

# THE **hub**

NEPEAN SENIORS RECREATION CENTRE  
Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue

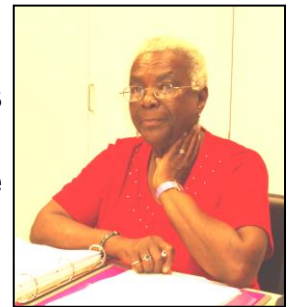
November and December 2011

Information: 580-2828 Ext. 2 or [www.nepeanseniorscentre.ca](http://www.nepeanseniorscentre.ca)



## WORD FROM THE CHAIR

*By Sheila Pitt* - Welcome back to all of you after enjoying the glorious summer of 2011. Fall is on the way, and already we are enjoying the colour and beauty of the trees. Our fall programs have begun and we encourage you to take advantage of them.



Thanks to the many of you who renewed your membership at the Open House on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please encourage your friends to renew before the end of December to avoid paying the new higher rate.

As usual, we encourage you to explore the opportunity of serving on the Volunteer Management Board.

Please refer to the *Up and Coming* Section of the Hub for information on participation in the Centre.

## PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S CORNER

*By Leslie Dondale 613 580 2828 Ex 2*

## WHAT'S UP AND COMING

### LUNCHES AT SIR GUY CARLETON SECONDARY SCHOOL - As

of the new school lunch season, in October, the cost of the lunch went up to \$10.50. The school has been covering the loss over the past two years, but they can no longer do this. This is still an amazing price for the wonderful three course



**inside this issue**



Word from the Chair  
Program Coordinator's Corner  
What We've Been Getting Up To!  
Member's Accomplishments

page 1  
page 1  
page 4  
page 8

lunch, plus homemade rolls and coffee or tea.

The next lunch will be on **Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** The tickets will go on sale later in October, once I receive the menu. The following **Christmas lunch will be on December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**MILITARY WHIST** - The next one will be held on **Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** The cost is \$6.00 and includes cash prizes and delicious refreshments. There might still be some tickets available. Check with the office. The following one will be on **Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS DINNER** - Don't forget that **Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> is the Seniors Centre's annual Christmas Dinner.** The cost is \$40 for members, \$46 for non-members and includes a 3-course meal, complimentary glass of wine and musical entertainment with Bob Gagnon, together with door prizes. It will be held at Capones at the Nepean Sportsplex. Tickets can be purchased at the front desk. Please see the detailed flyer enclosed.

**SNOWSUIT FUND** - If you have been busy knitting mitts, hats, scarves, or similar items to donate to the Snowsuit Fund, please bring them into the office in order that we may get them delivered to the Snowsuit Fund by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST** - **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Our annual continental style, hot and cold breakfast is planned for this day. Make sure you sign up on the sheet provided in the Seniors **Heritage room** or call in and leave your name with our staff. This free event is sponsored by the Seniors Centre Management Board and is for Centre Members only.

**FOOD BANK WEEK** - As we have in the past, we will once again be collecting non-perishable food to go to our local food bank, FAMSAC. We have always been able to collect a large amount of food supplies during this week and, if you listen to the predictions for this coming year, the food banks will need our support even more. The week of **December 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> has been designated Food Bank Week** at the Centre and boxes will be made available for your much appreciated voluntary contributions.

#### **SNOWSHOEING / X-COUNTRY SKIING -**

Last year there was increased interest in these great winter sports. We use the trails located **behind the Sportsplex on Mondays at 10:30 a.m.** and on **Fridays at 1:00 p.m.** We start as soon as we have sufficient snow. There is no charge, but you must be a Centre Member. If you are interested, please contact Leslie at the office at 613-580-2424 ext 46657.

**HOLIDAY CLOSING** - Traditionally we have **opened between Christmas and New Years from noon to 4:00 p.m.** for anyone wishing to come and play cards and that will be the case again this year for **December 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>**. For those who play curling, please note there will be **no curling on Tuesday December 27<sup>th</sup> or Thursday December 29<sup>th</sup>**.

