



# Garden Park Tower Newsletter

## July 2022

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### Chairman’s Report

*Editor’s Note: On occasion we invite Newsletter contributors to report on some issue not directly related to their CGAS position. Here is such a report from our CGAS chairman who also works with the Multi-Nation Mission Foundation, MMF, an agency with headquarters in Garden Park Tower.*

#### Comments on the War in Ukraine

It has been almost four months since Russia invaded Ukraine. This brutal war has changed the dynamics of the Ukrainians, their culture, and their national identity. Sadly, experts say that the war will continue over the next year or even longer. Currently, the war is active in most Eastern Ukrainian territories.

Several territories that are currently controlled by Russians are experiencing hell on earth. The Russian government is burning Ukrainian literature, switching Ukrainian flags for Russian, stealing household items, prescribing young people to fight in the Russian army, and raping children and women in front of their family.

One of the pastors who stayed in the occupied territory reported that last Sunday Russian soldiers came to his church and violently threatened him to close down. According to the UN, thus far 3,404 civilians have been killed (306 foreign), and 323 children have died. Other reports cite higher numbers. According to the UNHCR, more than 7.7 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia attacked their country.

During these tough times, Canada has been an amazing help in providing humanitarian aid, finances, and hosting Ukrainians. According to federal Immigration Minister Sean Fraser, 115,000 Ukrainian refugees have been approved to come to Canada, and 32,000 refugees are already in Canada.

A prominent and very generous Abbotsford businessman has made available up to 24 condominium units to house Ukrainians who have come to the Abbotsford area. Already a group of about 35 Ukrainian Christians are meeting on Sundays to fellowship and worship the Lord. This group is being led by Andrey Zolotarov, a long-time MMF missionary in Ukraine. MMF is also sponsoring at least seven families. Many of these people are looking for work and one lady has already started to work in the Rose Room Coffee Shop. If you wish to know more about this project, please come and talk to someone in the MMF office located in Unit 106.

*Helmut Wiens*

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**EVENTS UPDATE** For the last two and a half years we have been quite restricted concerning events and getting together. This spring we have managed to have four events: Easter, Mother's Day, and Father's Day luncheons and a Volunteer Appreciation Brunch.

On July 1, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. the **Residents of Garden Park** are invited to our third Annual **CANADA DAY Ice Cream Social**.

We are blessed to live in freedom in this country. We are looking forward to more get togethers, hopefully in summer and fall. Best Wishes to all as we **celebrate CANADA DAY 2022!**

*Elsie Giesbrecht*



“Canada Day – it’s the day when Canadians celebrate retaining their national identity by travelling to the US to do their shopping.”

*Peter Perugini*



## A Car That Lasted!



Mr. Allen Swift (Springfield , MA.) received this 1928 Rolls-Royce Picadilly P1 Roadster from his father, brand new, as a graduation gift in 1928. He drove it for 82 years until his death at the age of 102 in 2010. He arranged for it to be donated to a museum after his death. It has 170,000 miles on it. He averaged just over 2,000 miles a year. The car still runs perfectly and has been maintained to look like a new car. This picture was taken not long before Allen Swift died.

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### A Report from the CGAS Office Administrator

Due to the Rose Room being short-staffed there will be no new soups made until the week of July 12<sup>th</sup>. The Community Center and Rose Room will be closed July 1 and 2 for the holiday weekend. Individually businesses may remain open.

If anyone would like to donate blood to Canadian Blood Services, we have our next clinic on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Pre-registration is required. This is to be done online @ <https://www.blood.ca/en> ). To book an appointment use the link and select “Book Now” and follow the directions as prompted.

Exercise classes times have changed for the summer months:

\*Tuesdays – Bones and Balance – 10:30 am.

\*Wednesdays – Yoga-inspired Movement and Stretching – 11:05 am. Wednesday class times are subject to change without notice pending participation numbers. Any changes to the schedule will be posted on the Community Center bulletin board outside of the Rose Room.

