



Welcome News



Brockville ON, December 2016

613-345-2412

www.swcbrockville.ca

President's Message



We started the wind down of this semester with a wonderful Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings at the Brockville Legion. Many thanks to our Board's Social Convener, Debby Greffe and Office Manager, Marian Rafferty and many other "volunteer elves" for tending to a host of details to make it such a success. The atmosphere was so festive that we have already booked the Legion for next year's dinner. Rod McAvoy, our volunteer choir master, and the SWC Women's Chorus opened the event with a variety of music; one number enhanced with sunshine, palm trees, and rum! What a treat. They have worked hard throughout the year and it showed.

I know from the classes I have taken at SWC that participants often express their appreciation to the volunteer leaders who helped them learn a new skill or who generally took on some responsibility for a course or activity. However, the Board, too, wishes to say a big thank you for the time and energy you devoted to this organization again this Fall. The uniqueness of SWC lies in the fact that everyone involved in any position of leadership is a volunteer. It is through their efforts, and through an annual donation from the Shepherd's Centre Foundation, that this program remains affordable for all SWC members. (cont'd)

President's Message (cont'd)

The Board closed this semester by accepting the carefully researched and written report from its sub-committee regarding whether or not we should change or retain the SWC name.

The initial questions and concerns regarding our name came from SWC participants. We determined from the beginning that our response also had to be participant driven. So, a big thank you to everyone who took the time to attend discussion groups, send emails and to respond to surveys regarding this subject.

We particularly commend Gail Hanton, Past President of the SWC Board and Chair of the sub-committee for the leadership she provided during this process. We are going to miss Gail now that she has stepped down from the Board after many years of service. In the end, the Board voted in December's Board meeting to change the name of SWC based on the sub-committee's recommendations. (Tony will elaborate further in this newsletter.)

So, following that exciting news, I wrap up this year with a **Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2017 from the SWC Board.**

Cheryl Nix



Winter/Spring Registration

Mark your calendars now!

Date: **Thursday**, January 5

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Place: **Brockville Legion on Park Street**

Fee: \$25

Please note the change to **Thursday** from the traditional Wednesday. Also, we will be again returning to the Brockville Legion on Park Street for our Open House and Registration event. We used the Legion for our Fall semester registration and the venue was very well received, the ample parking spaces in particular.

The Registration Process

Since this will be the last newsletter issued before the January 5 registration date, we are taking the opportunity to quickly review the steps in the registration process. We realize this may be old hat to most of you, but a reminder may be welcome and of value to others.

On Thursday January 5 at the Legion Hall:

Participants will

- fill out registration forms and waivers
- sign up with the leader of their chosen classes,
- obtain leaders' initials on the form,
- pay \$25. (by cash or cheque) for the Winter-Spring 2017 semester at the payment table.

Registration forms will be available by email or on the SWC website for participants to fill out beforehand. However, there is NO Preregistration neither on-line nor in person. A person may register for a friend at the Open House if that person is unable to be there.

As usual, there will be refreshments available for those who wish to take the time to catch up with friends.

Also, it is planned to open the SWC office for registrations on Friday, January 6 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. And registrations will continue during regular office hours, 10 to 12 noon, Monday through Thursday, throughout the month of January 2017.

Christmas Dinner

As Cheryl Nix noted in her president's message, our annual Christmas Dinner, held at the Brockville Legion on December 7, was a big success. Close to 110 participants and guests enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner with all the trimmings catered by Cindy Croteau

Many thanks again to Debby Greffe and Marian Rafferty for their hard work in organizing this annual event.

For your information, in order to keep the price of the dinner at an affordable level for all, the SWC were again happy to subsidize the cost of the event, this year by almost \$900.

Below is a photo of the SWC Women's Chorus in full voice at the Legion. They, under the direction of Rod McAvoy, were a big hit with their rendering of seasonal songs before dinner.



Photo by Debby Greffe

For a gallery of other photos taken by Debby at the dinner, please check our website www.swcbrockville.ca

Course News and Updates

Our Activities' Director Bill Carlyle, with the assistance of Office Manager Marian Rafferty, is busy pulling together a program of activities for the upcoming semester. Things are in a state of flux at the moment, but we can share some of the significant features.

We are happy that the majority of our first semester programs will be returning, with some deletions and some additions.

As of Press Time:

Not returning

- Astronomy I and II (Fred Wagner)
- Badminton¹ (Greg MacDonald)
- Community of Song² (Rod McAvoy)
- Music Notation (Peri Howlett)

1: (Weds class only) 2: Women's Chorus continuing

Possible Additions:

- Computers

Attempting to Recruit:

- A French Instructor

Once finalized, we will of course communicate via email and the website the finalized activity schedule for the new semester.

Board News

Name Change Update

As she outlined in her president's message, Cheryl Nix gave the detailed background and careful consideration that led the board at their December 5 regular meeting to vote by a majority to proceed with the next steps in implementing a change in name from the current *The Shepherd's Welcome Centre*.

The next step in the process is to select a new name, one that will more accurately reflect the nature of our organization, which is basically an activity centre, open to all those 50 years old and over.

With extensive input from directors, leaders, and participants, the special subcommittee

under Gail Hanton's leadership, has proposed a number of choices for such a name. The board will deliberate on these, agree on a choice of name and proceed from there.

The board hopes to conclude this process as early as possible in the new year. We will keep you posted on developments.

Winter Is Back!

Please remember to remove your winter footwear just inside the church door. Either put them under the coat rack or to be safe put them in a plastic bag and take them to the room where your activity takes place.

Besides the mess they leave for someone to clean up, **a wet tile floor can be a slippery floor** and we don't want anyone needlessly falling.

SWC winter cancellations

If the school buses are cancelled then all SWC activities at Wall Street United Church are also cancelled for the day. Your leader will advise re cancellations if any at other class locations.

You can find information re bus cancellations on the local radio station, call 1-800-629-0629, check the SWC website www.swcbrockville.ca or by going directly to www.steo.ca

Reminders & Useful Information

- Email: swcadmin@myhighspeed.ca
- Phone number and website address may be found in the newsletter banner above
- Office location: Take the elevator to the third floor, turn left
- Office hours 10:00 – 12 noon, Mon. – Thurs. (except during June, July and August).
- **The SWC office will be closed Tuesday, December 19 through Thursday, January 5.**
- SWC leases space from Wall St. Church and is a separate organization. Please take all questions and concerns to the SWC office.
- Wall St. United Church is a scent-free facility.

Newsletter Editor: Tony Dunbar