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Senior
Housing
Project
Update

The Impossible
Dream
by April Lewis, BC CARP
Representative



**Spring Edition 2013** 

Are Seniors being abused by the Ontario Healthcare System?

See inside for details on upcoming trips to the Butterfly Conservatory and the Huronia Players Theatre!

Is it time to renew your membership?

Don't forget to write Chapter 36 on your renewal form.

Chapter 36 acknowledges Jeff and Valerie Scott from Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Homes for their generous support in the production of this newsletter.

If undelivered please return to: 150 Livingstone St E, Barrie ON L4M 6Y7

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by the Ontario Healthcare

### **Board Members 2013**

Gwen Kavanagh - Chair

John Rodgers - Vice Chair

Kelly Patterson - Treasurer. Communications & Editor

Eva Koselak - Secretary

Georges Olivier

Sandy Wetherald

Committee Members: Dave Cooper - Web Administrator Marjory Scott & Sandy Wetherald-Social/Educational

Chapter 36 Meeting Schedule April 16th - 6.30pm in the Sir Robert Barrie Community Room at Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Homes, 30 Worsley St (Cnr Clapperton)

Guest Speaker: "Damaged Care" (comedy), Chiropractor

May 21st - 6.30pm in the Sir Robert Barrie Community Room at

Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Homes, 30 Worsley St (Cnr Clapperton) Guest Speaker: Downsizing/Home Improvement June 18th - 6.30pm in the Sir Robert Barrie Community Room at

Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Homes, 30 Worsley St (Cnr Clapperton) Guest Speaker: St John's Ambulance \*Light refreshments at are provided \*Meetings are free of charge

\*Bring a loonie/toonie for the 50/50 draw









#### **ADVOCACY**



# Target all bad drivers, not just seniors:

Sudbury police trying to deal with older drivers take a misguided approach and ask residents to report old drivers on the Crime Stoppers line.

CARP in the media: Published in The Toronto Star February 23, 2013

Nobody promised that aging would be easy but the last thing seniors need is a snitch line directed at older drivers, pitting the young(er) against the elderly.

This slippery slope toward institutional ageism has already begun in Sudbury, where police want residents to report seniors they think should stop driving. The recommendation emerged from a safe-driving task force made up of police, Ontario's transportation ministry and seniors mental health groups. At its best, this suggestion is well-meaning but misguided. At its worst, it is discrimination that would not be accepted against any other group.

Susan Eng of CARP, the advocacy group for retired and aging Canadians, says that if police insist on this approach they should seek tips on all bad drivers, not just seniors. "Older people are being targeted here," says Eng. She's right.

Of course, road safety is paramount. But there must be a process in place that leads to the removal of something as valued as a driver's licence. As Eng says, calling police is like "bringing in an elephant gun."

There is no doubt that we live in an aging society, where the number of seniors with dementia is expected to more than double to 100,000 in 2028 from 45,000 today.

To that end, Canadian researchers are partway through a massive five-year project that monitors the driving habits and physical and mental abilities of 1,000 motorists aged 70 or older. The results of that could lead to a test that properly identifies those who should no longer be driving. (Continued on pg. 13)



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# CONNECTING WITH THE CHAIR

It seems ages since I sat down to write this column for the January edition. So much seems to be happening and Christmas and the holidays seem long gone. Spring is on the horizon and I for one am ready to leave winter well behind.

We have two new people on the Board, namely Eva Koselak and Georges Olivier. I am happy to report they have both settled in and are already taking on responsibilities. I want to thank Gerry Levene, who has left the Board but is still assisting with the printing of this Newsletter, for his foresight and assistance in the new formatting and all the homework he put into same.

We are planning to assemble two trips for your enjoyment, one on June 2nd and one in August. I am looking forward to both of them. The June trip is a Sunday and will include brunch and afternoon theatre. Watch the next issue for information on the August trip and set aside Tuesday, October 1st as we are planning something special to celebrate CARP Awareness week. We decided to move the date from June last year to October this year in order to line up with Senior's Day and to coordinate with the other Chapters.