## **NEWS AND VIEWS**

**ATTENDANCE DRAW** - The draw takes place every two weeks on a Friday (unless there is a statutory holiday). All you have to do is put in a Loonie in the attendance draw box on the table outside of my office during the two-week period and register your name in the book beside it. Then hope your name is drawn from our list of *all* members. If no one wins within 10 draws, then on the 10<sup>th</sup> draw we will continue to draw numbers until we have a winner.



**Please remember to put your dollar in before signing your name.**

The results of the last four draws are:

August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Smith - not registered
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>John Franklin - he won \$795.00!</b>
September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Marilyn Binder - not registered
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bill Penney - he won \$150.50!!</b>

**Remember you have to play to win!**

**ACTIVITY REPS. MEETING** - Our annual Activity Reps meeting, which took place on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, was very well attended with over 30 Reps. and Board Members participating. Thank you all for your time and interest.

The Centre's *Financial Report* was circulated, showing a bank balance of almost twelve thousand dollars, plus GICs of over seventeen thousand dollars. This is the centre's money, not the City's, thus if any member wishes to suggest a good use for some of it, the Board will consider any proposal that meets the needs of all members, or of a group of members.

Volunteer hours for the last quarter were down to two thirds of those for the similar period last year and all volunteers were urged to submit all of their hours.

Members were reminded to inform Leslie, or her staff, of any problems with the tables and chairs, but to **NOT** attempt to fix them themselves. **Staff are insured, but the members are not.**

While space is a continuing problem and letters, with recommendations, have been submitted to the City addressing this, there is little evidence that there will be any near term solution.

The meeting, which started at 10:30 a.m. closed around noon with everyone enjoying a light lunch.

**A few of the Reps sampling the lunch kindly provided by *The Court at Barrhaven***



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE** - Our Annual General Meeting and Open House took place on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Perhaps in part due to the drizzly weather, there were only about 200 Members and potential Members at the Open House, rather than the usual 300 or more. Only a small portion of that number was at the AGM itself. There were however quite a few other members around the facility, doing other things. Please remember that for the AGM to be legal and, for Members of the Volunteer Board to be nominated, we must have a quorum of Members attending the AGM. We barely made it this time, so please help us out next year by attending the AGM, even if you are a volunteer helping out with other things as well.

In the unavoidable absence of Sheila Pitt, our Board Chair, her Vice-Chair, Dave Butler, gave her report and acted as MC. Reports were also given by Pat Duggan and Muriel McHaffie and, of course, I put in my ten cents worth, as Program Coordinator.

We were fortunate in receiving nominations for some, but not all, of the open Volunteer Board positions. The position of Assistant Public Relations remains vacant, as well as that of Assistant Special Events. If you are interested in either of these positions, please talk to myself or any of the Board.

Your Board Members for 2012 are as follows:

Chair:	David Butler
Vice Chair:	Inge Meier
Treasurer:	Ross Kerr
Assistant Treasurer:	Ron Lassenba
Volunteer Coordinator:	Ralph Mousaw
Assistant Volunteer Coordinator:	Carmen Brière
Public Relations Coordinator:	Pat Duggan
Assist. Public Relations Coordinator:	<b>Vacant</b>
Special Events Coordinator:	Mary Anne LaSalle
Assist. Special Events Coordinator:	<b>Vacant</b>

Program Coordinator (Ex officio): Leslie Dondale  
Recording Secretary (Ex officio): Patricia Hancock  
Hub Newsletter Editor (Ex officio): Ken Hancock  
Hub Phone Coordinator (Ex officio): Margery Harper

After the AGM we had entertainment by our ever popular *Golden Oldies* and *Nepean Songsters*.

The Open House included demonstrations and presentations by many of our activity and program groups, as well as some from the rest of the Sportsplex. Thank you to the large number of our guests who attended these. We hope to see you again.

