

# The Gallimaufry

**August 2020 - A "let's stay connected" series. Vol. 5**

A Sunset Celebration on our north lawn ... see p. 6

 Conrad Guelke



**Thank you for coming together in support of Brock House Society**  
**The online auction raised \$14,000.00!**



**We took this photo in  
Pacific Spirt Park a few  
weeks ago and are sharing  
now in celebration of the  
BC Day Weekend.**

***-Lisa & Doug Smith***

**Where Seniors Stay** *Young*

Brock House Society - 3875 Point Grey Rd, Vancouver BC V6R 1B3 - [BrockHouseSociety.com](http://BrockHouseSociety.com)

[BrockHouseGallimaufry@gmail.com](mailto:BrockHouseGallimaufry@gmail.com)







*Under the Distinguished Patronage of Her Honour,  
The Honorable Janet Austin, OBC,  
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia*

July 24th, 2020

### **Letter from Brock House's New President - Carl Jonsson**

I have had the honour of being appointed President of Brock House Society effective July 10th, 2020 - replacing Peter Phillips. Peter's 2 year term would normally have ended in the Spring as of our AGM. However, as we did not have the AGM when expected, we asked Peter to stay in office for a few extra months. He will be continuing as a Director, as Past President and as a member of the Executive Committee. I very much look forward to Peter's continuing on our Board and contributing his expertise and experience. With his becoming Past President, BevAnn Lister Dean's position as Past President terminated.

Some other Board and Officer changes have occurred recently as a result of resignations, being:

- Bryan Phenix has been appointed Director, Performing Arts replacing Brenda Clark.
- Sheila Resels has been appointed Director, Membership and 2nd Vice President replacing Jo Pleshakov.
- Conrad Guelke has been appointed 1st Vice President
- Michael Le Bas resigned as Director, Marketing, Communications and Outreach.

I want to particularly thank the Directors who have resigned this year and BevAnn Lister Dean for their many years of dedicated service to Brock House.

As was announced in a recent weekly UPdate, Martin Addison resigned as our Administrator effective July 3rd, 2020. Our Administrative Assistant, Yolanda Bonkowski, has been appointed Acting Administrator while our Board of Directors completes an assessment of the ongoing functions and structure of the Board and Management.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Annual General Meeting of BHS Members - which would normally have been in March - was delayed until a decision could be made as to how to hold the AGM to make participation by the maximum number of Members possible. We have now scheduled the AGM for September 9th. Assuming that gatherings are still limited to a maximum of 50 people, we are considering the possibility of having a limited number of members participate in the Meeting at Brock House with appropriate spacing with other Members participating on Zoom. When plans are finalized an appropriate Notice of Meeting will be sent out.

As you will have noticed, some of our volunteers and House staff have activated a few programs and the Library has been reopened - with appropriate restrictions as to spacing and other precautions against the pandemic. It is our fervent wish that programs - and fun for our Members - will continue without anyone becoming ill. As you have all been advised repeatedly, please wash your hands often, observe physical distancing and wear a mask when you are in the House and unable to maintain 2 meter spacing.

I was initially appointed to Brock House Board and as 1st Vice President in early 2019. I have very much enjoyed my involvement since then. I have been very impressed with the dedication of the large numbers of volunteers who are involved on the Board and in our many Committees and activities. I am very much looking forward to my new role as your President.

Sincerely,

Carl Jonsson  
President

# Climate Change

By Beverly Grice

This is a painting that I did after we came home from our trip on the Island Roamer sailboat up in Haida Gwaii. I was intrigued with the notion that this group of islands was never under ice during the last ice age and that Hecate Strait used to be grasslands. This climate change event has been going on for a very long time. However, below is the lighthouse that is currently on the Pacific side of Langara Island that is at the northern entrance of Hecate Strait. I titled it Climate Change because it shows what has been done recently to adapt.

Why is there a white section on the rocks below the lighthouse? This is the former location for the lighthouse but they moved it 60 feet higher. Climate change is already causing higher water levels. The higher point of view is now necessary because the lighthouse was so obscured by the waves during storms that it no longer worked for mariners.



This painting is currently hanging at Image West Hair Salon on W. Broadway.

## The Brock House Discussion Group



The Brock House Discussion Group consists of a group of friends who, in pre-pandemic times, met once a week to discuss a range of topics chosen by vote from a list of suggestions. For several years the Group has been organised and chaired by Ingrid Hanslo.

Like so many other BHS activities, the Group was essentially shut down by the pandemic. However, 16 of us have continued to participate using a simple online strategy of email with the "Reply-to-All" option. This has worked remarkably well. A record of each one-week discussion is maintained as a cut-and-paste WORD file. A list of recent topics illustrates the wide variety of the discussions.

