

The Elm Park Jack Newsletter – December edition



A Christmas wish

*'Twas a month before Christmas and at the indoor club,
not a bowl had been delivered, not even in fun.
The protocols had been followed but a lockdown ensued
in the hopes that proper measures might lessen the news.
The bowlers became edgy with so little to do,
while visions of perfect ends gone wanting kept them up at night, too.*

Well, maybe it's not as bad as all that but there is little doubt that restrictions put in place this year because of the coronavirus pandemic has had an impact, for good and bad, in all of our lives.

Still, with the Christmas season quickly approaching, we should consider how very fortunate we are, all things considered.

We are well housed, kept fed, warmly clothed and relatively safe, for the most part, from the awful scourge that plagues every corner of the globe.

There is a lot to be thankful for, not the least of which is knowing that we are in a much more secure place than that of so many others.

So much so, that having to endure the next number of months, or perhaps as much as another year, of whatever perils will befall our community, is far less than what those less fortunate among us will no doubt have to undergo.

So, without the opportunity to be with all of our loved ones this holiday season, perhaps this is our moment to look past ourselves, or our small circle, and choose a new and different way to make that spirit of Christmas in you something lasting in our community.



A Kerrisdale bowls club wish

What if we all went to bed on Christmas Eve and awoke the next day to find that the Kerrisdale Lawn Bowling Club had a healthy and robust membership.

Seems an impossible dream, doesn't it? But what if, laying hidden beneath the club's collective Christmas tree were so many unopened presents, in each concealed the names of scores of new and enthusiastic individuals just waiting to be turned onto the sport of bowls.



“Where is this fairy tale going?” You may ask.

To be truthful, I'm not quite sure. But what I believe is, everyone of us, myself included, is capable of more than what we have so far attempted to accomplish as club members.

Somewhere, in every one of our broader circles of acquaintances, there is possibly someone, who would be receptive to an invitation of, “Come and give this game of lawn bowls a go.”

So with this in mind, after the torn Christmas wrappings have all been recycled and you're finally able to relax by the fire with a Yule tide toddy, make a New Year's promise to yourself to find that certain someone. The club, no doubt, would be grateful.

Former club champ passes on

Kerrisdale lost another of its former club members.

Howard Turpin, a former Kerrisdale men's singles champion in 2000, passed away on Nov. 5 at the age of 91.

Howard and his wife Marilyn were both solid contributors to the club before moving to Victoria on Vancouver Island in 2004.

For those that knew him, I would like to offer Howard's obituary that ran in the *Times Colonist* newspaper last month:

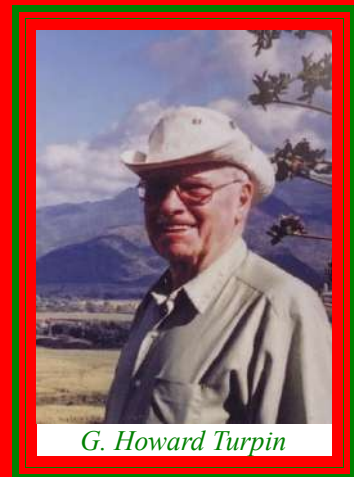
Howard passed away at the age of 91 in Victoria. He was predeceased by his brother Hartley. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Marilyn, his four children, David (Suromitra), John, Bruce (Bobbi) and Diane, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Howard's varied and fulfilling life was manifest by living his core values. He valued people for who they were and not the position they occupied. This was reflected in his diverse career path. He served the United Church ministry in Shawnigan Lake, Esquimalt and Calgary. Returning to his home town of Vancouver he established several successful businesses. One he was most proud of was providing professional development programs for the unemployed. He then went on to a career in education as a department head at Vancouver Community College, King Edward Campus.

Howard was a jack of all trades. If something broke he could fix it. He enjoyed carpentry and repairing mechanical and electrical devices. He never threw anything out. This led to an eclectic collection of hammers, saws, coffin plaques, electrical paraphernalia and other stuff, all of which was carefully sorted and labeled.

He loved his boats and time on the water exploring the Gulf Islands with his family. He and Marilyn enjoyed traveling the world. Upon returning from each trip Howard would create a beautiful album of images and text documenting each adventure. Recalling these stories animated a lifetime of laughter with friends and family. He loved model railroading for the solitude and lawn bowling for the friends he made. Howard was committed to giving back. He volunteered with a plethora of community organizations from addiction services to the support for seniors and youth.

For those who wish, a donation in Howard's memory to a community group of your choice would be appreciated.



G. Howard Turpin