



**JULY~AUGUST~SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Volume 26 - # 3**

**NEXT DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2021**

**NOTHING SAYS SUMMER LIKE THE SMELL OF JAPANESE LILAC!**





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The next LINK deadline for submissions  
is **September 17, 2021**.



Your LINK Team:  
Editor/Coordinator: Bob Harrison Drue  
Contributors:  
Ursula Carter, Merle Matheson, Michel  
Gauvin, Louise Gabrielle.  
Distribution: Mitch Lambert

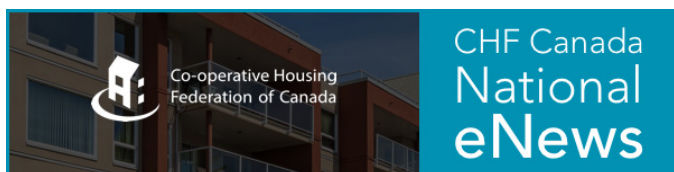
Leadership Network have launched  
the 'Vote Housing' campaign.

The campaign will engage with  
federal political parties, candidates,  
individuals, and organizations to  
convince the next government to  
make affordable housing and  
homelessness a centrepiece of the  
next government's agenda. The  
campaign includes specific  
recommendations on how this can  
be achieved, including building more  
co-operative housing.

How can you support the campaign?

- Have your co-op endorse the campaign
- As an individual, pledge to Vote Housing
- Follow the campaign on social media - @VoteHousingCA on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- Share the campaign website with your network - [www.votehousing.ca](http://www.votehousing.ca)
- Consider volunteering for the campaign

Contact Dallas Alderson at  
[dalderson@chfcanada.coop](mailto:dalderson@chfcanada.coop)  
or 613-760-3375 to learn more.



**'VOTE HOUSING' OFFICIALLY  
LAUNCHES!**



The 'Vote Housing' campaign is  
officially live! The campaign is  
shaping up to be the largest housing  
advocacy campaign in Canadian  
history, aiming to mobilize thousands  
of Canadians to pledge to 'Vote  
Housing' in the next federal election,  
whenever it is held.

CHF Canada, along with partners the  
Canadian Housing and Renewal  
Association, the Canadian Alliance  
to End Homelessness and the  
Canadian Lived Experience



## TORONTO ATTRACTIONS VI

### CASA LOMA

Casa Loma (Spanish for 'Hill House') is one of Toronto's most distinctive landmarks. More than 350,000 tourists now pass through its halls each year to marvel at the grandeur and elegance of a bygone era. Nestled on a hill, looking down on the city of Toronto, this castle was constructed with a specific purpose in mind. Sir Henry Pellatt commissioned the gothic-revival building in 1914 in the hopes that when royalty visited from England, they'd stay with him in his 98-room residence.



Not only did Sir Henry pour money into what seemed to be an endless black hole of building work, he also spent it on stonemasons who he brought over from Scotland. In addition, there were up to 400 tradesmen. The building is said to have cost \$3.5 million at the time (the equivalent of approximately \$78,000,000 in today's dollars.)

Sir Henry Pellatt was a visionary and renaissance man and in the years

prior to World War I, Casa Loma was a family home. Unfortunately, he and his wife Lady Mary lived there for only nine years before they fell into financial difficulties and were forced to sell it. Rising taxes and the pressures of a wartime Canada forced the Pellatts to leave their dream castle. In the years following, it had many reincarnations, one of which was as a hotel and nightclub opened in 1927 – you could stay there for \$6 a night. Unfortunately, it closed in 1929 due to the Great Depression. Sir Henry Pellatt died in 1939, virtually penniless.

Casa Loma was ultimately preserved as a museum. Today, its fanciful gothic architecture and fascinating history make it a must-see destination for visitors. With 98 gorgeous rooms and 22 fireplaces, the building has many stories to tell, and its five acres of grounds and gardens are a peaceful respite in a bustling modern city. Casa Loma is also a popular location site for film and television. It has been featured in movies such as **X-Men**, **Strange Brew**, **Chicago**, **Scott Pilgrim vs. the World**, **Crimson Peak** and **Titans** - where it stands in for Wayne Manor.