A very special *Thank You* to *Prime Time Living* who provided funds for some of the refreshments throughout the afternoon. As well, they provided several delicious cakes during the drawing for the door prizes.

Thank you as well, to the 93 new and old members who signed on for 2012 while they were at the Open House. For those that didn't have the chance to sign on then, remember that you can renew your membership for \$24.00 before January, when it is likely to be increased by the City.

**OACAO CONFERENCE** - This was held on October 23, 24 and 25, two weeks after the Hub deadline so there isn't much to report at the time of writing. Planning is going well and is keeping Leslie and Mary Anne very busy. More information will be provided in the January issue.

## **WINTER PROGRAMS**

### **Chair-ercise**

Mondays, January 9<sup>th</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. \$33.75 Barcode: 665983

Wednesdays, January 11<sup>th</sup> to March 7<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. \$38.00 Barcode: 665985

Fridays, January 13<sup>th</sup>, to March 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. \$38.00 Barcode: 665986

### **Tap Dancing**

Level 1, March 5<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup>, Mondays 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. \$88.75 Barcode: 665998

Level 2, March 5<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup>, Mondays 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. \$88.75 (must have some previous tap experience) Barcode: 666000

Level 2, March 7<sup>th</sup> to June 20<sup>th</sup>, Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. \$102.25 (must be registered in Monday's class) Barcode: 666003

Tap Dance Performance Group, March 7<sup>th</sup> to June 20<sup>th</sup>, Wednesdays 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$102.25 Barcode: 666004

Seniors Performance Stage Class, March 7<sup>th</sup> to June 20<sup>th</sup>, Wednesdays 12 noon to 1 p.m. \$102.25 Barcode: 665981

**Tai Chi**, January 10<sup>th</sup> to March 13<sup>th</sup>, Tuesdays.

Level 1: 11 a.m. to 12 noon. \$71.00. Barcode 665989

Level 2: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. \$71.00. Barcode 665992

Level 3: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. \$71.00. Barcode 665993

**Line Dancing**, January 9<sup>th</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup>, Mondays 11 a.m. to 12 noon. \$43.25.  
Barcode: 665996

Registration is ongoing for winter programs. You can register here at the centre, online or at any Client Service Centre or Community Centre across the City of Ottawa.

## **WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GETTING UP TO**

### **CARPET BOWLING**

*By Marilyn Ryan* - Sometimes when people stop to watch Carpet Bowling, they comment that the game reminds them of Bocce or Curling. How right they are!

The object of the game is to position your bowls closest to the white ball which is called a Jack. The team whose bowls are closest to the Jack gets points and the team that has the most points at the end of the game is declared the winner.

The game is played on a smooth surface carpet, 6 feet wide and 30 feet long. In the Concourse where we play, the floor can be uneven, so the player's skills are called upon to overcome this challenge. The bowls are weighted (not very heavy) and have a *bias* which means that when thrown, they curve slightly as they slow down. The bias is influenced by the speed of the bowl and the *line* (direction) that it is launched.

Each team is made up of a Skip, Vice and Lead. Depending on how many people show up to bowl, a team can consist of a Skip and Lead only. The play alternates between teams who try to get their bowls closest to the Jack, set up blocks to protect a well placed bowl and, if you are really good, knock out your opponents' bowls and take over the best positions. Once all players have thrown their bowls and the score is determined, that is the completion of one End. In the time allotted for Carpet Bowling, we manage to play 8 to 12 Ends each game.

All seems quite complicated, doesn't it? Not really. Like any other sport, once you get the hang of it, the better you get and it is always lots of fun.

If you want to try it out, come and join us. We play every **Tuesday and Thursday** in the **Concourse** from **1 p.m. to around 3 p.m.** and ask that bowlers be there no later than 12:45 p.m. so we can organize the teams and set up the equipment. The games begin at 1 p.m. sharp.