\*Thursdays – Bones and Balance – 10:30 am. Cost: \$2.25/class. Tickets can be bought in the #101 office. Location: Azalea or Magnolia room.

\*The July 28<sup>th</sup> fitness class has been canceled due to the scheduled blood donor clinic.

\*Carpet bowling schedule remains unchanged. Wednesdays and Fridays @ 1:30 pm. Cost: \$ 1.25/day.

Location: Recreation Room on P1. For July 1<sup>st</sup> carpet bowling has been canceled due to it being a statutory holiday.

\*Guest Suites are booking up fast for the summer. Get your reservation made as soon as possible to ensure you get dates you would like before they are all gone! Full payment is due upon booking to hold the reservation.

Reservations can be made up to 6 months in advance. *Melissa Adrian, Office Administrator/Rental Coordinator*

On July 1, 1923 Canada’s Liberal Government, with Mackenzie King as Prime Minister, passed the infamous **Chinese Exclusion Act**, forbidding Chinese immigration, with almost no exceptions. This Act was not repealed until 1947.

The older I get, the better I was.

*Quoted*

## Editorial      The Limits of Equality

During more than 80 years I have never thought that I would ever be arguing against equality. Surely everyone is in favour of equality. Isn't equality at the heart of a free and democratic society? Even more important, isn't equality at the heart of



the Christian gospel? Were not the children right when they sang the little chorus, "Red and yellow, black and white; All are precious in His sight"?

Of course, the notion of all people being equal must be taught, stressed, and practiced in homes, schools, churches, and the media. In a democracy, all people are equal before the law and in courts. In a country such as Canada, all adult citizens enjoy the same rights. In theory, if not always in practice, we are all governed by one set of tax laws, traffic laws, fishing laws, and all other laws.

We all enjoy the same rights of free speech, of free assembly, and the same freedom to practice the religion of our choice or not to practice any religion.

We all enjoy the same travel rights within our country and internationally. We all benefit equally from freedom of the press and freedom in choosing vocations and lifestyles.

Every voter gets only one vote. We are also all equal when it comes to the right to praise or criticize politicians. The extent of our equality is, indeed, very great and deeply valued. But there is another part to this story. Increasingly I am encountering assertions of equality that make me very uncomfortable and which are inappropriate. Many are simply wrong. Let me cite some examples.

I am being told that because I believe in equality, I must support, almost endorse, the faith of people who practice other faiths. That's wrong. I believe that all people should have an equal right to practice their faith, within very broad limits, but that doesn't make the religions of equal merit. Even as I will defend the right of adherents of certain religions to practice their faith, I also have the right to reject that faith because, in my view, it is false

Especially vexing for me is the growing insistence by some members of the LGBTQ community, some politicians, some teachers, and some media personnel, that all sexual lifestyles and all marriage arrangements shall be deemed to be of equal value and therefore I must affirm them.

I object. There's a huge difference between asserting that all members of the LGBTQ demographic cohort

must enjoy all citizenship and personal rights without any prejudice, and insisting that all marriage arrangements, even if allowed by government, are of equal merit.

I have every right to say that in my opinion they are not equally good. In fact, it is altogether illogical and unnecessary, and contradictory to my religious choices, for me to affirm the LGBTQ lifestyles or same-sex marriage, or plural marriage as equal in merit to traditional monogamy. Not every preference constitutes a right. All thinking people, especially Christians, should affirm basic rights for everyone. The affirmation of equality, however, has its logical limits. There is no reason under the sun why I should affirm all the choices people make as equally good as some other options that have stood the test of time down through the centuries.

My full commitment to equality for all does not require me to give equal affirmation to all the choices people make. I happen to believe that some religions are false, that some political parties are misguided, that some lifestyle choices are lamentable, that some marriage arrangements are immoral, and that some religions rest on false teaching.

In God's eyes and in our laws all people are equal and must have the same core rights. My commitment to that inherent equality is very strong but has its limits. The equal freedoms we all enjoy also grants me the freedom to reject the choices certain people and groups make.