**A BRIEF TOUR** - upon entering the castle, you first come upon the Great Hall which contains a Wurlitzer organ. A host of local and international musicians entertain audiences six times a year with its magnificent sounds.

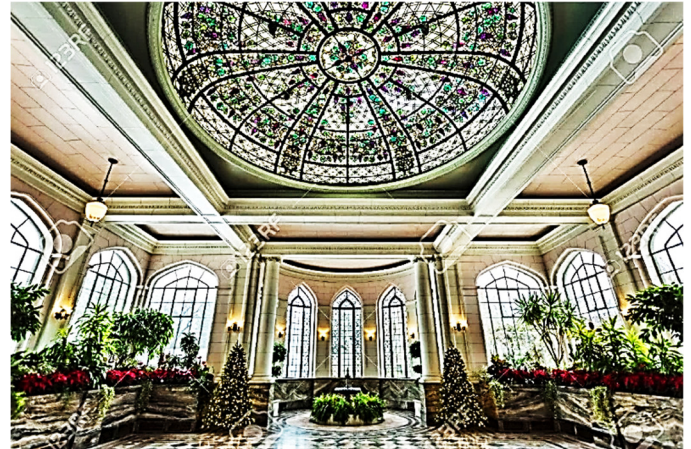




**THE GREAT HALL** - Through an archway off the Great Hall is a beautiful lounge area. On one wall hangs a large portrait of Queen Elizabeth II in her younger days. Facing her on the opposite wall is the star of *Purple Rain*, Prince, who brandishes a rapier from his spot over the fireplace. (Not sure why he's there.)



Then there's the gorgeous library – lined with walls of glass cabinets holding hundreds of tomes - further on is the Conservatory with its magnificent stained glass domed skylight.



On the second floor of Casa Loma are elegant bedrooms and suites where the family and their guests relaxed. The third floor is now the Queen's Own Rifles Museum. The grand gothic towers are quite a climb, with narrow spiral steps that some visitors may find challenging, especially in hot weather. But if you persevere, you'll be rewarded with an incredible view of the Toronto skyline at the top.

**Sir Henry's Bedroom:**





On the lower level of the castle, you'll find the wine cellars, the gift shop and a café, as well as an exhibit of movie posters for films that have been shot at Casa Loma. This is also where you can enter the 'secret' 800-foot tunnel which connects the house to the stables and, in the garage, a wonderful exhibit of vintage cars. Travelling through the tunnel you can read about Toronto's historical 'Dark Side,' including the Prohibition era, the Depression, and the Great Toronto Fire.

The gardens and grounds of Casa Loma are an attraction in themselves, with five acres of formal borders, walled gardens, and other botanical delights. The Terrace Grill overlooks the gardens for a meal with a beautiful view.



Casa Loma is also known for many a haunting tale. One such spooky incidence is that of the lady in white who haunts the halls of the century-old castle. Another eerie incidence is the muttering and sighs of a crotchety man near the stables. There are many more tales coming

from visitors and staff, so Casa Loma has gained a reputation as a haunted house. The castle even offers ghost tours.

## EVENTS:

**Castle Loma Concerts** - a summer series of concerts is held in the Estate gardens. Seating is first-come, first-served, and the concerts generally take place - rain or shine.

The tower hosts the **Castle Loma Escape Series**, which offers interactive, theatrical 'escape' games that blend fact and fiction. In this exciting game, you work together with other visitors to solve puzzles and a mystery before you can escape the tower.

**Legends of Horror** - for the month of October, Casa Loma is transformed into a high-end haunted house.

**Dining** - the restaurant, Blueblood Steakhouse, offers a refined dining experience in an upscale environment. In other words, it's expensive!