## COMPUTER CLUB

*By Leslie Dondale* - The Computer Club meets on the first **Tuesday of the month** in **Hall F from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

It is a discussion group, as there aren't any computers in the room, but the members enjoy discussing short cuts they have found, or in helping each other out with problems they may be having.

Muriel Black has been the leader of this group for the past nine years, but, due to health considerations cannot continue during the winter months. Thank you, Muriel, for your dedication.

In her absence, Joan Lang will be taking over. Joan is a new member who has a lot of computer experience. Welcome Joan.

## CONTRACT BRIDGE ♡ ♣ ♦ ♠

*By Gopal Kunchur* - On this *Thanksgiving Day* we want to thank Dorothy Peck, our coordinator, Diane Berryman, treasurer, Bob Cathcart, bell ringer and the many other volunteers looking after food and the other necessities needed to run our club successfully.

This year's **Christmas Party** is planned for **December 14<sup>th</sup>**.

I received several queries about the new minor suit forcing convention and also about forcing bids. There are several forcing bids. When your partner bids the first time, he or she can force you to bid by bidding 2 clubs showing 22 or more points. However 2 no-trumps is not forcing when your partner shows 20 or 21 points with a balanced hand. Double to opponent's bid is forcing (except one no-trump doubled, this is not forcing but optional). But if there is interference, your partner can pass if the hand is not biddable.

Some pairs play one no-trump forcing for one round when the partner opens a major suit. After a bid of a major or minor opening by your opponent, if your partner bids one no-trump it may indicate control in the bid suit and 12 or more points. This, of course, is with a previous understanding with your partner. When your partner's bid is doubled, you can redouble with 10 or more points. You may or may not have a support to your partner's bid.

We will discuss more about new minor forcing and other bids in the future. Happy Thanksgiving.

## CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP

By Donna Butler – We've finished our commission of a baby quilt to be sent to Belgium as a gift. Since it was a baby boy, the motifs were blue birds and bird houses.



Our ladies have made many lovely items over the summer. These went on sale at the Open House.

See our photo below. We took in \$425 at the sale. This money goes to the Seniors Centre.

Back Row: Georgina, Julie, Norma  
Front Row: Audrey, Betty, Bernice, Jeannette



We have items for sale every day in the show cases in the Heritage Room, so do have a look when you are in there. The front desk staff will serve you with them.

Our ladies arrange the cards and flags for the monthly *Military Whist* as one of the things we do for the Centre. Some of our ladies also count the money for the 50/50 draw.

One of our charity works is tying quilts for *Victoria's Quilts* once a month. Usually we do two quilts. Also, for the *Queensway Carleton* hospital, we knit hats for the new-born and make preemie crib covers.

We meet on **Thursdays** in **Hall F** between **9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** New members are welcome.

## CRIBBAGE

By Ken Hancock - In mid September **Doris Latour and Karen Paynter** achieved a **Memorable Round of 43 points**. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, **Carol Campbell** enjoyed the 11<sup>th</sup> **Perfect Afternoon** of the year, winning all eight games, proving that the 13<sup>th</sup> isn't always unlucky.



Our current *Champion Scorer Contender* is again Ken Hancock. But, will he keep his position over the next two months against arch rivals Jake Enns, and Elsie Larsen?

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> we were pleased to participate in the annual *Open House*. Ten of us welcomed a total of nine Members and potential Members who wished to try their hands at crib. We played four tables, integrating our guests into a game as they arrived. We hope that they enjoyed our sense of fun when playing the game and, that they will join us on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays.

We would be happy to welcome anyone wishing to join us. Simply show up in the **Heritage room** any **Tuesday or Thursday** afternoon around 12:45 and we will be pleased to include you in the fun. We start at **1:00 p.m. and go on to around 3:30 p.m.** at the end of eight games.