Our Co-housing presentation on Jan. 15th was very successful with approximately 150 persons attending. A second meeting with interested parties was held and looks promising to move forward. Shelley Raymond from Solterra Co-housing Ltd. and myself continue to give presentations Meanwhile we have had inquires from California, Chicago, Winnipeg, Kingston and many more Ontario locations. Interested parties can reach me at (705) 252-4756.

Unfortunately, I had to miss the March meeting (my first ever) as I was attending the quarterly meeting of the Seniors Secretariat Liaison Committee in Toronto, followed up by a Reception for Mario Sergio - Minister Responsible for Seniors.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the April meeting on the 16th and to the homemade goodies provided, as always, by Shirley and Keith Richards.

Gwen Kavanagh

Gwen can be contacted by calling the CARP Hotline at 705.252.4756 or by emailing barriecarp@gmail.com







# **Barrie Co-Housing Project Proves Popular for CARP Members** - By Dave Cooper

The January 15th regular meeting of the Barrie CARP Chapter featured the Senior Housing Committee report on the Co-housing project and was a fantastic success with over 150 people in attendance to hear the special update presentation. The meeting was Chaired by Gwen Kavanagh. The session was kicked off by Barrie Mayor, Jeff Lehman and then members of the Committee spoke to the specifics of the project. Shelley Raymond of Solterra spoke to the actual housing and showed those present a couple of the projects currently underway in Bracebridge and Brechin.



An enthusiastic crowd of over 150 at Steckley Gooderham Funeral Home.

Also speaking to the large and enthusiastic crowd were Ian Hocking from the Senior Housing Committee and Angela Roy from the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). In depth explanations were given on how the process works.

#### **ADVOCACY**

lan spoke of the support from not only the City of Barrie but also the CMHC. Mortgage issues are often raised in Co-housing or shared housing initiatives and these were addressed



Mayor Jeff Lehman shares his view on the housing situation for seniors in Barrie now and in to the future.

Meet Molly! - Molly was present at the January 15th meeting and is a current resident of Barrie and wishes to be the first resident in the house supported by the CARP co-housing project. Watch her discussion taped when she met with Gwen Kavanagh, Chair of the Barrie Chapter and Chair of the Senior Housing Committee. You can hear Molly's story in detail by visiting our website at www.barriecarp.org. We'd like to thank Molly for sharing her story with us.

If you have any questions or would like more information, call Gwen at 705.252.4756.

Note: As at the time of printing, an offer has been made on a property in Barrie for the first co-housing development of it's kind in our City.

Watch this space!!



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### Butterflies, Tea and Treats

CARP Chapter 36 is delighted to give you the opportunity to join us for a bus trip where we will visit the Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory, Waterloo Region Museum and the township of Wilomot for an English Afternoon Tea.

On Saturday Aug 17th, a deluxe highway motor coach, with washroom will take you to the **Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory** for a guided tour through a lush tropical garden where you will walk amongst thousands of freely flying butterflies! A buffet lunch will be served in the **Paradise Garden Cafe** which is pleased to offer a fresh and healthy menu prepared from locally-farmed and organic ingredients.

From there, we will travel to the new **Waterloo Region Museum**. We will be afforded a private presentation for our group titled "*Edwardian Edibles*". We will be delving into fascinating kitchen gadgets and examining the food and unique recipes in use at the turn of the last century, around 1900! And oh yeah, we will also be trying some **scrumptious samples of food** and drink from that era.

Afterwards, we will **visit the quaint township of Wilmot** where we will indulge in an **English Afternoon Tea with the world's best scones**, clotted cream, locally made preserves, pastries, cakes and mini desserts. And, we will be enjoying our tea in a converted and renovated 1887 building that is a beautiful example of Victorian mercantile architecture

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(includes transportation, all admissions, food, taxes and gratuities)
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#### COMMUNITY

### SENIORS' LOCAL SEASONAL EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

#### **April 2013**

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(705) 728-6332, and Parkview
(705) 737-0755 Recreational Centres



Saturday, April 20th, 2013
1:00 p.m.
Spring Fashion Show
Allandale Recreational
Centre
(Upper Level Main Hall)
For further information, call
the Allendale (705) 7286332, and Parkview (705)

737-0755 Recreational Centres

#### Saturday, May 4th, 2013

Allandale Garage Sale Allendale Recreational Centre For further information, call the Allendale Recreational Centre (705) 728-6332