One thing more. Please don't call me bigoted because I refuse to march in a so-called Pride Parade. I promise not to call you bigoted if you refuse to join me in celebrating Pentecost.      *John H Redekop*

### A Winner!

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. This was the winning entry.

A four-year-old child, whose next-door neighbor was an elderly gentleman, who had recently lost his wife, was very sad. Upon seeing the old man cry, the little boy went into the gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy just said, "Nothing. I just helped him cry".'

"Oldtimers weekends and airplane landings are alike. If you can walk away from them, they were successful."      *Casey Stengel*

**Guest Column Editor's note:** *The source of this column may be as interesting as its content. It was emailed to me by the Hon. Bill Vander Zalm, former Premier of British Columbia. The column has been abbreviated.* **Why the Japanese won!**

A Japanese company, Toyota, and an American company, General Motors, decided to have a canoe race on the Missouri River. Each team could have 9 members. Both teams practiced long and hard to reach their peak performance. On the big day, the Japanese won by a mile.

The Americans were discouraged and depressed. They decided to investigate why they lost. A company management team was formed to investigate and recommend corrective action. Their conclusion was that the Japanese won because they had 8 people paddling and 1 person steering while the Americans had 7 people steering and 2 people paddling. The report was considered and then filed.

The Americans then hired a consulting company to undertake thorough research and provide a second opinion. This consulting company reported to General Motors that its canoe had too few people paddling and too many steering. This report, too, was considered and then filed.

Not wanting to be defeated again in next year's race, the Americans implemented a new Performance Management System consisting of a steering supervisor, two steering superintendents, and one assistant steering superintendent. They also created a new performance system that would give the two boat paddlers incentive to work harder. Financial rewards were given for faster times. They also bought the best new canoes and paddles.

The second year the Japanese won by two miles. Humiliated, the Americans fired one of the paddlers, sold the paddles and the canoes, and cancelled their capital investments program to buy new canoes. The money saved was distributed to the Senior Executives as bonuses.

The third year, try as he might, the lone American canoe paddler was unable to finish the race. He was laid off for unacceptable performance.

The fourth year the Americans withdrew from the race and were replaced by a team from India.

The morale in the story. GM has spent the last 30 years moving factories out of the US, claiming they can't make money paying American wages. Toyota has spent the last 30 years building more than a dozen plants in the US and paying US wages. One

quarter's results [now a few years old] were that Toyota made 4 billion profits in the US while GM lost 9 billion in its US operations. "GM folks are still scratching their heads, and collecting bonuses. If it weren't so true it might be funny".

**Health Hints Editor's Note:** *I am indebted to resident Wilf Hein for drawing my attention to an important article in The Epoch Times. Several items are excerpted here.*

When entering the hospital, every patient should ask the following questions, presumably addressed to the attending physician:

- Will you please give me in writing the name of my diagnosis, ailment, or disease?
- Am I in the usual age bracket for this diagnosis?
- Are there genetic tendencies for this diagnosis? If so, should I have my children tested?
- Do you have a known treatment for this disease or ailment?
- Please give me a description of the best treatment path and its risks?
- What can I do to help my outcome?
- What is my prognosis?

Many elderly patients have been known to complain that the medical people are not keeping them informed of their condition. They have a right to know.

A minister had given the young couple permission to have their wedding take place right after the forenoon worship service. The reason for this rather unusual arrangement was that the young couple and their parents were relatively poor.

After the benediction the pastor went down a few steps and suddenly realized that he had forgotten the couple's names. In desperation he finally said, "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front."

Immediately nine single ladies, three widows, four widowers, six single men and the young couple came to the front.

*Quoted*

**Did You Know?** Last year very close to 45,000 Canadians died from smoking tobacco. This is more than the deaths from alcohol, drugs, car accidents, murder, suicide and AIDS combined. Death caused by the use of tobacco remains far and way the leading cause of preventable deaths.