## CURLING CLUB

By Ross Brown - Now that summer is obviously over, it is time to start thinking about winter activities. If you would like some exercise, social interactions and some competition, curling might be the answer. You do not need to make any attendance commitments - teams are made up from those in attendance - and you pay only \$4 on the days you curl [in addition to the Centre's annual fee]. Launching sticks are available for those who would rather not have to kneel in the hack.

We curl **Tuesdays and Thursdays** between **9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.** in **Hall E / Curling rinks**. Curling officially starts on November 1<sup>st</sup>, but on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the club is holding an Open House. Members and newcomers are invited to free curling, free lessons and free refreshments.

## EUCHRE NEWS

By Joyce Mullen - Even although the euchre club ran over the summer, we officially began our new season in October, which is also when the statistics begin for highest game points, the number of lone hands, etc.



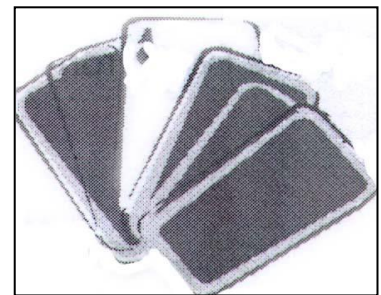
We wish to thank Donna Caron for writing the by-line in the September and October issue and, I ask you to bear with me as I strive to carry on from Donna and Kathi Kerr; big shoes to fill! We are still hoping someone will volunteer to take over Judy Wilson's job as *Commander in Chief*, but for now Bill Edwards is doing a great job. Thanks Bill. Also, a special thanks to Sherry Hall, Bill and Claire Edwards, Joyce and Doug Mullen for manning the euchre tables during the October 3<sup>rd</sup> *Open House*.

Our Christmas Party is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. WOW!! Is it that time of year already??!! Each year the euchre club sponsors a charity at Christmas; this year it is the Ottawa Mission. We will be collecting items such as socks, toiletry items, etc, as well as cash donations.

For those reading about our euchre club for the first time, we meet **in Hall F at 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday**. We do our best to start playing cards by 12:50 p.m., so that **we finish by 3:15**, allowing people who take Para Transpo and other arranged transportation to get their rides on time. There's always room for new players, so why not come out and give us a try.

### **500 CLUB**

*By Lorrie Wilson* - Our official season started October 6<sup>th</sup>, although we have played all summer. It's a fun game, with a bit of a challenge, that I'm sure anyone would enjoy, once it was tried.



Our group is small, but active and friendly, and we would welcome any new players. We meet on **Thursday** afternoons at 12:45 p.m. in the **Heritage Room**, and play from **1:00 p.m. until about 3 p.m.**

### **5-PIN BOWLING**

*By Marsha and Roger Hack* - The 5-pin bowling season is off to a great start, averaging 30 bowlers per week since we started in September!

Newcomers are welcome to join us. We bowl at the **Merivale Bowling Centre (1916 Merivale Road) every Monday afternoon**. The weekly fee is \$9.00 for 3 games. Bowlers should plan on arriving no later than 12:45 p.m. for a **1:00 p.m. start**.

Our final day of bowling for 2011 will be Monday, December 19th, at the regular time, and will be followed by a party in the restaurant at the Bowling Centre -- Pizza, cake, door prizes, and fun times as we head into the festive holiday season. Contacts - Roger & Marsha (Tel. 613-225-1420, email [hackrandm@sympatico.ca](mailto:hackrandm@sympatico.ca))

## FRIDAY FUN BRIDGE ☺ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠

*By Wilma Matchett* - When preparing the article for the previous edition of The Hub, I noted that I hoped that the opportunity to bid and make a Grand Slam was contagious. At our September 9th get-together, I found out just how contagious it was! My partner, Jamie MacDonnell, used his bidding skills to reach the 7 NT bid from my cautious opening of 1 NT. Thankfully, I kept my wits about me. I hope this contagion continues so others can enjoy such fun!

