



Garden Park Tower Newsletter

June 2022

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The Chairman's Report *Editor's Note: We are pleased to welcome our new Board Chairman as the front-page columnist for the Garden Park Tower Newsletter.*

The New Board of the Clearbrook Golden Age Society

At the April 27th Clearbrook Golden Age Society Annual Meeting a new Board of Directors was voted in to oversee the operation of our Society. The CGAS Board consists of 9 Directors of whom 3 can be external directors, that is directors who are not residents of Garden Park Tower. The 2022 Board consists of Helmut Wiens (Chairman), Elsie Giesbrecht (Vice Chair), Jake Esau, Agnes Fast, Geoff Hosking, Herb Braun, James Nikkel, and Bill Hiebert.

We want to express a very special thank you to John Friesen who has served the CGAS Board as chairman for many years. John has spent many hours in trying to make Garden Park become a desirable place to live and also to gather for fellowship in the Rose Room and at the many events that take place during the year. Your new board will endeavor to continue to serve our Society to the best of our abilities and thus fulfill the purposes of the Clearbrook Golden Age Society.

We want to wish all residents and Society members God's richest blessing. May you continue to enjoy the many benefits of living in Garden Park Tower.

Helmut Wiens

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Thanks to Dorothy Redekop and the Faspa Team for the excellent Faspa, Meet and Greet, enjoyed by Garden Park Tower residents on May 17.



Father's Day Lunch will be held on Friday June 17th in the Magnolia Room.

Doors open at 11:30 am; the meal is served at 12 noon. Please purchase tickets from the office, Room #101. Tickets are \$13.00. Please book groups as a group to ensure you will be seated together. No ticket will be placed on hold. Takeout is not available for this event.

The Menu: Poutine, Bratwurst Sausage, Corn, Sauerkraut, Apple Cake, Coffee

Prime Minister John Diefenbaker when complaining about inflation. "I'm disturbed because my doctor tells me I'm as sound as a dollar."

Dearest Friends, A Deer and a Dog



Know Your Bible

A minister told his congregation: "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17." The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked all who had read Mark 17 to raise their hands. About half of the people raised their hand. The minister smiled. "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon."



Requiring Right Ethics

In an Amish community a local teacher asked if he could get a bicycle so he could ride it to school. He was finding the long walk very tiring. After some discussion the board said that he could do that if he promised not to enjoy it.

"When an old man dies, a library burns." *Quoted*

Chef's Corner



New Manger of Food Services

Editor's Note: We are pleased to introduce the new Manager of Food Services. We plan to carry a monthly short column by her. Watch for the Chef's Corner.

I learned to love baking by the age of five when I started to take over my mother's kitchen. By age 11, I was the main family cook. My Mennonite grandmother, Gertrude Abrahams, taught me to make her favorite foods and to take joy in serving others. At 25, I was managing my third kitchen and fourth business. With a love of the Lord and willingness to demonstrate faithfulness, I have accepted the position of Manager of Food Services at The Rose Room Café as well as Magnolia and Azalea dining areas.

Esther Abrahams

"Don't expect young people to listen to your advice but ignore your example." *Quoted*

"I think there's a world market for about five computers."
Thomas Watson, Chairman of IBM in 1943.

Editorial

The Home Equity Tax

Like most Canadians, I get my news from many sources. I watch various news channels, listen to some radio stations, check several newsfeeds on line, read a few magazines, and read several newspapers. Most news sources are significantly biased. CNN News, a very fine source, has excellent news reporters and anchors but it very rarely says anything negative about President Biden and even more rarely anything positive about former President Trump. Another fine source is the newspaper *The Epoch Times*. It very rarely says anything good about President Biden and very rarely anything bad about President Trump. Both sources are generally factual, they just leave out whatever does not align with their biases. Similar Canadian examples abound.



I point to such common biases because the issue I shall now discuss was presented very effectively in a recent issue of *The Epoch Times*. It should not be discounted because it appeared in that newspaper.

At this point I should explain an important concept. Just as some governments adopted and implemented an income tax in the 20th century, initially a novel and for some a short-term wartime proposal, so various governments in recent decades have toyed with the idea of imposing what is called a home equity tax.

A home equity tax is a tax based on the value of your home. The idea is that with real estate values soaring, many people have suddenly become “real estate millionaires”. Their financial situation has not changed; only real estate values have suddenly soared. The question is whether homeowners should give the government some of this additional home value?

Epoch columnist Cory Morgan has done Canadians a fine service by drawing attention to the following developments. He demonstrates that the Canadian Liberal government, while denying that it intends to bring in a home equity tax, keeps on funding research to investigate the matter. Thus it indirectly funded research by Carleton University Professor Steve Pomeroy who then recommended that a home equity tax should be implemented. Similarly, several University of British Columbia researchers, funded by the federal government’s Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, also recommended that such a tax be imposed. Interestingly, at least one Liberal candidate for a House of Commons seat, Jason Hickey, also urged the Liberal government to adopt such a tax.

The UBC report, along with some others, speaks of “housing wealth windfalls gained by many homeowners while they sleep and watch TV.”

