



BOSWYK BYTES

MONTHLY NEWS FROM BOSWYK SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTRE

AS YEAR 2023 COUNTS DOWN

If, as it is said the years pass more quickly as you grow older - then I must be absolutely ancient! This past year of 2023 has been full of activity, both via the Boswyk, and in my personal life. I am certain many would agree with me...

The Boswyk Centre has begun to mature; no more tantrums, less angst, and most of the time, all moves along smoothly. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers (over 60 of them now) events succeed, activities roll on, and I hear no complaints. New members arrive every week as the community finds where we are, and are encouraged to come and see what is on offer.

The replacing of the Games Room flooring was a major task that we could finally address with thanks to Wayne Tribe, Gordon Dainard, Jason Horton and crew, and last but not least Atlanta Flooring! The results look fabulous with just some finishing touches to go, but activities recently resumed to the relief of all. We all send thanks to [Keith and Laurie Finch](#) who kindly donated a folding wheelchair for the use of anyone in need. They also deserve a HUGE shout out for their work and organization of the very successful Crib Tournament last month! KUDOS to both of you!

The Board's intention of finding a candidate for the Operations Coordinator position has been a slow process. There are two recent applicants to review and interview. We may be back to the drawing table to review and revise the parameters with hopes of filling this position in a timely manner.

Now we all anticipate the various happy functions that surround Christmas. I have no intention of offending any group, but Canada has until now, described the Winter Solstice events as "Christmas" and so I will continue!

God Bless to Everyone, and enjoy the season ahead!

Your President, Iris

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What you might not know about Christmas

1. Christmas day isn't Christ's birthday

There is no mention of December 25th anywhere in the Bible, in fact there is no mention of when Jesus was born at all. There was much debate amongst early Christians and it wasn't until the fourth century AD in the Roman Empire that Jesus' birthday was celebrated on December 25th. The most popular theory as to why this date was settled on is that it was borrowed from pagan traditions that already occurred on that day.

2. Boxing Day is actually about boxes

Multiple theories abound as to how this bank holiday received its name, the most popular theory suggests it was traditionally a day when servants had the day off to visit their families. Their employees would send them home with "Christmas boxes" containing money, gifts or food to thank them for their reliable service throughout the past year.

3. Xmas doesn't take Christ out of Christmas

In fact "X" comes from the Greek letter "chi" which happens to be the first letter of the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός), and Greek was the original language of the New Testament. The word was simply created as an abbreviation and was first used in the mid 1500s.

4. Santa doesn't wear red because of Coca-Cola

Contrary to popular belief, Father Christmas's red coat was not the creation of a clever Coca-Cola advertising campaign. Before the company had even been invented, St Nick was being depicted in multiple books and illustrations wearing a scarlet coat. From the 1930's onwards Coca-Cola did, however, help shape the image of Santa as a jolly old man.

5. Christmas trees have pagan roots

During the time of the winter solstice, pagan homes would be decorated with evergreen branches in the hope of scaring away evil spirits and to remind the occupants that spring was just around the corner. This tradition survived the conversion to Christianity and during the 16th Century in Germany devout Christians began bringing Christmas trees into their homes. The practice was made fashionable in the UK during the mid 19th Century, when popular Queen Victoria, German Prince Albert and their children were drawn in The Illustrated London News standing around the main Christmas tree at Windsor Castle.

6. Mince pies did originally contain meat

Medieval people during the 16th ie every day from Christmas to Twelfth Night (5th January), you'd have happiness for the next 12 months. These pies were known as Christmas Pyes, and contained anything from rabbit to mutton, pigeon to pheasant! They were larger than their modern creations and made into an oval shape, which was said to represent Jesus' crib.

7. Turkeys replaced peacocks on the Christmas table

Before turkeys were brought into this country over 500 years ago people used to eat geese, boars' head and even peacocks during the festive season! Henry VIII was the first English king to enjoy a turkey on Christmas Day and the bird was still regarded as a luxury up until the 1950s, with many choosing goose instead. Thanks to the invention of the fridge and the ability of the large turkey to feed a whole family, it soon took top spot on many Christmas tables.



Updates

Changes are happening - it never stops.

Be sure to welcome **Fumiko Snow**, new social dance instructor and bookkeeper;

Andy Brar, our new Auditor.

Linda Lang, Carpet Bowling Guru is retiring, and **Gillian Andrew** is replacing her. Linda was instrumental in having the Carpet Bowlers join forces with us in opening the Boswyk Centre and we heartily thank her for her diligence and dedication to this popular and somewhat energetic activity. That's where all the laughter comes from!

President's Message

My final message for 2023, although I will have some things to say at the AGM, and maybe the Christmas Luncheon. I do like to talk! {Bring some duct tape}

I have enjoyed working with all of you over this past year. I don't think I have ever met a more delightful bunch. When I enter the Centre, I feel a warm and friendly vibe that all seem to share. We are achieving our goal of making The Boswyk a safe environment for elders to meet, socialize, play, and eat! Please join us again in 2024 as we all continue to create that desirable state of bliss and well-being. Keep involved, even if only a coffee or tea break.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- NOVEMBER 25** 8-BALL TOURNAMENT IN BILLIARDS ROOM, 10 AM TO 4 PM
HECKLERS WELCOME!
- NOVEMBER 27** FINAL MEETING OF CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- DECEMBER 7** AGM: PRE-REGISTRATION AFTER NOVEMBER 27. ELECTIONS!
- DECEMBER 19** CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON TICKETS \$15, AVAILABLE AFTER DECEMBER 4. MEMBERS GET FIRST CONSIDERATION. GUEST TICKETS AFTER DECEMBER 11
- DECEMBER 11** MEETING OF NEW BOARD DIRECTORS 10AM IN CONFERENCE ROOM
- DECEMBER 23 TO JANUARY 1** BOSWICK CENTRE CLOSED



FYI: By the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas song, your home is crammed with 23 flying Birds and 50 hyperactive Humans.

Q. What do you call a snowman in July?
A. A puddle.

Q: What's a good holiday tip? A: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the birds have gone south for the winter.

Q: What's A Snowman's Favorite Breakfast?
A: Frosted Flakes!

Two snowmen were standing in a field, and one said to the other 'Can you smell carrot?' The second replied, 'No, but I can taste coal.'

Q: Why did Frosty ask for a divorce?
A: His wife was a total flake

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