Our thanks to September's Hospitality Co-ordinators John Gillis and Kay McBride and to October's Co-ordinators, Maxine Jones and Eleanor Edwards, for providing healthy and energy-boosting snacks.

On October 7th, members of the Fun Bridge group celebrated the **97<sup>th</sup> birthday** of one of our long serving volunteers - **Bert Bridgewater** - shown in the photo enjoying the special birthday cake prepared by October Hospitality Co-ordinator, Maxine Jones.



We continue to welcome new members who, with our regular participants, enjoy an afternoon of stress-free bridge played with good humour and good friends.

Please join us on **Friday** afternoons.

Although we *officially* play from **1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** in the **Heritage room**, games start as early as 12:30 p.m. as the members arrive and the tables fill up.

## NEPEAN SONGSTERS

*By Betty Usher* –Nepean Songsters are at the beginning of their 19<sup>th</sup> Seniors Centre. From a handful of enthusiastic and dedicated members, we now stand at 65 voices and our numbers are still growing.

Check out our website at [www.nepeansongsters.ca](http://www.nepeansongsters.ca). Our webmaster, Dan Faber, updates our information and music on a regular basis. For more information about our early days, check



out the *History* on the website for Vera Hub.

Collier's interesting article from an early

Our recent concert on October 23<sup>rd</sup> was the first opportunity to perform in Centrepointe's new Studio theatre. It was an exciting venue for the choir. It has been a busy fall for us all.

As well as our concert, we participated in a funeral service; the Centre's Open House on October 3<sup>rd</sup>; a sing-out at Park Place, a senior's residence; and at the Historical Society's luncheon at St Richard's Anglican Church. Our musical repertoire is now moving into the Christmas season.

If you're interested in finding out more about us, drop in on a **Thursday morning, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** We're in the **Heritage Room**. You'll receive a warm welcome!!!

## SHUFFLEBOARD

*Annie Smith* - Now that it is getting cooler, more of our players have been turning out, so we have been playing five or six courts, for our Monday and Wednesday fun games.



Eleanor, who has been our tireless *cookie queen* for the last five years or more, is going on extended leave, so we won't be seeing her for a while. I speak for all of us when I extend our heartfelt thanks for all of the trouble she has taken over the years to ensure that we had good variety of cookies and plenty of beverages at our *cookie break* between games two and three, whether she was able to play that session or not.

It is perhaps indicative of the tasks Eleanor carried out for us on her own, when I say that Julie, Barb and myself will be fulfilling her duties in the future.

I don't know if it is just my impression, but our players seem to be getting more and more skilful. Certainly more of my tiles get put into *the kitchen*. Something must be happening when my tile in the ten scoring box, ends up in the kitchen, scoring minus ten and, my opponent's tile ends up in the ten scoring box! !

Come and play shuffleboard with us at our fun afternoons from **1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** on **Mondays and Wednesdays** on the **Concourse**. We play four games, each with different partners and opponents, and have our *cookie break* in the middle.

## TRAVEL CLUB NEWS

*By John Flook* - When you read this report, twelve Travel Club Members will be enjoying themselves in San Francisco, travelling on *Turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century trains*.



A very successful AGM was held in early September. There was also a lot of interest in our Travel Club at the recent *Open House*.

Our winter trip to the *Grand Palladium Palace*, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, has proven very successful with 24 Members signing up. If any other Members are interested in going, please check with Leslie or with any Travel Club Committee Member.

Next fall, a trip to Muskoka of 4 days and 3 nights is planned. Sign up will be in March 2012. Further details will be in the next Hub. It should be noted that this trip is custom designed, so if we do not get 35 people signing for it, we will be forced to cancel.

Finally if we do not get more Travel Club Committee Members to plan and organize your trips, we will have no alternative than to disband the Travel Club. Come on travelers, volunteer and keep this long established *Seniors Centre Group* going.