When there is so much smoke, it makes sense to see whether there is a fire somewhere. No one outside of government knows what the Liberal government is considering but what can be said is that such a tax is ludicrous if applied to a non-speculating home-owner. A home does not suddenly appear. It is typically the result of decades of hard work, mortgage payments, maintenance costs, taxation, and tender loving care. None of the homes we have owned came into being while we slept or watched TV.

The second key point to stress is that just because a family’s home is suddenly more valuable, does not mean that the owner gains any more income. For all people, other than landlords, rising home values generate no revenue. The sudden increase in value brings no consequences with it unless the homeowner sells. And even then, any replacement purchases will also have risen in proportionate value.

For the federal government such a tax would mean a massive new source of taxes. For us in Garden Park Tower, a home equity tax would mean that we would all pay a presumably substantial tax on the increased value of our homes. For some residents in this tower, a shocking new tax might force them to sell their apartments back to the Society and move out.

Having studied governments, including taxation policies, for decades, I have come to recognize when a government is thinking about implementing a new tax, it typically engages third parties to fly what is called “a taxation kite.” It can thus generate some public response without revealing any intentions.

I have looked at this “taxation kite” and because I consider a home equity tax to be inherently unfair if applied to the average homeowner, I shall send copies of this editorial to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of National Revenue, and urge them to stop funding research into a home equity tax and rather concentrate on pursuing nobler goals, such as frugality and efficiency. Our own Member of Parliament will get a courtesy copy!

John H. Redekop

“We didn't lose the game; we just ran out of time.”
Coach Vince Lombardy

Advice to a diabetic: “Seconds count, especially desserts.”
Quoted

Guest Column *Editor's Note.* This newsletter does not endorse any particular product or service, other than those offered by the Clearbrook Golden Age Society. Even so, it can happen that a news story, even if dealing with a specific commercial product, raises sufficient interest to warrant presentation here. An interesting report was forwarded to the editor. It is summarized below.

WD-40

The product widely known as WD-40 was developed in 1953 by three scientists in San Diego, California. They had been contracted by the San Diego Chemical Company to develop a product to protect missile parts against rust. The three scientists eventually reported that their 40th formula turned out to be successful. The letters WD were selected as part of the name as short for Water Displacement and 40 was chosen because it was their 40th concoction that was successful.

Ken East, one of the inventors, has emphasized that there is nothing in WD-40 which injures, hurts, or has any negative effect on skin. WD-40 won't hurt a person unless one is stupid enough to rub it into one's eyes or tries to swallow it. According to the news story, WD-40 can be useful in many situations.

*It is helpful in removing paint sprayed on almost any surface including a painted surface, even on a vehicle.

*It protects silver from tarnishing.

*It removes road tar and grease from vehicles.

*It cleans and lubricates instrument strings.

*It gives floors that "just waxed" sheen without making floors slippery.

*It keeps flies away from animals and any surfaces.

*It removes lipstick stains.

*It loosens stubborn zippers.

*It helps untangle jewelry chains.

*It removes stain from stainless steel sinks and other stainless steel surfaces.

*It removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.

*It keeps both ceramic and terra cotta pots from oxidizing.

*It removes tomato stains from clothing.

*It keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.

*It keeps scissors working smoothly.

*It removes black scuff marks from floors.

*It lubricates window tracks and enables them to slide easily.

*It cleans and restores leather dashboards in cars and

other leather surfaces.

*It keeps rust from forming on saw blades and other tools.

*It removes splattered grease from stove tops.

*It keeps bathroom mirrors from fogging.

*It works well in lubricating prosthetic limbs.

*It removes adhesive when duct or other tapes are removed, whether from skin or other surfaces.

*Some people have reported that it takes away the sting of fire fly bites.

*It removes crayon marks from walls.

*Interestingly, New York reportedly sprays WD-40 on the Statue of Liberty to keep the pigeons away.

Health Hints

This is the season for rhubarb. For some folk it is akin to a weed, an unattractive plant whose leaves contain toxic oxalic acid. [One would have to eat about three pounds to be very sick]. For others, it is a truly delectable delicacy. Now some health experts have spoken.

We are told that rhubarb:

*increases the level of good cholesterol.

*contains high levels of "Vitamin K which play a significant role in brain health and prevention of Alzheimer's disease."

*has high levels of calcium, minerals and other vitamins that "can stimulate bone growth and help with repair and protection."

*has many antioxidant vitamins and minerals that can help to delay skin-aging.

My mother taught us to enjoy it. I still do. *JHR*

Did You Know? According to the latest available reports, smoking tobacco remains the leading preventable cause of death in Canada, and, indeed, worldwide. It kills "seven million annually, including 45,000 Canadians. This is more deaths, (for Canadians) than those caused by alcohol, drugs, car accidents, murder, suicide, and AIDS combined." Instead of concentrating on making border crossing difficult when there's almost no risk to anyone's health, and instead of harassing trans-border truck drivers who were generally not ill and did not cause illness, let the government rather focus on this continuing, deadly, and preventable scourge. Fortunately, much progress has been made but much remains to be done.

"If the devil reminds you about your past, just remind him about his future." *Quoted*

A failing businessman to a banker, "I just want to borrow enough to get out of debt." *Quoted*