



Garden Park Tower Newsletter

March 2021

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Chairman's Report

Thoughts at Easter

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest." [NKJV]

This is the message that the crowd shouted as Jesus was entering Jerusalem. This year this special event is celebrated on March 28 as Palm Sunday. This special event is the beginning of the Easter week when we observe the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and this is followed by the crucifixion on Good Friday and the victorious resurrection on Easter Sunday. Lent is observed for 40 days before Easter and this is to prepare us for that special event. May each of us think about the result of Christ's suffering and resurrection in our personal lives and the impact this event has had on world affairs.

Housekeeping notes for Garden Park residents.

1. The corona virus is still with us and we still need to wear masks, keep our distance, wash our hands and use the sanitizers. Every effort is being made to have a vaccination station at GPT. This is scheduled to happen early in March.
2. Note the following about the vehicle entry gate in parkade level 1. To provide security for all the residents, it is important to remain at the gate until it closes. When you are leaving, it is not necessary to wait if another vehicle is behind you. When you are entering and another vehicle is behind you, you should wait until the gate starts to lower and the one behind you can then press the button to open the gate. Be patient and considerate.
3. Control the elevator doors correctly. The screen that prevents a person from being squeezed by the door was damaged and this is caused when the door is held open by a person standing in the door opening. If a person needs extra time to exit or enter, press the open button, but please do not hold the door open to have a discussion.
4. Residents Council and the Society Board are preparing for their respective AGMs. A major concern is that the Nominating Committees have not been able to fill the vacant positions with names for the upcoming Annual General Meetings, which will again be held virtually. It is very important that residents step forward to serve on these positions as there are only two options; we carry out these activities ourselves or we hire a management company. If a management company is employed to operate the facility, that does two things: it takes away from us much of the control of how we wish to operate and, second, the cost would increase significantly because more staff are employed. Please consider your involvement. If you are able to help, please contact Nadia in #201. A big thank you to the people who have served and are serving on the Council and the Board at the present time. Longer days and warmer weather are approaching, so enjoy this time of year as we enter the beautiful springtime.

John Friesen

"To educate a man in mind but not morals is to educate a menace to the community."

US President Theodore Roosevelt

"A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery while driving on a detour."

Quoted

"A pessimist is a person who looks at the land of milk and honey and sees only calories and cholesterol." *Quoted*

Snow-sculpting in Harbin, China



Government Thrift

It is often said that we seniors should be willing to step aside and let the next generation take over. There is surely some merit in this view but, as it happens, we are not asked to step aside when it comes to paying income tax. I was reminded of this reality when I recently came across two relevant news stories. Each describes an event that happened about five years ago but the morale of the story is still apt.

According to a press report by the Scripps Howard News Service, President Barak Obama travelled to London in style to attend a G-20 summit meeting. It may be hard to believe but according to this report "he brought with him 500 staff members including 200 secret service agents, six physicians, the White House chef and kitchen staff, numerous personal assistants, and four speech writers. Additionally there were drivers for the 35 vehicles which he brought with him. He also brought the Presidential Helicopter." Apparently, frugality means something quite different for prominent politicians living off the taxpayer's dollar than it does for common folk.

Surely, Canadian politicians are much more frugal! One would hope that's the case but in Ottawa, it turns out, frugality also takes on a distinctive meaning. According to a report carried by the Rebel News Media, the Hon. Catherine McKenna, then Prime Minister Trudeau's Environment Minister, was, shall we say, somewhat more modest in her expenditures but only somewhat. When she travelled to a United Nations Global Warming Conference held in Katowice, Poland, she took with her an entourage of 126 people. Perhaps, as we will soon pay our taxes, we should be grateful the number was not greater.

JHR

Charles Francis Adams, the 18th Century political figure and diplomat, kept a diary. One day he entered: "Went fishing with my son today – a day wasted." His son, Brook Adams, also kept a diary which is still in existence. On that same day Brook Adams made this entry: "Went fishing with my father – the most wonderful day of my life." *Quoted in Gideon News.*

Reverend to his congregation:
"We have good news and bad news.
The bad news is that the roof needs repairing. The good news is that we have the money to pay for it."
(appreciative murmurs all round)
Reverend: "The extra bad news is that it's still in your pockets!"

Editorial

Dangerous Challenge to Freedom

In his excellent book entitled *Christ Among Other Gods*, author Erwin Lutzer makes one of the most insightful statements I have recently read or heard. He states that " We have moved from the conviction that everyone has a right to his own opinion to the notion that every opinion is equally right." (page 30) Equally profound is his related statement that the new tolerance "includes every point of view except those points of view that do not include every point of view." (page 29)



This new tolerance which tends to denigrate any point of view which holds that some values are much better than others must be opposed for what it is, namely, an assault on true freedom. Increasingly in modern society those of us who hold to some moral values and reject others are labelled as intolerant. To differ from some widely affirmed moral stance is now often denounced as bigotry or worse.

Consider the following. Opinion polls tell us that most Canadians now support same-sex marriage, a peculiar spousal relationship which, as we know, has been legalized in Canada. Should this mean that anyone who believes that same-sex marriage is not good for society should not be allowed to express such views? According to any reasonable definition of freedom the response must be "Of course not! In a free society dissenting views have full place." But in the new view of freedom increasingly promoted in education, politics, the media, and entertainment, such a differing view has no place. Freedom is granted only to those who conform.

Similarly, take the case of support for abortion. Canada is the only developed democracy in the world where there is no legal limit placed on abortion. Many of us, while acknowledging the case for abortion in certain situations, generally oppose such taking of life. But to make a such a statement in public today risks being denounced as intolerant, anti-feminist, or worse. One finds virtually no place for reasoned discourse about this massive genocide of the very young. Even in the Canadian Parliament no discussion of abortion is permitted. Even Conservative Party leaders won't allow it. So great is their fear of the new intolerance.

