

March, 2021

# GCRC

GEORGIAN COLLEGE RETIREES CLUB

## President's Message from Andrew Dykstra

Georgian Retirees News by Cathy Volpe

### Annual President's Luncheon

The Annual June President's Luncheon, hosted by the College President, had to be cancelled in 2020 because of the pandemic. As the College has made the decision to continue with remote learning throughout the summer semester, the College will not be able to host this event in 2021 either. We will look forward to this event resuming in 2022.

### Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The GCRC has had to cancel the 2020 AGM because of the pandemic. For the same reason we will be unable to hold the AGM at the College this spring or summer. The executive, however, approved to look into the option of holding a virtual AGM via ZOOM. More details will follow.

### It is that time of year again

If you have not yet paid your 2021 annual membership dues, please send your cheque for \$10.00 made payable to the GCRC, and mail to Andrew Dykstra, 27 Park Trail, Midhurst, ON L9X 0L3

### Life Memberships

In response to several requests, the executive approved to present to the membership at the next AGM, a proposal for Life Membership. The proposed option is modeled on OCRA's Life Membership and more details will be provided prior to the AGM.

### New OCRA Website

In March OCRA hopes to roll out their new website which will provide much useful information for our retirees. You will receive an email when it is up and running.

### Executive positions

Liz Erwin, Vice-President GCRC, has informed us that due to other commitments she will be stepping down from her position. We thank Liz for her time on the executive and her contributions to the GCRC. At the same time, we welcome **Barb Watts** who has volunteered to fill this vacancy.

Monique Vaillancourt, Treasurer/Membership, has also informed us that due to her commitments and absence to Florida in the winters, she will be stepping down as our Treasurer. We thank Monique for her service and time as Treasurer. She will now serve as Treasurer for a much larger organization in Florida. We are hoping a retiree with some financial background and computer skills in excel will volunteer for this position.

Cathy Volpe, Communications director, has also informed us that after ten years of serving on the executive of the GCRC, she will also be stepping down. We thank Cathy for her dedication and service over the past ten years to make sure we all received our newsletters and other communications. Cathy has agreed to assist in the transition of her duties. We welcome **Julie Hughes** who has volunteered to fill this position.

## Books to read during COVID home bound, by Cathy Volpe

Some of us have spent our time reading and sharing books with others. These are some books that I would highly recommend:

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins ( a woman and son's journey/escape from Mexico and drug cartel as a refugee trying to get into the USA)

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens ( a young girl, abandoned by her family, grows up alone in the swamp).

Garden of Evening Mists by Tan Twang Eng (post WW2 Malaysia, Japanese prisoner survivor finds salvation in Japanese gardens)

The Four Winds by Kristen Hannah ( novel about a woman living through the dust storms during the depression in the USA– life on the farm and as a farm migrant)

The Ruthless River by Holly Fitzgerald ( true story/adventure/survival in the Amazon)

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towes ( novel, post revolution Russia, gentleman's life in house arrest in a hotel in Moscow)

The Hero's Walk by Anita Rau Bedami ( dysfunctional family in India)

## Waiting for the Garden by Coralee Young

March's entrance has made me even more eager to get out into my yard. I bought a Sunblaster this winter and am growing herbs and some lettuces, and, while delicious, it's not the same as getting out and messing around in the dirt. I am more of an enthusiast than an expert when it comes to gardening, but this year I am trying to become more disciplined. It's probably hopeless though as JEH MacDonald's Tangled Garden, many of Monet's garden paintings as well as those of Renoir inspire me. And once I get into a garden centre I can't resist wanting to get everything! But we had a plan made by an expert for our front yard so that's a start. I've started researching pollinator and wildlife friendly plants and shrubs that will work well in our yard and our zone. Two great resources for native plants are the **Nature Conservancy** and the David Suzuki Foundation websites. I'll make a list to take with me when it's time to get the plants. Hopefully, the lumber shortage will have abated soon and we'll be able to get the supplies to build a second raised bed for vegetables and herbs. I've bought some seeds already. In the meantime, I'm getting out my graphing paper and attempting to make a somewhat to scale drawing of our entire yard. Oh and I'm watching all the gardening shows I can find..

Coralee Young

## Recipes for COVID times

What we could all really use right now is a nice, simple bread recipe without the yeast.

### Easy No Yeast Beer Bread.

#### Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 12 oz of beer
- 1/2 cup melted butter

#### Instructions

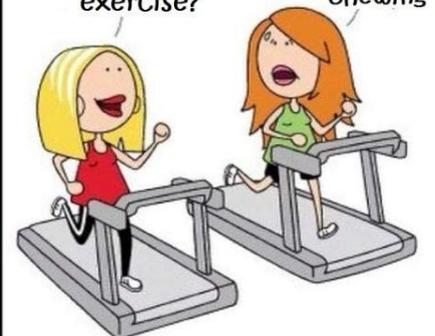
1. Preheat oven to 375.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Mix until well combined.
3. Mix in beer. Pour batter into a greased loaf pan.
4. Pour melted butter over batter. ( note you can add cheese if you want to make it cheese bread).



Warm up frozen blueberries with brandy. Light the brandy on fire with a match to burn off the alcohol, if you wish. Serve with vanilla ice cream.



What's your favorite exercise?