What is the most important thing you learned at school?

Should scientists be allowed to alter genes in humans?

What do you think of Universal basic income?

What sort of world will we have if and when this pandemic ends?

What role does literature play in our lives?.

The members of the Group represent a wide range of life experiences, and this allows us to learn from one another in ways that are sometimes surprising. Of course we all miss the face-to-face contact, and hope that it will not be too long before that is possible.

Any member of BHS is welcome to join the Group. The easiest way to contact us is to send an email to

**[diannabobboyd@gmail.com](mailto:diannabobboyd@gmail.com)**

## Limited programs at Brock House

**If you are interested in IN HOUSE PROGRAMS, please visit the newly created [IN HOUSE PROGRAMS](#) page for what's available at Brock House.**

**For continuing programs online, please visit [ONLINE PROGRAMS](#).**

For breaking info don't forget to read Yolanda's weekly email UPdates.  
They're also available on the Brock House website.

**[Weekly UPdates](#)**

## A DISTANT PAST - EPIDEMIC and MORE

By Alberta Armstrong

Today I am digging into my past regarding an epidemic I have witnessed personally. I have given this memory permission to come forward. This tells a great deal about my early childhood experiences. As you must know, children do not have any control over their world. We are dropped into a space on this planet and it is "sink or swim."

We lived 12 miles from our closest public school and were picked up by a small bus daily. Over my early childhood we had three different bus drivers. At this particular time our driver was a caring, reliable man. Little did we know how important his service was...an essential service in many ways. (This is another story).

At this school in a isolated northern community, teachers seldom stayed for more than one year. We had some of the most interesting skilled adults (teachers) arrive to fill this important role. As I look back, they seemed to be either first year teachers or ones close to retirement. This makes for certain novel conditions.

One of these older teachers with great qualifications, charming personality and good intentions was caught up in the tuberculosis, TB, crisis that hit our community. The date is likely 1950 or there about. We were often all tested. We witnessed some students taken from the class and driven off with our local Health Care Nurse. They would end up in a TB Sanitarium miles from home. At that time, I understood the cure for was rest, eat the best food and live in the sun. Yes, I always imagined beautiful sunny rooms with cheerful nurses dressed in white, handing out vitamins (COD liver oil pills). And, to set the record straight, most of the students who were infected were native. I am not comfortable admitting this but the facts are important to me.

As the epidemic slowed down we started to relax and life was almost back to normal, so we thought.

It became visible to us that our well liked senior teacher was not feeling well during his second year in our community. He often spent Easter in Mexico. When he arrived back to our community he had a dark tan. He was born in France, reminded me of the perfect French Artist with wavy black hair, moustache, lean physique and dressed with a turtleneck and jacket. He always looked fit and well kept. He is one of the most memorable teachers from my early childhood.

During his session we had the best art lessons, singing and given freedom to read and draw if we were finished our assigned work. He taught us to sing "Frère Jacques" in French with the right accent.

In the spring of his second year he became pale, coughed and short tempered. It was not a pretty picture in our classroom. School meant everything to most of us...our chance to meet, socialize and make friends. School was important to many of us and our parents.

Then to our surprise, the community health nurse came to the school, asked to have a word with our teacher. He was removed immediately with little explanation to us. He was stricken with TB and spent several months or longer in a sanitarium. It was a shock to all of us to have him depart so quickly. We all missed him and little was explained to us.

This spring, 2020, with this wild unpredictable virus haunting us, to me there is something familiar happening. The fear, a threat to our future and a helplessness that touches us all in different ways. And, a noticeable silence surrounding all of us.

*Alberta is a Brock House Life Writer.-Ed.*



## Guilty Pleasures, Part 1?

By Randy Kondo

There's nothing that brings me more comfort during stressful times than eating something sinfully sweet and, admittedly, unhealthy. I can easily make a list of these things but I'm going to focus on the **Cinnamon Bun**. And I'm not talking about those pretenders you can buy at the supermarkets or a mall food court, but rather what you find at a real bakery.

Those of us who studied at UBC were weaned on their giant cinnamon buns; I think they cost less than a buck in the 70s. A few years ago I went back for those buns and it was hit and miss. Sometimes they were available on the racks, still warm. Other times they were suffocating in cellophane, baked too early maybe? Anyway they were good (nostalgic!) but seemed a lot smaller than I remember. Or my appetite has grown.

I'm a big fan of Solly's because their bun is unfussy, not drowning in messy frosting -- and all those layers of sugary and buttery goodness.

Now I'm not saying there aren't other bakeries in Vancouver that make great cinnamon buns or similar (I'm thinking of the Cinnamon Scroll at Beaucoup). In fact we're very lucky to have a good number of wonderful bakeries in the city.