#### June 2013

Series of Seniors'events scheduled throughout the monthAllandale and Parkview Recreational Centres For further information, call the Allendale (705) 728-6332, and Parkview (705) 737-0755 Recreational Centres

#### June 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2013

Georgian College Outdoors' Auto show, on Georgian Drive Georgian College, 1, Georgian Drive -(705) 728-1968 Free Access

#### June 2nd. 2013

"Communicating Doors" Huronia Players Theatre - Bus Trip - Carp Chapter 36 Leaving Barrie (behind Canadian Tire) at 10.30am sharp, buffet brunch, Matinee session at 1.30pm. Approx \$50 www.barriecarp.org or 705.252.4916

#### Sunday, June 16th, 2013

3rd Annual Barrie Waterfront Half Marathon Heritage Park Registration is limited www.barriehalfmarathon.com

### Saturday June 22nd

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www.scahomeowners.com

#### Tuesday, November 26th, 2013

Silent Auction - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Georgian College, 1, Georgian Drive - (705) 728-1968









#### COMMUNITY



### Are Seniors being abused by the Ontario Healthcare System?

Written by: Kristy Webber Service Coordinator, Prevention of Senior Abuse Network Simcoe County.

In writing this article for CARP on elder abuse, my original goal was to give the reader a basic understanding about elder abuse, what it is, the forms it can take, and how it is happening everywhere in society. However, a recent media blitz on elder abuse in Canadian institutions motivated me to share some of the political issues surrounding this form of abuse.

Institutional abuse can be defined as "any physical, sexual, psychological, financial abuse or neglect occurring within a facility."

It features "poor standards of care, lack of responses to complex needs, rigid routines, inadequate staffing, and an insufficient knowledge base within the service."

Institutional abuse can occur within any service provision setting, and may include domiciliary care, group homes, nursing homes, retirement homes, assisted living facilities, day centres, and hospitals.

Recent media campaigns are raising awareness about the issues of abuse and inadequate standards of care in both long-term care homes and hospitals across the province.

A CBC radio segment featured a lawyer from the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly discussing how Ontario hospitals are placing seniors and their caregivers into unrealistic and at times illegal situations in response to the pressure to free up hospital beds.

Seniors occupying hospital beds are often labelled by hospital staff as "bed blockers" because for various reasons they have no where else to go. Seniors and caregivers require education about their "rights" to become their own advocates.

When a family member is disappointed about the care their loved one received while admitted to a hospital or nursing home they are confronted with complaint processes lacking in accountability/transparency. Currently the Ministry of Health (MOH) employs their own compliance officers to inspect long term care homes across Ontario. Citizens of Ontario need to be alerted to the potential conflict of interest raised by the MOH also being the funding source of these homes.

Ontario Ombudsman, Andre Marin, states that Ontario is lagging behind as the only province who's Ombudsman doesn't have the authority to investigate hospitals and long-term-care facilities. Bill 122 - the Ombudsman Amendment Act, outlines changes to allow the Ombudsman to investigate healthcare services.

(continued pg.9)



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(continued from pg 8)

This would serve as an important protective factor to "at risk" seniors and vulnerable adults as they are often the main population served by these Ontario healthcare institutions

"Elder rights" has emerged as a social movement gaining momentum in response to the discrimination faced by today's seniors. The development of this movement makes sense when we take into consideration our aging population coupled with the pressures caused by increased chronic conditions. Pair this need with a health-care climate that is currently under resourced, underfunded, and overburdened, and it becomes easy to see how the ingredients for abuse are present in our healthcare system.

As the media exposes these issues, it is the responsibility of our community to join together and advocate for changes. The Prevention of Senior Abuse Network Simcoe County encourages you to educate yourself and become involved.

For more information and direct links to recent media campaigns, please see our facebook page.

Phone: (705) 305-4357

Email: psancoordinator@gmail.com

Website: www.psan-sc.ca

Facebook Page:

http://www.facebook.com/#!/PreventionOfSeniorAbuseNetworkSimcoeCounty

Elder Abuse Assessment an Intervention Guide. (2011). National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly. www.nicenet.ca

No Secrets: guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse. (2012, p.12).