## **WYCHWOOD PARK**

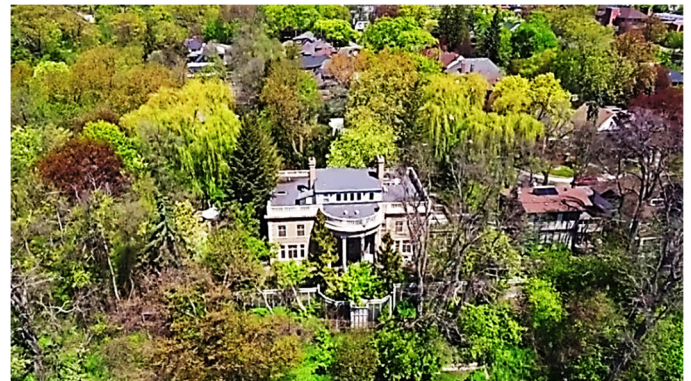
Wychwood Park is a neighbourhood enclave and a private community just west of Bathurst & St. Clair Street. It's a unique area of the city with greenery and quiet streets. It was originally founded as an artists' colony in the late 19th century by painter Marmaduke Matthews and businessman Alexander Jardine. At that time, the area was still a rural region on the edge of the city, and Matthews planned out a picturesque community that he named after Wychwood forest in Oxfordshire, England.



Painting of Wychwood Park by Marmaduke Matthews.

Today Wychwood Park is one of Toronto's more expensive neighbourhoods with house prices ranging well over a million plus dollars. It was designated an Ontario Heritage Conservation in 1985. Many of the houses are listed as heritage properties due to their beautiful architecture, which feature traditional English houses with naturally Romantic landscapes.

With fewer than 100 homes in the area, it's a community where everyone knows each other. The irregularly shaped lots surround a central park with a pond and tennis courts, developed by architect Arthur Edwin Whatmough. With every house part of a heritage site, the residents appreciate the history and tradition behind each home and take good care of the neighborhood. A green and peaceful calm surrounds the area.



One of Toronto's ravines runs through the heart of the Wychwood Park neighbourhood, and this was preserved as parkland. Taddle Creek ran through the ravine as well and it was dammed to create a large pond in the middle of the park.

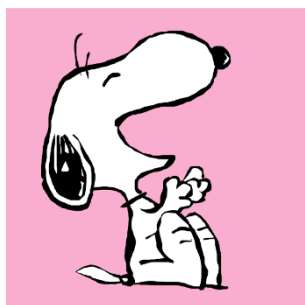




**Wychwood Barns** is a community centre and park in the Bracondale Hill area of Toronto. The converted heritage building was built as a streetcar maintenance facility in 1913. It now contains artist housing and studios, a greenhouse, a farmer's market, a volleyball court, theatre, a dog run, and office space for many local community groups. Wychwood Barns Park is a hub for recreation and culture all year round. There's also a children's playground, ice rink, and picnic tables scattered across the park.



Ursula Carter ~ 51 Alexander



### QUARANTINE

QUOTE: Me in 2019: If I could just have a week with nothing to do and nowhere to go, I could finally get my

apartment clean and organized.

Me, now: Nope, that wasn't the problem ....

## BEST SOLUTION FOR PESKY LITTLE FLIES (*fungus gnats*)

Have you been bothered by those tiny little flies in your apartment? Never had them before and now they seem to linger all year long? Well, after some research and experimentation, I discovered some very effective solutions.

1) If you have houseplants, you need to treat them in order to deal with the little critters breeding in the soil. The least toxic and most effective way is to buy diatomaceous earth at the hardware store. Sprinkle on top of the soil of each houseplant (be careful not to inhale this powder. Although it is nontoxic, it is composed of microscopic silica particles with sharp edges. If inhaled, it can cut into your delicate lung tissue.)

\* Please Note: This step is essential if you have plants, otherwise the solution that follows will only deal with the problem temporarily.

2) Make a solution of:

- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar (can be found in health food stores or Loblaws health food section)
- 6 to 8 drops of dishwashing liquid (use unscented or mild scented like lemon).

Place in a bowl, stir to mix and place it where you most often see the bugs. Ideally, you can have more than one bowl, place one near your



plants (and next to a humidifier if you have one).

What happens next is you will begin to see the little flies go to the bowl and then fall in (some are more reluctant, so patience is required). The dishsoap kills them quickly and humanely.