So if you lean towards indulging yourself with sweets, this is a gentle plug to go out and support local businesses. Small retailers can surely use our patronage these days.

Disclaimer: No one gave me a free bun to endorse their business although I'd have been sorely tempted...



## Sunset Celebration July 21

The music was provided by "5 DOG EARS". The band, composed of five veterans of the Vancouver music scene, plays a combination of traditional jazz standards from the 30's through the 70's. The five band members are Peter Selnar, Mel Sawyer, Glenn Rowley, Ian Leyland, and Ken Leedham.

Glenn Rowley is my younger brother and I have always been one of his biggest fans. I have been watching him play music since he was twelve years old. My mother would play the piano (mostly boogie woogie and the blues) and she would just call out the chords to Glenn and he brilliantly played along. I am so pleased that some of my fellow Brock House members were able to enjoy their music. They are five guys that just love to play. I was not at last week's event but I heard they were very popular and folks were even up dancing. We are fortunate that they have agreed to play again on the **August 11 Sunset Celebration**. I won't miss that one!

*-Patricia Brady, Director, Social Events*

## **Birthdays by Bartholomew**

### **Alexander Fleming**

#### **Born August 6**

Bacteria did not like to grow  
on a petri dish where mould did show.  
Penicillium was the name of the mould.  
That's how the story would unfold.

Alexander Fleming returned from holidaying by the sea  
to discover this anomaly.  
This powerful antibiotic would become  
the cure for infections to which humans succumb.

To produce penicillin in quantities not small,  
To Chain and Florey this challenge did fall.  
Funds were available to help them succeed  
as World War II created a need.

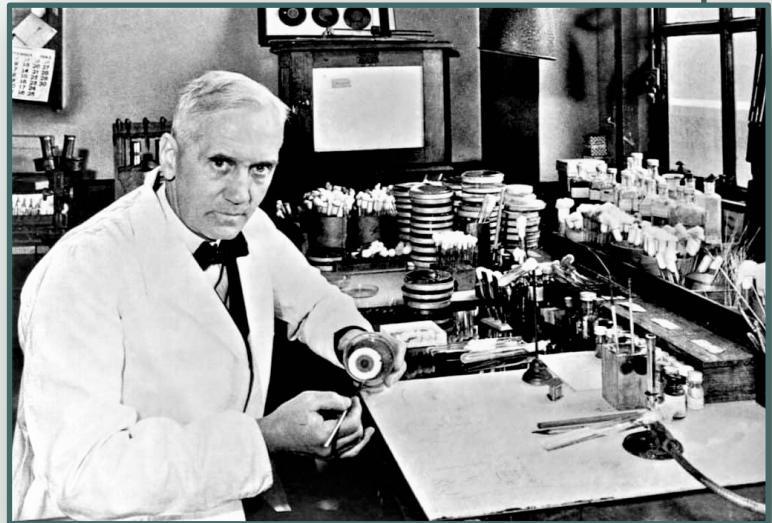
Born August sixth, eighteen eighty-one,  
Alexander Fleming was a Scottish farmer's son.  
Researching influenza was on his mind  
when he made this monumental find.

The venue of his laboratory  
was St. Mary's Hospital in London City.  
Lysozyme was an enzyme he detected  
that defends us from being infected.

He came to the lab with a common cold,  
at least that is how the story is told.  
Some nasal drip on the petri dish,  
and Lysozyme was discovered just like this.

During the First World War he served in a field hospital.  
To cure soldiers then was not possible.  
So many of them passed on too soon  
for lack of treatment for a battle wound.

Along with Florey and Ernst Chain,  
a Nobel Prize winner he became.  
Knighthood was bestowed on him,  
Sir Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin.





## Collage and more for a "World of Duplicity"

By Ian Carter

This project, which I entitled "World of Duplicity" takes the concept of collage further, by creating my own painted pieces to collage onto the piece to create a dynamic background.

I took a piece of tissue paper, and used a number 8 round brush to outline a series of squares with a variety of colors: Alizarin Crimson, bronze, Teal, Gold and carbon black.

Textured papers, stencils and stamps were used to embellish the piece with pattern.

Al la Rothko, I divided the piece into two distinct areas, the lower with a focus on red oxide, the upper with cerulean blue and white mixed.

I began building my background with my colorful painted paper and the black and white imagery, thinking of pattern, repetition, and contrast.

Then I applied the collage with matte medium and filled most of the canvas, leaving a border. The "gold" is actually bronze acrylic on tissue paper

gelled to the canvas.

I applied a coat of matte medium over the entire piece once covered with collage.

I took some masking tape and taped off some shapes, and painted in with black, and let dry.