Canada's hospitals strained caring for elderly patients with no where to go. (2013). Anna Maria Tremonti. CBC Radio The Current

Ontario Ombudsman could hold hospitals to account. (2012). Andre Marin

www.ombudsman.on.ca

## HURONIA PLAYERS PRESENTS

#### "COMMUNICATING DOORS"

A Comedy/thriller by Alan Aykbourn and directed by Alan Macmenemey.

CARP Chapter 36 are offering you the opportunity to support one of our very own, George Gibson, from our Senior Housing Committee, who will be playing a lead role in this wonderful play.

We are arranging to take a bus to the Huronia Players Theatre at the Midland Culture Centre and will stop for a delicious brunch before the show. At the time of printing this newsletter, not all of the arrangements have been finalized.

Date: Sunday, June 2nd, 2013 Time: 10.00am - 5pm (approx)

Where: Bus will leave behind Canadian Tire, Bayfield Street at 10:30am sharp Cost: Approx \$50

\*Keep checking www.barriecarp.org for current details.

\*For futher information or to book your seats, please contact Sandy Wetherald at 705-252-4916 or email Sandy at:swetherald@rogers.com

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#### **TRAVEL**



The recent adventures of Jane Jackson, CARP#36 Member

It began like many trips begin... ..with discussion of "I'd love to go to..." and "Wouldn't it be fun to go to..."

The destinations that came up in conversation many times over the years with my friend John from Australia, included the Rockies and the Pacific Northwest coast of Canada.

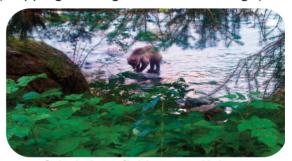
Mid-2011 we started planning – John wanted to see wildlife (particularly bears) and the Northern Lights; and I just love to

travel and research trips!
Banff & Jasper were at the top of his list. Alaska came up in the conversation. A cruise was discussed and discarded, so I researched the Alaska Marine Highway (the Alaska Ferry).

Traveling in September 2012 eliminated further north destinations. The ferry schedule is different from that of a cruise ship — the view! the stops are dictated by tides, so some stops are in the middle of the night and just for an hour. We wanted to take a train to allow us both to enjoy the scenery.

Our final itinerary was to meet in Seattle and then enjoy a 3 week journey first by ferry from Bellingham, Washington to Haines Alaska.

We rented a car in Haines to do the Golden Circle Tour (Haines to Haines Junction to Whitehorse, Yukon, and Skagway, Alaska, and back (via ferry) to Haines to return the rental car.) We continued on the ferry to Prince Rupert, then taking a Via Rail train to Jasper (stopping overnight in Prince George).



Grizzly bear fishing near Haines
We rented a car, explored around Jasper and drove a 3200km route to Edmonton - Drumheller - Banff (3 nights there) - Golden via Radium - Vernon - and down the Okanagan to Osoyoos and into Washington state, stopping in Wenatchee, before returning to Seattle to drop off my

Aussie friend. I returned the car in

Vancouver.



Emerald Lake near Lake Louise

(continued pg 11)

#### (Contined from pg 10)

Weather delays can upset your plans, so don't schedule too tightly – we were delayed 5 hours getting into Prince Rupert because of fog in Petersburg, Alaska. The train will be delayed as well because freight-trains have precedence over passenger trains.

Planning this trip took lots of hours of searching on the Internet: Travelocity, Expedia, multiple car and hotel rental sites, VIA Rail, Alaska Marine Highway, and the travel sites of VirtualTourist.com and TripAdvisor.com. The forums and members of the last 2 sites helped tremendously. Friendly communication to accommodations helped us establish a rapport with our innkeepers before arriving.







### Keep up-to-date with Chapter 36! www.barriecarp.org

Our website is updated regularly....
If you missed a meeting, you'll find a copy of the most recent minutes as well as information about upcoming meetings and details of planned events.

You can also find recent and past editions of our newsletter.

We appreciate your feedback: barriecarp@gmail.com or 705-252-4756







### The Impossible Dream

very morning I come downstairs and there it is.
Without fail, it is there to greet me. "Good morning!"
It mocks me as I wipe the

sleep from my eyes. Sometimes as I turn the corner I will it to be gone. Vanished. Out of my life. But there it is. The blip in my floor. The imperfection in my engineered floorboards. And why have you left this imperfect mark on my perfect shiny floor? What is the bubble, the eruption meant to represent? What is its purpose, save to cause me angst? It is there to annoy me, knowing I can do nothing about it?