Replace the bowls every few days, otherwise all the little dead flies in the solution will start to rot.

I have had great success with this approach. I hope you do too!

Louise Gabrielle ~ 31 Alexander

**CITY PARK LIBRARY – DISCOVER DETECTIVE MARTIN BECK**, a great 10 novel modern mystery series and perhaps the gold standard of modern-day police procedurals.

Last August, Tom Maunder, a long-time resident, former Board Member, Finance and LINK volunteer, passed away suddenly.

Many will remember him reading on 'his' bench, or so it seemed, in the courtyard between the 51 Alexander and 484 Church Street buildings on most nice days. His

estate generously gave the City Park library his collection of mystery novels. As a mystery novel enthusiast and friend, he could not



resist the impulse of the former English teacher to enlighten a pupil with firm guidance as well as some encouragement. After some rambling discussions I had with him about various mystery novels, he pointed out to me that the Martin Beck mystery series should be the cornerstones of any analysis or opinion of modern-day police procedural mystery novels. That I admitted never having heard of the series or read it brought out a "tut tut" as well a smile. At our next get together, as you may have guessed, he loaned me 'RoseAnna', the first in the Swedish wife and husband writing team of Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahloo's 10 novel Martin Beck mystery series.

RoseAnna introduces, detective Martin Beck of the National Homicide Bureau in the authors' attempt to break away from the stereotyped detectives found in the British mystery writing style. Martin Beck and the other characters in the novel

are ordinary, but hard working, and evolve through the story. Without giving away the plot except to say that the story begins in July when the body of a young woman is dredged from Sweden's beautiful

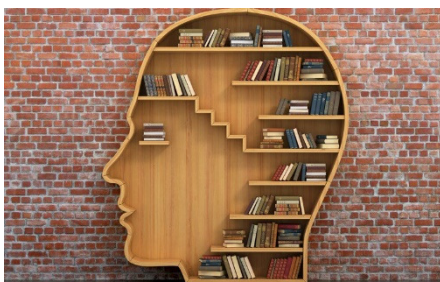
Lake Vattern and Beck and his team are called upon to discover who the victim was as well as the murderer. Time is used as a foundation to build



and tie the police procedures required to solve the case. Three months later, all Beck knows is that the victim's name was Roseanna! As gruesome as murder is, the inspector's doggedness at finding clues takes the reader on a fascinating journey to solve the mystery. I enjoyed RoseAnna and all the other novels in the series and encourage you to consider reading the series once the library reopens. Beyond the mystery, I could easily imagine and relate to Martin Beck and his colleagues which just made them more endearing beyond being dedicated and very good detectives.

City Park's small library is located next to the Security Office on the south end of the laundry room corridor at 31 Alexander. It has been closed for well over a year because of COVID-19 restrictions. As restrictions are lifted, library volunteers will begin getting the collection on library shelves as well as finalize opening hours and lending procedures. It's been a long journey and the opening of the library will be another sign that the pandemic is finally behind us. Consider checking out the mystery novels once the library opens.

Michel Gauvin ~ 484 Church



## STILL HERE

As each of the senses  
diminishes  
as we age

rather than decrying  
these losses

we can be grateful  
for how they have served us  
in the past

and how well  
they are doing  
their very best  
even now

## BELONGING

A teacher once said  
that we are never alone

We are touched  
by the sun's warmth  
and by gentle breezes

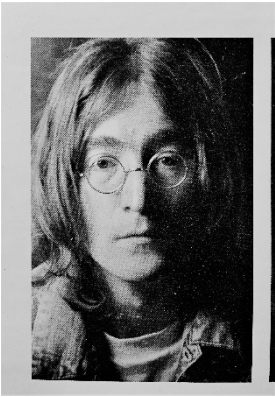
Our hearts are uplifted  
by morning birdsong

The ground beneath our feet  
holds us up  
and healing waters cleanse  
our body and spirit

Coming home to oneself  
one way or another  
as best we can  
reminds us that we  
belong  
and that we are  
loved

John Pollard ~ 31 Alexander





Time you enjoy wasting, is not wasted – John Lennon.