I use interference green or gold with some stamps and textured papers to stamp in pattern, the results are glowing.

I took some titan buff mixed with cerulean blue chromium plus white for a yellow grey hue, and used an old credit card to put in negative space, and let dry.

I chose my focus or theme for my work, such as trees, and leaves. The tree is shown with underground, roots, and upperground leaves of light red and green.

I painted in my focus with titan buff and white and then add interference gold. The horizon line is a piece of patterned paper.

Then I had a glass of Talisker!







## Weeding and Reading

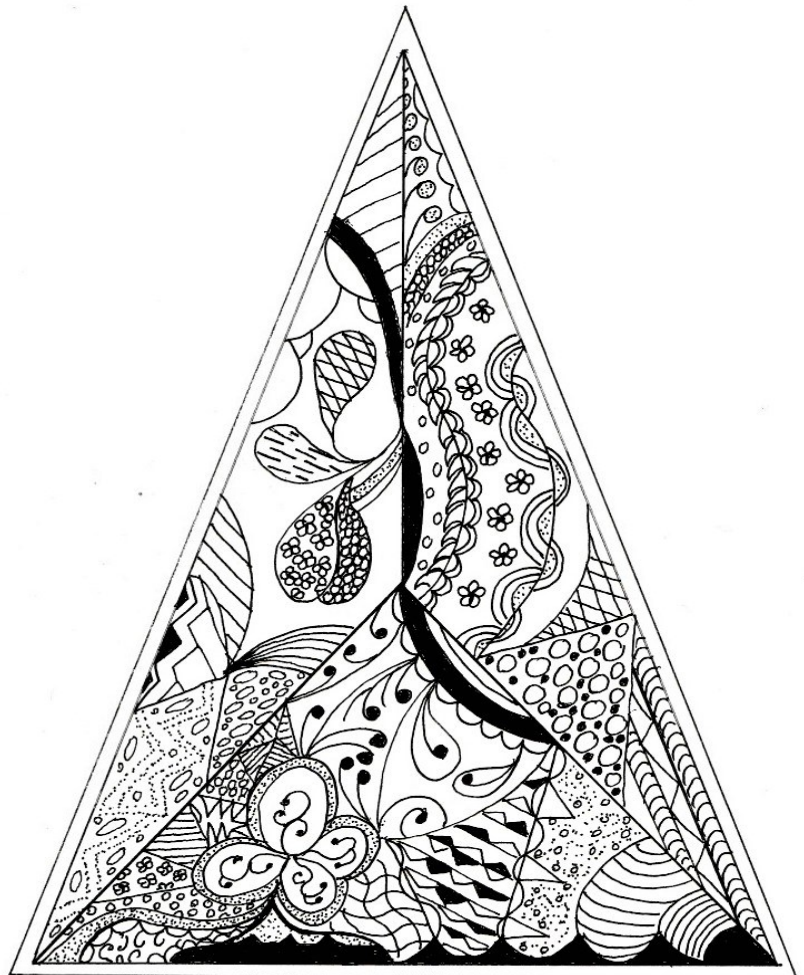
By Joan Ellis

My garden looks great but my back hurts. I'm not sure if that's the result of weeding or reading. I like to read sprawled on my bed where I can listen to my neighbours and the crows and watch the squirrels chase each other along the branches of the large trees on the boulevard. For the last couple of months I've been re-reading several of the books on my bookshelves before deciding which ones to donate. The 1217 page *Maugham's Reader* with twenty of Somerset Maugham's short stories was the first. Then I read six of Nadine Gordimer's books with complex stories on South Africa written in the 1970's and 1980's. Lastly I read my copy of the heartbreaking book *Obasan* by Joy Kogawa.

Finally the restaurants are open and I have enjoyed "Happy Hours" with close friends as we keep our distance. The "Roque" on Broadway and Ash street is a favourite partly since it's less than a block away from the "Book Warehouse". Last week I looked for Erik Larson's latest book *The Splendid and the Vile* but only hard copies at forty dollars were available. I'll wait for the paperbacks to come out and go back to my own bookshelves. I won't be weeding for a while but I can sip a glass of iced tea with a sprig of pineapple mint from my garden while I read sprawled on my bed.

## A Zentangle

By Chris Mewis



# Jericho Lands Update



Most of you will have received a copy of the Jericho Lands Community Newsletter from the City. But if the newsletter did not reach your mailbox, do not despair. Just turn on your computer and type in [shapeyourcity.ca/jericho-lands](https://shapeyourcity.ca/jericho-lands) to receive a project update, find out who the design team are, and be introduced to the cultural liaisons from the First Nations majority owners of the Lands. There is even a picture of the Jericho Lands Working Group on which I serve. Can you spot me?