I am not yet at peace with my aberration but I am getting there. I walk around it, avoiding it. I stomp on it hoping that my weight will cause it to recoil back to an even perfection. I clean it lovingly with Murphy's oil. However, in an imperfect world I know it serves a purpose. It is there to remind me that I can overcome the blips in my own life. It is there to remind me that perfection is not attainable nor should I ever aspire to such a goal.

What is with our insatiable need for perfection? The very word "perfection" implies it is unattainable so why do we torment ourselves believing it is? Surely we only set ourselves up for disappointment and feelings of inadequacy. Whitney Johnson, author of Dare, Dream, Do says "If we are perfect, then we are good enough. If we are good enough, people will have to love us."

This speaks to the notion that underneath this relentless desire for perfection lies an underlying fear of failure or criticism, a fear which is deeply entrenched and a hard habit to break. The media plays into this fear beautifully with its marketing

You have got to have the latest gadget or toy, a bigger house, a flashier car, a more prestigious job. And a more perfect place to live. Speaking of which, I am hooked on HGTV's two programs: House Hunters International and Live Here, Buy This. Both feed into our yearning for perfection.

If we lived in a different house or a different city or a different country, our lives would be perfect and so much happier, we are led to believe. The thing I love about the former show is none of the three final choices is perfect. There is always something wrong with the houses. They are either situated on a busy street, or the kitchen is too small or there is no back yard. And yet the prospective buyers must choose one.

How cruel, I am thinking, for the couple will never be truly happy knowing they had to sacrifice perfection. As for the latter show, the producers push it up a notch with the implication that you can find

perfection in another country. Why, that pastoral spread in Argentina, or the jungle house in Belize or the ocean view villa in Mexico is all you need to find perfection. They present the viewer with a projected, unattainable longing which only serves to fill us with more unhealthy disappointment.

Meanwhile, my blip in my floor is still there. It is there cajoling me into a peaceful co-existence. I am thinking this might be possible as it doesn't talk back or criticize.

I think we can become fast friends. In an imperfect world.

April Lewis is the BC CARP Representative and regular contributor to Peace Arch News.









#### **JOHN'S JOKES**



### LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE!

The pediatrician asked his six year old patient Johnny, who watched numerous TV commercials, "what would you buy if you found a ten dollar bill" without any hesitation Johnny replied "a box of Tampax". The doctor asked "what would you do with that? "Well, Johnny replied, I don't know, but it's sure worth six dollars. It says on TV that with Tampax you can go swimming, horseback riding, and skating any time you want.

Wife to her husband: "I did your laundry honey,.... the ashes are in the fireplace!"

Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?

Marriage is like a deck of cards, starts with 2 hearts & a diamond...finishes with a club & a spade!

#### **Editorial**

It was so lovely of Jane Jackson to provide us with a recount of her amazing trip to Alaska with her Aussie friend John. I was lucky enough to have my family travel to visit me over Christmas (they too are from Australia), and it was the first time they had ever seen snow! As much fun as it is to travel, it's just as fun to stay at home and have family and friends come to you to experience the many wonderful things your local community has to offer. Here is a picture of my Mom and Dad enjoying their first days in a snowy Barrie. They were lucky to experience a white Christmas with us too. What amazing

memories we now share! Kelly,

#### (Continued from pg 3)

Looking ahead, seniors advocates are pushing for remedial driving programs that either help older drivers adapt or show them that it's time to stop.

Currently, there are checks and balances on older drivers. After the age of 80, they must take written tests every two years. As well, physicians are now being compensated for reporting medically and cognitively unfit drivers, which research says has led to a significant drop in serious trauma from road accidents.

Many "unfit" drivers are not seniors at all, but those who suffer from medical conditions or take prescription drugs. In 2009, for example, a Hamilton teacher driving while in a diabetic shock struck and killed three people in a series of collisions.

Of course, there is no doubt that drivers who are — properly — diagnosed with dementia should give up their licence. Driving is not a right, but aging without discrimination should be.



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