



SCOC

A Community That Cares

SCOC PEPPERMINT FAIR

Baking, Preserves, Woodcrafts, Knitted Goods, Raffle Tickets, Tea Room – and all the people who came to shop!



Welcome to the first issue (in many years) of St. Clair O'Connor Community's newsletter. With this **SCOC Newsletter**, we want to celebrate our community, inform you about upcoming events, and things that are happening at SCOC. With this first **Winter** issue, we celebrate **SCOC's annual Peppermint Fair**, which took place Saturday, November 20th, as well as the **various special events** taking place in December. Alas, one of the things you've always come to expect at the Peppermint Fair hasn't happened yet – the **Peppermint Fair Raffle**, which we have all purchased tickets for! The draw will take place December 20th, in the Tea Room – more time to buy more tickets – for more chances to win the **four spectacular prizes** we have available this year.



With the holidays before us, we wish all of you a most Joyous, Peace-Filled Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Margaret Friesen,
Editor

Newsletter Team

Pauline Campbell
Rita Duarte
Margaret Friesen
Susan Gallant
Melody Humphries
Carolyn Murray
Dora Trujillo

Next Issue, Spring 2011

From the Executive Director's Desk:

Welcome to our St. Clair O'Connor Community (SCOC) Newsletter. The Newsletter Committee has worked hard on the design, and is very excited about the redevelopment of a very special communication tool that will keep the residents and community informed of all the wonderful and exciting things happening at SCOC.



SCOC prides itself as a leader in creating and nurturing a mutually-caring community for seniors and families. We value the Mennonite heritage of Christian faith, upon which this community was founded. The inter-generational aspect of SCOC, the diverse culture, ethnicity, family traditions and spiritual beliefs within the community, makes us a very special and unique place to live, work and volunteer.

SCOC is sponsored by two Toronto Area Mennonite Churches: Toronto United Mennonite Church, and Danforth Mennonite Church.

Since 1982, SCOC has been committed to offering more and better choices to live well. Experienced in delivering a wide variety of programs and services within a continuum of living, we are privileged to be able to address the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our Residents, Community members, and Volunteers.

Through a great deal of love, generosity and devotion, our dedicated staff and volunteers contribute to making SCOC a warm and family-like atmosphere.

I hope you enjoy the first of many newsletters to come; our goal is to begin with two issues a year. If you have a suggestion of what you would like to see in the newsletter, please submit it in writing to the Newsletter Committee.

I would like to give special thanks to our Committee, who has volunteered to make this happen.

Susan Gallant

From the SCOC Board Chair:

The Board Members consider it a privilege to serve the SCOC community by ensuring that good policies are in place, today's needs are met, long term visions are kept current, and adjustments are made to accommodate changes in the operating environment. This work of planning and decision-making is sometimes wrapped up in one word - **governance**.



Currently the Board has four committees to look after the work. They are:

- Finance Committee
- Long Term Study Steering Committee
- Reserve / Maintenance Committee
- Governance Committee

The activities of the SCOC Board are written up in the minutes, which are available in the SCOC Library. If there are questions or suggestions, please bring them to one of the Board Members. At this time the Board Members are:

From Danforth Mennonite Church - Carol Ringer, Suzanne Erb, and Victor Guerin; from Toronto United Mennonite Church - Ed Heese, Natalia Lobach, and Walter Friesen; from the Residents - Nicholas Dick and Arch Dysart; the Member-at-Large is Mitchell Ornstein.

The SCOC Mission statement reflects the desire to maintain a caring intergenerational community, always considering the health and well-being of the residents. This is the community that is being nurtured at all times.

A very important initiative at this time is consideration of the future model of care, as we accommodate the realities of the new Ontario law relating to Long Term Care - formerly known as Nursing Home. The Board, in conjunction with the SCOC Foundation, have contracted a very knowledgeable and respected person, who is fully versed in the new Act, as well as elderly care in a setting with our Mission and Values, to advise on potential models of care for the future at SCOC. Expectations are that this plan be completed and discussed over the next six months.

The Board is delighted to see the establishment of this newsletter, as well as the SCOC website (<http://www.scoc.ca>) — thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Management, staff, and volunteers of SCOC.

Walter Friesen

Residents' Page

Residents' Council:

The fifteen elected members of Residents' Council are committed to making SCOC even better than it already is. They meet monthly and discuss common problems, try to find solutions and plan for two annual fund-raising activities: the November Peppermint Fair and the Spring White Elephant Sale. Many residents volunteer their time and craft-making skills to help make these two events succeed, and together they have raised about \$7,000 each year. This money goes into enhancing the public spaces of the building in many ways. Money is also donated to Toronto East General Hospital at Christmas time. Proceeds of this year's Peppermint Fair are over \$5,100, with more to come from the Fair Raffle.

Given the advanced age of many Council members and residents, their contributions to the well-being of the community is remarkable indeed.

Carolyn Murray

Remembering:

Sadly, we said farewell to two of our long time, dedicated staff members, who passed away this summer. We are thankful for the many years of service they provided to our residents.

Yvonne Scott, Food Services, 1954 - 2010
Glen Campbell, Facility Services, 1953 - 2010

Upcoming Events:

SCOC Residents and Community Members have a lot to look forward to in 2011. Here are some of our special event days to put on your calendars:

- * New Years Bash with entertainment by Premuk Kruta January 7, at 6pm
- * CNIB TTC pass day, January 20, from 1 am -3pm
- * Valentine Brunch February 14, from 10am - 1pm
- * St. Patrick's Day Buffet March 17, 4:45pm, or 6pm
- * Spring Tea with Susan March 24, at 2pm
- * Volunteer Recognition (by invitation) April 12, at 5pm
- * Easter Banquet April 20, at 6pm.