The online site has a survey which I urge you to fill out. Make your opinion known on the Draft Guiding Principles for this world class project.

The Draft Guiding Principles emphasize reconciliation, respect for the land and a welcome to all cultures. They also speak of responding to the climate emergency, preserving the natural environment, connecting to the rest of the city by rapid transit, providing housing choices and creating new facilities for social connections and activities.

On this last point, you might mention in your survey response that recreational facilities will be needed for the expected influx of downsizing seniors to the Lands and that Brock House Society has more than 40 years of experience in serving seniors.

At a recent virtual meeting of the Working Group, we met several members of the design team and learned that, as expected, the COVID-19 emergency and the economic uncertainty are delaying the project. The target for approval of the Policy Statement by City Council has been pushed back from Summer 2021 to the end of 2021. Construction on the Lands is not expected to start until six years from now. The build out of the Lands is anticipated to take 20 to 30 years.

The next meeting of the Working Group will be in September. Until then, I hope everyone has a wonderful but safe summer. And don't forget to fill out the survey.

-Don Forsyth  
[donforsyth780@gmail.com](mailto:donforsyth780@gmail.com)



# Where in the Word is ...

By Parker O'Brian

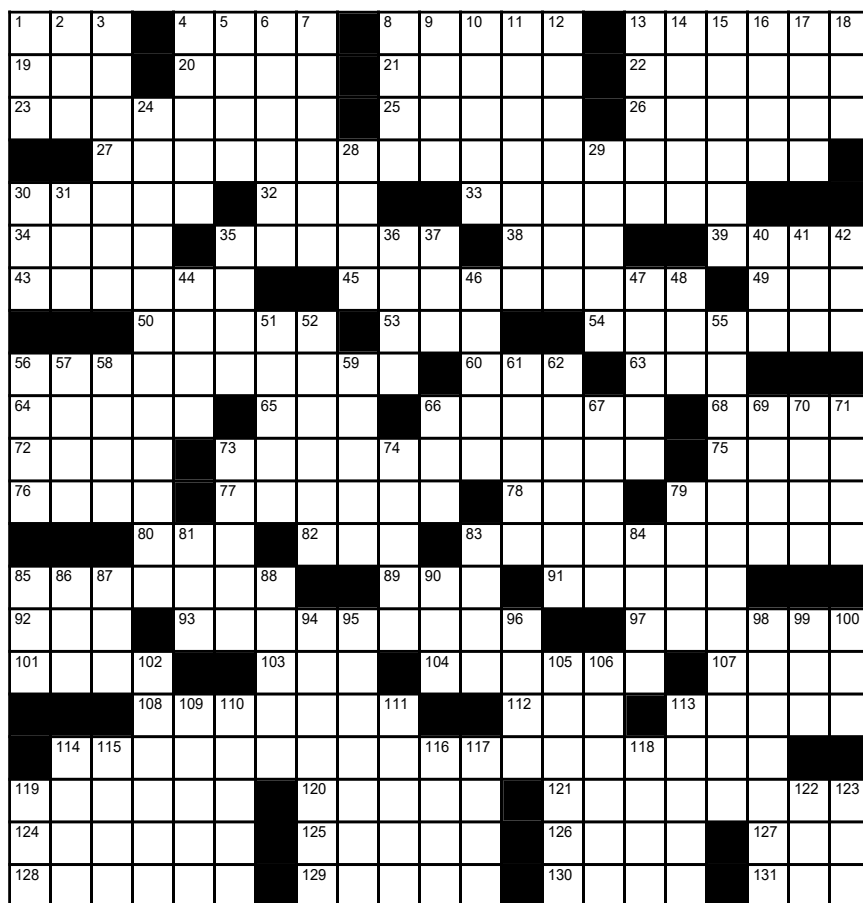
## Across

1. Pilgrimage to Mecca
4. Love, Spanish-style
8. Man of morals
13. Red shade
19. One way to go
20. Pre-euro money
21. Witchy woman
22. Playing marbles
23. Endured
25. Track specialist
26. Frequent fliers
27. ONE
30. Walk proudly
32. Plastic \_\_\_\_ Band
33. Use X-ray vision
34. Stadium section
35. On pins and needles
38. NBC staple
39. "Uh-uh"
43. Quarterback Manning
45. HE
49. "The One I Love" group
50. Raise
53. PC "brain"
54. Nice hat
56. TORY
60. Wanna-\_\_\_\_ (aspirants)
63. Vote of support
64. Maritime hazards
65. Be shy
66. \_\_\_\_\_ Books, paperback publisher
68. Learning style
72. Sentence part, abbr.
73. AND
75. Gait between walk and canter
76. Ides rebuke
77. Alice Hoffman 1997 novel, "\_\_\_\_\_ Earth"
78. Spoon-bending Geller
79. Winter warmer
80. Letters used to turn GI, GO and HI into girls' names
82. Hibernation site
83. A
85. Deanna Durbin 1945 film, "\_\_\_\_\_ Train"
89. Oriental tie
91. Some jewelry
92. White House nickname