### Cheryl Norton's COVID hobbies:

In addition to working on Ancestry (where I discovered that Jane Lander - Brandon's wife - and I are distant cousins and share the same g-g-g-grandfather!), I got into the sour dough bread making craze. And my bridge foursome switched to online and have continued real-time weekly games for the past year with the help of technology! And, our Georgian golf girls enjoyed some winter hiking and snowshoeing until the lockdown.....and now we're connecting by Zoom. Just missing seeing family.....our one year old granddaughter just thinks we're "potato heads" as she really only knows us through Face-Time! Cheryl



## Bernice Graham

Many of you may have seen on The National that Bernice Graham died at Roberta Place of COVID. Bernice was nursing faculty at Orillia, and spearheaded an accelerated RN class in Parry Sound. The students had the same great faculty for 2 1/2 years with no summer breaks. That graduating class ranked first on the Canadian Nursing Association (CNA) registration exams. The programme received national recognition. Bernice led the nursing faculty through “blueprinting” the Georgian nursing multiple choice exams to the standard of the CNA exams. Her ideas and contributions were top drawer. She was great to work with, happy, relaxed with a great sense of humour and infectious smile. Her artistic side came out in the creation of summery decorative straw hats. By Leslie Milson Taylor

## Myriam Swan

Myriam Swan, a support staff who retired 10 years ago, passed away. Myriam worked at the College for over 20 years in various departments, with her last being in Georgian stores. Myriam has no family in Barrie and went home to Ecuador to be with her family to live out her last days there. She loved the College so much. *Photo of her on left with her mom.* Her mom was her motivation to keep her going throughout her cancer illness. She went through surgery and her treatments in hopes that she could get back to Ecuador to be with her mom and family.



## Outlook from Florida by Monique Vaillancourt

It was a difficult decision last fall: endure the winter cold in Barrie or travel to our winter home in Florida. After much debate, my husband’s arthritic pain, caused by cold weather, was the factor that prompted us to travel to Florida. Four months later, I can say it was the best decision we made. We have practiced safe distancing and mask wearing and were pleased to see the same behavior in our area. We walked, biked, swam and yes even shopped. There are so many stores here and few tourists this year, so stores were empty.

Of 700 Canadians in our community about 80 were here for the winter. We created our own little bubble of friends and this allowed us to have some social activities. This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> year in this home, so we took advantage of the quiet time to paint, and update the interior. Our favorite project was creating a garden and painting our patio in the yard.

Of course, we went through some of the same emotions as our families and friends in Canada as we followed the progression of COVID and the lack of vaccines arriving in Canada. We received our first Pfizer vaccine last week and have an appointment for the second dose on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hopefully, we will all have received our vaccines by the end of the summer, and we can gather as a group of Georgian retirees once again. I look forward to it! Monique

## Birding Watching (in lockdown and better times by Barb Moore)

I'm not a bona fide "birder" and certainly not an expert, but I like our feathered friends. And I know I'm not alone. This winter, I've seen pine siskins, cedar waxwings, cardinals, blackcap chickadees, and of course, blue jays. In warmer weather, I can confirm that loons occupy Kempenfelt Bay along with kingfishers, all sorts of ducks, and a heron or two at Heritage Park. From tiny hummingbirds to elegant trumpeter swans in a fly-over, this area offers opportunities to recognize birds of all shapes, sizes, songs, and colours.

If you'd like to attract birds to your backyard, Wild Birds Unlimited on Bryne Drive in Barrie is an excellent place to start. On their website, you'll find links to Birds Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology where you can report your sightings. The Great Backyard Bird Count in February is an annual event shared by birders around the world.

<https://barrie.wbu.com/welcome>

There are lots of ways to familiarize yourself with the many species of birds in our backyards or further afield. A good guidebook is a must and decent binoculars will help. This is an inexpensive, fun and challenging hobby.

Enjoy!

Respectfully submitted.

Barb Moore

*Cedar waxwing*



*Pine siskin*

## How to prepare for a Zoom meeting

### Financial report by Monique Vaillancourt

It would be an understatement to say it has been a quiet year for the GCRC!

We began the year with \$2,728.93 in the bank. During the year we received \$1,650 in membership dues and had \$10.80 in bank fees as the only expense. As of December 31, 2020, we had assets of \$4,468.13 (including a bank balance of \$4,368.13 and \$100 petty cash). The GCRC has 1580 paid members for 2020.



**2021 GCRC Executive:**

**President:** Andrew Dykstra

**andrew.dykstr@sympatico.ca**

(Vice President: Liz Erwin ( *retiring* )

**Vice President:** ( new): Barb Watts

**bwatts@rogers.com**

**Past President:** Barbara Marshall

**marshall.barbara.j@gmail.com**

**Treasurer:/Membership** Monique Vaillancourt ( *retiring*) **vaillan5758@gmail.com**

(Communication: Cathy Volpé ( *retiring*))

**cvolpetourism@gmail.com**

**Communications: ( New):** Julie Hughes

**GCRC@bell.net**

**Social:** Cheryl Lawson

**cheryllawson910@gmail.com**

**GCRC position to fill on the executive**

A volunteer is needed for the position of Treasurer/membership on the GCRC executive:  
Please contact Andrew Dykstra

*Barb Watts*



**Treasurer/membership role:**

Track and maintain active membership records on excel spread sheet  
( *which is done, just need to maintain it*)

Track and maintain payment of annual dues

Handle banking duties for the GCRC; act as co-signer for the GCRC bank account

Participate in GCRC Exec meetings (2-3 per year)

**Communication:**

The new Communications Director is Julie Hughes.  
Please welcome her to the executive. ( *photo* )



*This is my last GCRC newsletter! I hope you have found them to be informative. Please send any news stories or death notices or ideas for social events to Julie Hughes, Cathy Volpe'*