All this and our regular programs too!

To take out a membership or for questions about our events please contact Melody Humphries at 416 757-8757 Ext. 250



SCOC Residents Library

(aka Mennonite Centre Library):

What better way is there to spend a chilly afternoon or evening than to cozy up to a book from the SCOC library, located just behind the hearth in the meeting room. In this small but pleasant space you will meet a friendly volunteer who is always ready for a chat, and will direct you to our selection of large print books on many topics. Or, if you prefer, a good selection of small print books. DVDs, CDs and talking books are also on offer.

We are open between 10:00 and noon each weekday morning. Come and join our circle of avid and devoted readers!



Health & Safety

No *texting* and Driving!!

Cook's Corner:

In this first issue, which comes to you just before Christmas, I give you my favorite (and easiest) Christmas cookie recipe.

Whipped Shortbread

(used to be printed in the Star annually)
2 cups butter, room temperature
1 cup icing sugar
1/2 cup cornstarch
1 tsp. vanilla
3 cups all purpose flour
1 cup chopped pecans, optional

Preheat oven to 325°F. With mixer, using a large bowl, cream butter and icing sugar until very fluffy. Beat in cornstarch and vanilla. Beat in flour and continue beating until batter is light and very fluffy. Add pecans. Drop batter, by teaspoonfuls, 1 1/2 " apart. Bake 20 - 25 min., or until lightly golden. Makes about 60 "melt-in-your-mouth" cookies.



SCOC Foundation News:

There are two new Foundation members - David Nelligan and Dora Alexander. David will manage our investment funds, and Dora will shape our marketing efforts.



This year's focus has been to join with the SCOC Board in funding a review of program direction. After more than 25 years, it is time to look at what the future holds, and how SCOC can remain on the 'leading edge' of supporting seniors in life-long learning and meaningful participation in an inclusive, intergenerational community.

The review isn't complete, but we already know exciting new possibilities are being explored. Some may well benefit from transition funding - the sort of thing the Foundation should help fund. It is important to build the Foundation's ability to provide stability and help SCOC be a place of welcome and support for many years.

We invite all residents and friends of SCOC to consider the SCOC Foundation this Christmas time - with a gift big or small. Please make all **cheques payable to St. Clair O'Connor Community Foundation** at the SCOC address, or give to Hetty Berretti, in the SCOC office. Receipts for income tax purposes are given for donations over \$20.

Your generosity will multiply that of others, and find expression in the wellbeing of everyone at SCOC.

Volunteers have the Christmas Spirit:

SCOC provides a wide array of programs and services for our seniors. We are so fortunate to have over 160 volunteers, who support those programs and services in so many different ways; whether out front or behind the scenes, they are the heart of our community. Close to half of our volunteers are SCOC residents, with the rest being made up of Members from the two sponsoring churches, and from the broader community.

As the Christmas season begins, I want to take a moment to thank all our volunteers for the wonderful work they do through-out the year. We could not do it without you. Volunteers have the true spirit of the season in their hearts all year round. If you are interested in joining our team of dedicated volunteers, please contact Pauline Campbell, Resident Services Manager for more information.

We need volunteers for the following areas:

- ✦ Gift Shop & Tearoom
- ✦ Meals Assistant
- ✦ Fire Wardens (internal position)
- ✦ Buddy Card Checkers (internal position)
- ✦ Recreation Programs & Special Events



Turkey Talk

At SCOC, turkey talk starts early - LONG talks, and the turkey had better be juicy!



We don't give up on the holidays, especially, Christmas. We celebrate with family and friends, this is important; it is rooted in all human kind and serves as a base in our mission.

Every year in early December we share the most delicious turkey meals with one another. Although the kitchen is very small, we know it is expected, and at the end, it all works out.

It is our tradition to start the evening with a nice Christmas Punch and Appetizers, and then comes the turkey meal; yes, this is our masterpiece.

For our various Christmas celebrations, we prepare about 250 turkey meals. Ten to twelve turkeys are required, these are the 25 pounders; no baby birds please! Our turkey is seasoned, roasted, and served on a big spoonful of stuffing; 60 lb. of stuffing is usually enough to satisfy everyone, then it's all topped with a good portion of gravy. About 4 gallons of turkey stock is turned into the smoothest gravy you've ever tasted. Oh yes, there is also the nice cranberry sauce and the finest vegetables that go with the turkey.

At the end, guests can choose one (or two) mouth-watering desserts to go along with a freshly brewed hot cup of coffee or tea. There is however, one small complaint, we hear year after year, **"I ate too much!"**



Rita Duarte, Food Services Manager

From the Gift Shop & Tea Room:

We are busy preparing for Christmas. We have lots of wonderful Ten Thousand Villages gifts to choose from for someone special on your list. So please keep us in mind when doing your Christmas shopping.



We also have a variety of books for children. Recently, we introduced a selection of new books from two new and local authors. "Picture It Picture Books" are creative, fun, and exciting stories, and the only book series that children can illustrate themselves. These books give children a chance to set their imaginations free. Retail price is \$7.99 each.

Residents, family members and visitors are always welcome to drop in to the tearoom and enjoy some freshly baked muffins and pastries, and the best cup of coffee in town. Our friendly and helpful volunteers are always there to assist you with a smile.

Donna Terry, Gift Shop & Tearoom Supervisor

Store Hours: Mon,-Sat, 10am - 4pm; Sun, 2pm to 4pm