93. WAR
97. Type of surgery
101. Snack in a shell
103. She played Maude
104. Examine closely
107. Historic periods
108. Becomes a member again
112. Tolkien creature
113. Twilled fabric
114. ELLE
119. Ark contents
120. Lifeguard, e.g.
121. Folky stringed instrument
124. Group of six
125. "Goodnight" girl of song
126. Three-handed card game
127. Beluga yield
128. Records
129. Asian goat-like mammal
130. "Napoleon Dynamite" director Jared
131. Farm female

## Down

1. Is down with
2. "The Simpsons" storekeeper
3. Amazon's Bezos
4. It's serious when it's red
5. Something to wallow in
6. Where to find Eugene
7. Fixed
8. Wile E. Coyote' supplier
9. Novelist Ambler
10. Goes it alone
11. Unity
12. Agent's cut
13. Spicy cuisine
14. Discharge
15. Allocate
16. Captain Picard order, "Make \_\_\_\_\_"
17. No longer secret
18. Ballpark fig.
24. Y
28. Trevor of "The Daily Show"
29. Shade of purple
30. Racing car product
31. Cause for a shootout
35. Les États-\_\_\_\_



- |  |  |                               |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 36. Office ass't                             | 71. List-ending abbr.                              | 113. Little brats             |
| 37. Canine cry                               | 73. Accra's country                                | 114. Filmmakers Joel or Ethan |
| 40. It needs refinement                      | 74. Organ contributor, perhaps                     | 115. While lead-in            |
| 41. It's been known to keep a princess awake | 79. Buffalo Bill's surname                         | 116. Prefix with phobia       |
| 42. Cousin of an ostrich                     | 81. It can be up or down in the market, with "the" | 117. Rowing team              |
| 44. Sounds after a punch in the stomach      | 83. Punish, in a way                               | 118. Greek H's                |
| 46. Persian Gulf port                        | 84. London subway                                  | 119. Mao ____ -tung           |
| 47. _____ scheme                             | 85. Illuminated                                    | 122. Friend of Pooh           |
| 48. Menlo Park monogram                      | 86. Rap sheet letters                              | 123. Parishioner's place      |
| 51. Put away                                 | 87. Calendar abbr.                                 |                               |
| 52. Facing                                   | 88. Garden spot                                    |                               |
| 55. PEE                                      | 90. Hit on the head                                |                               |
| 56. Gaelic language                          | 94. Type of cell division                          |                               |
| 57. Neither masc. nor fem.                   | 95. Pageantry                                      |                               |
| 58. It's outstanding                         | 96. Genealogist's work                             |                               |
| 59. "Walk Away ____" (1966 hit)              | 98. Unpaid debt                                    |                               |
| 61. The blahs                                | 99. Lose oomph                                     |                               |
| 62. Comic strip reporter Brenda and others   | 100. Maui-to-Hawaii dir.                           |                               |
| 66. "So long" in text shorthand              | 102. Showy   |                               |
| 67. Select group                             | 105. Remove bindings from                          |                               |
| 69. Boat in "Jaws"                           | 106. Gospel writer                                 |                               |
| 70. Hammer or sickle                         | 109. It was once a knockout                        |                               |
|  | 110. Kids  |                               |
|  | 111. Break off                                     |                               |

Puzzle answers on p. 13

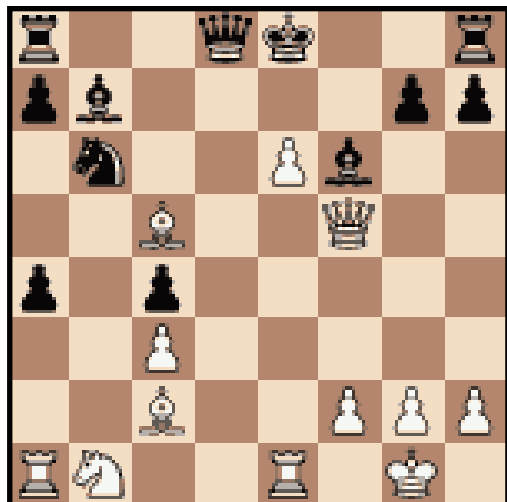
## Brock House Chess Players

We chess players very much appreciate the work done by Brock House to enable us to continue playing chess in the Conservatory during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Members need to sign in at the greeter's desk, wear masks, and sanitize hands and chess pieces before and after games.