The situation involving the still relatively new education curriculum called SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) is similar. Some of us, presumably most of us if parents truly understood what is being taught, disagree with the SOGI tenet that even in kindergarten and grade 1, children shall "pretend that they had two moms or two dads" and shall draw a picture of themselves having "two moms or dads". For such young children this teaching is confusing at best and devastating at worst.

I, for one, along with many others also disagree deeply with the SOGI insistence that if a child in elementary or high school decides to live as a person of the opposite sex, "school personnel should not disclose" this development to other "students, parents" or anyone else. I think that parents have a right to know. This has nothing to do with bullying, opposition to which is touted as the great justification for the entire SOGI agenda.

This is intolerance! It is also a not very subtle teaching of the homosexual agenda. I think that parents have a right to know and I also think that I have a right to object to such abuse of children. I have the right to do so without being called homophobic, Neanderthal, or bigoted.

The tide is running against honest and true tolerance and freedom. Intolerance, loudly championed in the name of tolerance, is becoming the norm. Canadians need to challenge this growing intolerance. It is intrinsically wrong.

We need to denounce it for the evil that it is. We also need to challenge it before it turns its wrath against people who hold to a religious faith that differs from majority beliefs.

John H. Redekop

Beware of Scams

Two important items about current scams have been brought to our attention. The first is that if you get a phone call from an 800 number or during which you are asked to call an 800 number, you are being subjected to a scam. A regular business informing you of any problem with your account or any other matter pertaining to you will not use an 800 number. Hang up and if you got the number or any other relevant information, then contact infor@phonebusters.com to report the fraud. That agency deals with scams.

Second, you may get a call from a 304 area code. Perhaps this criminal outfit will also use some other area code. In any case, the first words you are likely to hear are "Can you hear me?" The caller wants you to answer with a Yes. That Yes is then slated to be put together with a false order and you may end up being charged for some major purchases.

One lady, who had fortunately been warned of this scam, reported her conversation in such a situation.

Caller: "Can you hear me?"

Lady: "I hear you."

Caller: "I just need a yes or no."

Lady: "I hear you."

Caller: hangs up

"How a man plays a game shows something of his character. How he loses a game shows all of his character." *Quoted*

"Talent is God-given, be humble. Fame is man-given, be thankful. Pride is self-given, be careful." *Quoted*

Guest Column *Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from an article written a year ago by a very influential American. It is still relevant.*

Lessons from COVID

What is the Corona/COVID-19 virus really doing to us?

* It is reminding us that we are all equal, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are. This disease treats us all equally.

* It is reminding us of the shortness of life and of what is most important for us to do, which is to help each other, especially those who are old or sick.

* It is reminding us of how materialistic our society has become and how, when in times of difficulty, it is the essentials that we need: food, water, medicine, as opposed to the luxuries that we sometimes consider to be essentials.

* It is reminding us of how important our family is and how much we have neglected our family. It is forcing us back into our houses and apartments so we can rebuild them into our homes and to strengthen our family units.

* It is reminding us that our true work is not our job. Our true work is to look after each other and to be of benefit to one another.

* It is reminding us to keep our egos in check. No matter how great we think we are or how great others think we are, a virus can bring our world to a standstill.

* It is reminding us that the power of free will is in our hands. We can choose to cooperate and help each other, to share, to give, to help and to support each other or we can be selfish and hoard, looking after

Did You Know? The following recent development reveals how drastically long-standing societal values are being cast aside in Canada. A medical student, a Coptic Christian, was attending the University of Manitoba. His name is Rafael Zaki. In a Facebook comment he happened to say that that he was pro-life and not in favour of abortion. The Faculty of Medicine heard of this Facebook posting. Because he holds this view, a view still held by almost half of the Canadian population, he was expelled from the Faculty of Medicine. The reason given for his expulsion was his "non-academic misconduct". His case is being taken to court with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada asking to be a supporting intervener.

only ourselves.

It is difficulties that bring out our true colors.

* It is reminding us that we can be patient or we can panic. We can remember that such situations have happened before and will pass. If we see this as the end of the world we cause ourselves more harm than good.

* It is reminding us that this can be a time of reflection, a time when we learn from our mistakes.

* It is reminding us that this earth is sick. It is reminding us that we need to look at what we have done to the earth. We are sick because our home is sick.

* It is reminding us that we are all connected and something that affects one person has an effect on another.

* It is reminding us that the borders we have created have little value as the virus does not need a passport. It is reminding us, by oppressing us for a short time, of those in this world whose life is spent in oppression.

Bill Gates, March 2020

FROM THE KITCHEN

As Winter winds down and Spring is on the horizon, exciting changes are coming!

Pick up March's Rose Room Menu and look for new additions, such as Chicken Noodle Soup and Lemon Pie every month. Also Rollkuchen will be served on Tuesday, March 2nd and Easter Paska on March 25th. Minor price adjustments on a few items will also be introduced, such as coffee being reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.50. We would love to welcome you to our Café.

Remember to stay safe and keep well!

Fred Hall

Health Hints Editor's Note:

(Adapted from an Information Bulletin circulated by the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC.)
Do not drink water kept in a plastic bottle if it has been left in a car where it would get quite warm or anywhere else where the plastic bottle would be heated. The heat reacts with the chemicals in the plastic which in some or even most cases releases toxin into the water. Such toxin is increasingly found in cancer tissue, especially in breast cancers. If there is a possibility that water in a bottle will be heated, then use only a glass bottle or a stainless-steel canteen.