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

*by Muriel McHaffie* - We are approaching the end of another successful year for the Seniors Centre, with all kinds of activities ongoing and lots of our seniors taking part in them. And again, thanks to the efforts of our Volunteers, these activities have been that much more enjoyable.

These Volunteers have given very willingly of their time and efforts throughout the year, and, it is clear, that they do enjoy keeping things running successfully. Great work, Volunteers.

The total of volunteer hours so far this year is just over 7000, a very impressive number, even if a little down from last year at this time - although I know there are more to come.

Now the summer is over, I am getting in the hours for July, August and September. I do ask again that those who have not sent in their hours for that quarter, please do so as soon you can. Send them in at any time on the forms in the Heritage Room, to Leslie, or to myself at [m.s.mchaffie@rogers.com](mailto:m.s.mchaffie@rogers.com)

I do want to remind you that, once again at the end of December, we will be totalling up all volunteer hours for the Plaques on the rear wall of the Heritage Room, so it is really important that we get ALL your hours entered, please.

**MEMBER'S MEMORABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS** - The *Memorable Accomplishment* that we are highlighting in this issue is that of Member

**Jake Enns.**



Jake has been a singer all of his life. His earliest recollection of his *professional life* was singing the lead role in Captain Kidd, at the age of seven. At twenty, Jake took on the role of a tenor soloist in a mixed quartet that had been looking for a year to replace someone. At the same time he sang as a soloist with a dance band in Northern Ontario.

When he was transferred to Kirkland Lake, he became a tenor soloist for a male quartet. He also sang in church choirs.

At twenty five Jake moved to Ottawa, married, changed jobs and became a member of the Ottawa Choral Society.

Jake's *Memorable Accomplishment* is that four years after suffering a major stroke, that among many other things, left him with a disability in communication, he was able to sing again at a competitive level and be selected for the Senior Star regional singing finals. But let Jake take over and tell his story.

“Yes, four years ago, I suffered a stroke that left me paralyzed down the whole of my right side, unable to talk, walk or to use my right hand. The inability to speak is known as *Aphasia*. In the first year, coping with so many changes was particularly daunting and isolating.

Then it was suggested that I join the Seniors Centre and play cribbage. I was apprehensive about this, as I had difficulty in enunciating. I could walk with a cane and play cards, especially cribbage, but I couldn't, and can't, shuffle cards.

The first time I joined the cribbage group a neighbour came with me to shuffle the cards for me. But I found that the very laid back cribbage group always found ways to work around each other's handicaps, so my partner at any given game always shuffles for me. Since I have been going to cribbage, I have really enjoyed myself. After a while, I found that I was joining in the fun and smiling and laughing with the rest. My talking has improved to the level where I can now joke and kid the others.

Then, this April, my wife Harriet had to have a knee operation and she and I stayed at the Empress Kanata Seniors Residence. While she was convalescing, we noticed that the residence was participating in the local level of the *Chartwell Senior Star* National Singing Competition.

When it was suggested that I audition for the competition, I was again very apprehensive, just not knowing if I could still sing, let alone competitively. But again I decided to *give it a try*. To my surprise my rendering of *It's a sin to tell a lie*, was judged sufficient to put me in the Regional Competition, at the Casino at Lac Leamy on June the 14<sup>th</sup> of this year.

The Regional Competition was quite a major affair, professionally organized, with the well known celebrities Carol Anne Meehan, Bill Luxton and Denyse Marleau as judges. The MC was Farley Flex of the TV show *Canadian Idol*.

Although I wasn't selected to go on to the National level, the experience has given me confidence that I can sing again, which is a great joy to me.”

*This section of the Hub highlights various accomplishments that Members have achieved and which may be of interest to our readers.*

*So if you have had a Memorable Accomplishment in your life as a senior that you would like to share with our readers, write it up and mail or email it to Leslie or to our editor, Ken Hancock (613 225 6385), or tell it to Ken who will draft it up for you to review or modify.*

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