Tuesday games will be from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Thursday games will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Conservatory.

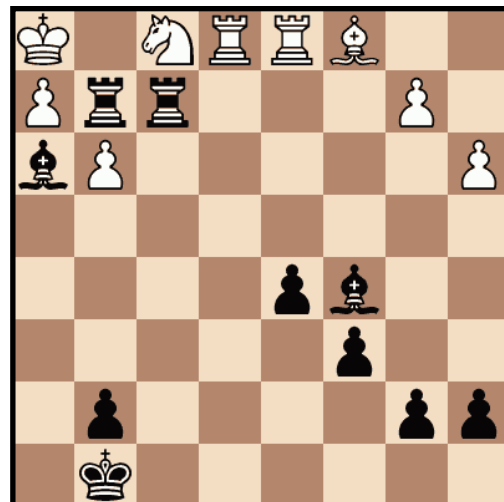
Please note that parking in the city lot is only free for members up to 4:00 p.m.



White moves  
and wins in 2



Black moves  
and wins in 2



Note: The solutions, as per request, will be discussed during the chess sessions.

*-Alejandro Ramirez and Roger Wooldridge, Convenors*



**Typical Vancouver touch, a small pocket garden planted and maintained by someone in the neighborhood.**

**Kinross Ravine Park**

***-Stan Hohnholz***



## BROCK HOUSE (BH) MEMBERS CALLING BH MEMBERS

I don't remember how long I've been a BH member. These past years I've enjoyed my BH lunches with friends, having dinners at the restaurant at a reduced rate as a member, having the opportunity to play with and know the BH Orchestra members and the BH Chamber Group.

This past year, it was an honour for me to be asked by Director, Sheila Resels, to be on the BH Membership Committee.

One of my roles on the committee is to call new members, welcoming them to BH, finding out their interests, and seeing if they want to volunteer on any committee. Asking them if there is any way any member can help them in getting groceries, transportation, etc. And if there is anything they would like to see changed, added and/or deleted from the BH programs.

Before the virus, a few of us on the phone team were given a training session before we began making our calls. We were given a script we could use, and a name tag, so our calls would be a win-win experience for the caller and the callee.

Everyone (!) I called had nothing negative to say about their experiences at BH. Unfortunately no one offered to volunteer for any committee, but that was no doubt because I forgot to mention this!

Several did attend and enjoy the New Member Reception or the Meet'n Greet gatherings the Membership Committee organized. Everyone felt accepted and no one mentioned feeling any kind of unfriendliness.

All of the BH new members I talked to thanked me for calling and welcoming them. My calling was an up-beat couple of hours for me and I think for them.

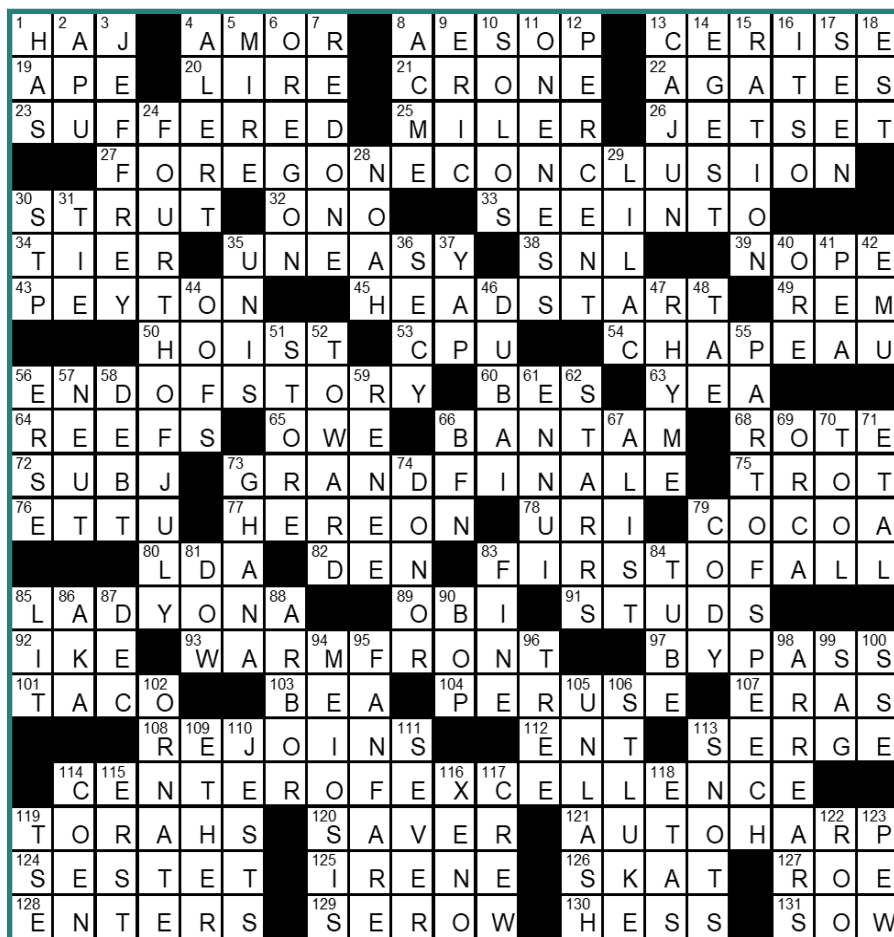
Then the COVID-19 struck. On July 17, 2020, I was finally able to resume calling new members from BH.

