.com) or call 905-703-0372 and she will update her list.



The Pine Line

The Pine Line is the monthly newsletter of Pine Meadows residents and is produced for the Pine Meadows Homeowners' Association by the Pine Line Team which currently consists of:

Coordinators/Editors: Linda Webster and Perry Adams.

Pine Line Committee Members: Anne Chery, Joyce Giddings, Heather Denomy, Myra Manning, Grant Swift and Nancy Ottewell.

. The submission deadline for the December issue, is the 14th of the month. The deadline for the remainder of the months is the 21st. While a high priority is to include all submissions, space requires that some submissions be omitted, or delayed to a future edition of The Pine Line



Pine Meadows Homeowners' Association – Events Calendar



DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 KK - Social – You Tube British Comedy	5	6	7
8	9 - 7:00 pm Bingo	10	11 KK – Camino de Santiago Caroline Laing	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 KK – Social – You Tube Mr. Bean	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 No KK Merry Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31 - 6:30 pm New Years Eve Dinner & Dance				
	Safety/Security Wayne Douglas	Open Swim & Children Allowed Pool hours: 2:30 - 6:00 p.m. daily (4:00 – 6:00 pm on Thursdays)		Reservations & Kitchen Committee - Heather Waring		
11:00 French Club	8:30 Walk for Fitness 9:00 Water Aerobics 9:00 Wood Carving 10:00 Water Aerobics 11:30 SMART Program 12:00 Billiards – Men 1:00 Men's Aquafit 1:30 Ladies Group 7:00 Billiards – Men	9:00 Water Aerobics 10:00 Tai Chi 10:00 Water Aerobics 11:15 Pool Volleyball 1:00 Billiards – Men 1:00 Men's Aquafit 1:30 Bridge 7:00 Mixed Darts 7:00 Poker	8:30 Water Aerobics 9:30 Koffee Klatch 11:30 SMART Program 1:00 Men's Aquafit 7:00 Euchre (2 nd and 4 th Wednesday) Bid Euchre (1 st , 3 rd and 5 th Wednesday)	9:00 Water Aerobics 9:30 ROMEOS 10:00 Water Aerobics 11:15 Pool Volleyball 1:00 Men's Aquafit 2:00 Ladies Billiards Line Dancing 1:30 Beginners 2:00 All dancers 2:00 – 4:00 pm Pool Cleaning	8:30 Walk for Fitness 9:00 Water Aerobics 10:00 Bridge 10:00 Water Aerobics 11:30 SMART Program 12:00 Billiards – Men 1:00 Men's Aquafit 1:00 Cribbage 4:00 Happy Hour	7:00 Mixed Billiards