**DEAR CRABBY:**

**CRABBY SOLVES ALL**



Photos courtesy of  
John Gordon ~ 51 Alexander

**Dear Crabby.** I often get the smoke from the City Park barbecue in the courtyard entering my unit in the summertime. It is not particularly pleasant. Should the co-op rethink the usefulness of this amenity?

Teary eyed and wheezing.

Dear Teary eyed and wheezing,

You raise an interesting point as I too have noticed they give off a lot of smoke as the meat and veggies get charred. My unit is not affected but I can imagine it would not be pleasant to have your dwelling unit filled with smoke. I've personally noticed this happening in the PMG Hall when the barbecue in the courtyard between 31 and 51 Alexander is used. You can hardly see one end of the room from the other. I was told the barbecue flue was placed too close to the ventilation equipment. I can attest that in this situation smoke does indeed get in your eyes. It can, however, also be seen as a blessing as the cockroaches do not appreciate the smoke and come out of all their hiding places. A revelation

when I witnessed this a few years back.

I can imagine your frustration and wanting to ask the question, are they really an amenity the co-op should keep? Quite a few residents have told me they are a community amenity in the broad sense of the word as they have seen quite a few non-residents, described to me as 'street urchins', use them to urinate upon and often in the grill area. I suppose the question really is how broad a community they should serve and how much aggravation should City Park residents be obliged to endure? Your comments do however suggest that the usefulness of the current barbecues can be questioned.

A Building Condition Assessment was done a few years back to help the co-op better plan capital improvements. The removal of the existing barbecues is something the Board should consider. While I can attest that I have not seen them used as urinals, I can state that they do provide a nice hiding place for people who wish to be unseen which is particularly unnerving in the evening. Why do so many seem to lurk in the bushes or shaded areas of City Park? Security might have something to say on the use of our barbecues for this purpose. To paraphrase the GREAT Bard – are they an amenity for the co-op or not? That is the question!

I would encourage all readers to report the event to Security should smoke from a barbecue make their dwelling unit uncomfortable. In closing, let me say that I would barbecue every day if the smoke from them would encourage our pigeon population to decamp elsewhere! Wishful thinking, I know.

Hoping that barbecue smoke does not make you teary eyed for the rest of the summer, I can only hope someone will consider this issue and remedy the problem.

**Crabby**

### THE SOUTH GARDEN AT THE BACK OF 31 HAS NEVER LOOKED LOVELIER!





Many thanks to the volunteer who designed and installed the area.



*(Photos by yours truly ~ ed!)*



## SWEET LETTER FROM OUTSIDE THE CO-OP

Hello --

Was forwarded the link to the City Park newsletter by a friend who was also a student of Tom Maunder's --



we were saddened to hear of his passing and wanted to pass on our condolences to his friends and neighbours. As

it happens, I live further north in the Village, and had no idea all these years that our 'Mr. Maunder' from so many years ago (I graduated from the Scarborough high school where he taught in 1995) was a neighbour all this time.

He was indeed gruff and opinionated, but that also made him a tough but fair teacher who always pushed students to be their best. He was one of my last English teachers before graduation, and definitely an inspiration when it came to my future career as a writer.

Thanks to LINK for memorializing Mr. Maunder in your newsletter -- many of his students will remember him as an excellent educator and we appreciate knowing he had been part of the community of your co-op in his later years.

All best,

- Tab S., Toronto

## SUBMISSIONS TO LINK

All Members are encouraged to submit material of interest to the



Membership for consideration in LINK. All submissions must include your full name, building and apartment number. Kindly attach original unformatted documents to

your email or type your article within the body of an email and send to:

[CityParkLINK@gmail.com](mailto:CityParkLINK@gmail.com)



for  
reading  
this  
issue of  
LINK.

**BIG**

**THANKS to all those who promptly got their vaccines and wear a mask properly inside the common areas, hallways, Laundry Rooms, and elevators keeping our neighbours safe from Covid-19.**

**Let's all help keep the transmission numbers low!**