Once again, an up-lifting morning for me, talking to new members. One fairly new member I spoke with asked me to call a friend of hers. I told her I had just had a delightful conversation with her friend!

## Where in the Word is ...

By Parker O'Brian

Puzzle answers



Another woman told me she was thrilled to get help (for no cost other than membership) to figure out how to use her new Apple computer.

BH is cautiously opening to protect all of us. Stay tuned to the Friday Email UPdates to find out which programs are opening for what you are interested in or might like to learn about. Bring a friend to enjoy what you do. [Please note there are no drop-ins. All visits to the House are by registration or appointment through the office or online.]

I am so glad I became a member of Brock House. I've met new friends, gained new knowledge, and developed new interests stimulated through my membership.

*-Mary Ann Carter, Phone Team Member,  
Membership Committee Member*

**BROCK  
HOUSE**  
*Society*

## Pandemic Portraits

By Geoff Mynett

Geoff Mynett's biography of the pioneer doctor in Hazelton, in Northern British Columbia in the first thirty-six years of the last century, *Service on the Skeena: Horace Wrinch Frontier Physician*, was No.4 on the BC List of Best Sellers for the week of May 16, making ten weeks that it has been on the list. This book can be obtained online at Amazon or the Ronsdale Press webpage or at those bookstores, including Hager's in Kerrisdale, that are in some way open. [www.geoffmynett.com](http://www.geoffmynett.com).

*As someone who is passionate about history, he's been taking a close look at the individuals in the news: history in the making.*





# My Longest Walk

By Peter Loppe

My longest walk ever was only 100 meters long. But the way my mind was racing, it felt like a marathon.

The place was Bandung, a small town in Indonesia. I was passing through on an extended bicycle trip. The Internet and e-mail had yet been invented and telephones were big boxes attached to the wall. The only person I exchanged letters with was my mother. She sent hers to a post office in the towns I planned to visit next. Bandung was merely at the end of a days' cycling and I had checked into the first guesthouse along the road. Indonesian guest houses, called Losmen, are enclosed compounds like a motel with several individual bungalows with an office at the entrance.

I had just unpacked and was relaxing after a day's cycling when the front desk clerk knocked on the door and asked for my name. He said there was a phone call waiting for me at the reception. A phone call? Puzzled I got up and followed him. That 100 m walk from my bungalow to the front desk was the longest of my life. My mind was racing. Who knew I was here – let alone the phone number of the establishment? I had been on the road for almost a year and nobody had any knowledge of where I was going except my mother. And even she did not know my immediate whereabouts.

So who would call me?

Was the police after me? How did they know my whereabouts?

Those were the thoughts racing through my mind as I arrived at the front desk. On the counter was a receiver next to a ancient telephone made from Bakelite, the heavy and indestructible forerunner of modern phones made from plastic. The receiver was heavy and made to survive violent fits of anger that explode after the delivery of bad news. The two ends, earpiece and microphone, were looking at me as if they were challenging me to pick the receiver.

"Hello"

The soft voice of a young woman with a thick Chinese accent greeted me and introduced herself.

She was the bored daughter of a rich local Chinese merchant and she had been the girlfriend of an Australian who had lived in the same room in the guesthouse which I now occupied. He had since moved on and she was wondering if she could be my girlfriend.

With a great sigh of relief I sank into a state of relaxed confusion. For a second I thought very hard and contemplated my options.

I decided to become a shameless opportunist.

## **Thank you everyone. Your contributions are incredible!**

I'm hearing from members how much they're enjoying your experiences.

Please share your: Gardening projects - yard and balcony; craft projects; 2-meter-walk stories; Art work and photos; creative writing and essays; and online adventures.

Let's stay in touch. Send submissions to

**BrockHouseGallimaufry@gmail.com**

The deadline for the September issue is August 22.

If you know someone who'd like to receive *The Gallimaufry* by email, write to: **brockhouse@telus.net**

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*-BevAnn Lister Dean, Editor*