

Elim Village Voice

A newsletter by the residents and for the residents of Elim Village —
a Christian retirement community

December 2009

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Students and Seniors Share Dynamic Moments

Elim is about more than what happens inside the village. Last month Elim residents had two wonderful and rewarding opportunities for interaction with both neighbouring schools.

A quiet buzz filled the lower lounge in the Emerald on the afternoon of November 3 as 18 grade one students from Surrey Christian School came for some reading practice with 16 Elim residents. Each student was matched up with a senior. Some pairs were so absorbed in their books, the world could have caved in without them noticing. Other pairs established such a quick rapport, it was as if students were reading to their very own grandparents. Still other residents reversed the roles and got the students "teaching" them how to read.

With each student having the equivalent of a private tutor, the class collectively got more reading practice in one hour than in a few days of school. Both the students and the residents hope the reading buddy visits will turn into a monthly event.



The following week 25 residents from various buildings at Elim went over to the Woodland Park Elementary School across the street and joined the students there for their Remembrance Day assembly. Staff and students put significant time and energy into the program every year and Elim residents feel honored to be invited to attend.

All those residents who participated in these two inter-generational events felt the rewards of having shared purposeful time with the students next door and helped stretch the borders of Elim Village beyond its geographical boundaries.



Got a Pen? Here's the Challenge...

In January one of the grade three classes from Surrey Christian School will be exchanging letters with Elim's creative writing class. About 12 more letter writers from Elim are still needed for this venture. It involves exchanging two or three short letters with a grade three student. Then the class and all the Elim penpals meet one morning in the Oasis to chat, eat cookies and make a scrapbook from all the letters.

Last year this project was a huge success. If you would like more detail or would like to join the mid-winter adventure, contact Maria at 604-581-1749 by December 15.

Check It Out

To see more pictures taken recently at Elim, click the "Photo Stories" button online:

ElimVillage.ca

"Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, so they camped there by the waters." Exodus 15:27 (NKJ)

Garden Kick-start

The Abbotsford Male Chorus heard about the resident initiated plans to provide therapeutic gardens for the Harrison, so the choir asked that the free will offering from its concert at Elim on November 7 be donated toward the project. After some minimal expenses were paid, \$1,106.78 went to the fund designated for the gardens. A sincere "thank you" from the residents of Elim to the choir for giving a wonderful kick-start to the therapeutic garden fund.

The resident Garden Committee would like to report that the cost of the gardens will be approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000. The official fund-raising will start at the end of January but if you wish to make a donation before the end of year, write your cheque to the Elim Foundation and clearly designate it for the therapeutic garden fund. Tax receipts will be issued for any donation over \$10.

Wanted: Oliebollen

The Newsletter Team has booked the Oasis for the annual village-wide New Year's Eve celebration. This year we'd like *oliebollen* (European doughnuts with no holes, no sugar... sort of). If you would like to donate some, or even better yet, if you could make some hot-on-the-spot on the patio, talk to the Newsletter Team.

Although different segments of the village hold smaller parties that better suit the needs and the time of their respective residents, the drop-in party in the auditorium is open to everyone in the village, and to all friends and supporters of Elim. The party will run from 9 p.m. to midnight or till everyone falls asleep. It moves from fun and fluff early in the evening to praise and prayer toward midnight, with lots of interesting stuff in between. Watch the bulletin boards for more detail.

Meanwhile, we're on the prowl for *oliebollen*...

In Short ...

Thank you!

Did you know that on Tuesday mornings in the Bowron there is a coffee social open to everyone? Grace DeVries of the North Duplexes has been hostess for eight years and does all the baking. She charges only a quarter for a cup of coffee, but most people gladly donate more. Grace recently donated \$200 from the proceeds for a much needed utility cart for the Oasis. To Grace, her helpers and her faithful clients – Thank you!

Residents' Council

The quickest way to find out what happens at the monthly meetings is to ask for copies of the minutes from the chairman.

Upcoming Events In the Oasis

Craft Sale

Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m – 3 p.m

Christmas Concert with

Gillian Gjernes & Dennis Enns.
Sunday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

Salvation Army Concert

Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.

New Year's Eve Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 31 at 9 p.m.

"Group of Seven"



These women transformed the cold, stark, dank tunnel into an oasis of cheer. We say no more. See for yourself.

News From Elim Housing Society

Recently the rains stopped for awhile and we could do some of the work in the center area of the village. We hope to do more when the weather permits.

The Health and Wellness Program has been piloted this year and we are still in discussion as to what this program may look like in the coming year. Many have spoken up in favour of continuing the program and great appreciation has been received for the work of our parish nurse, Sharon Leng.

The BC Government and Service Employees Union has been certified to represent the employees of the Elim Christian Care Society. This is a new challenge for our society as we continue to provide Christian care to residents in the Emerald and Harrison buildings. We pray that we will be able work with the union in carrying out the mission of EHS.

In Loving Memory

Bowron:

Irene Ricord (1923-2009)

Harrison:

Anthony Klowaty (1919-2009)

Olive McKenzie (1921-2009)

Margaret Poole (1917-2009)