
The Bulletin

Hobbs Seniors' Club

September 2021



It has been a whole year since our last *Bulletin*; can you believe it? And even longer since we were able to gather at the Centre. It's been a long road, and we hope that everyone has been able to weather the tumultuous ups and downs of this pandemic. The landscape is looking brighter, though, thanks to the hard work of those leading the charge, all the folks on the front lines, and, more recently, to YOU for lining up to get the vaccine – our last line of defence against this deadly enemy. Let's hope that, as we slowly begin to reopen, we shall be able to remain open and eventually get back to something close to normalcy. We can't wait to welcome everyone back, and with that in mind we ask you to carefully take note of the information below.

Vaccine Status

The Board has come to the decision (by unanimous vote) that **all members entering the club will be required to show proof of double vaccination**. Everyone who is fully vaccinated will have been issued two Vaccination Receipts from the Province. Hobbs Seniors Club will accept the second receipt as proof that you are fully vaccinated with two doses. Please bring your copy with you (either the paper or electronic version) every time you come to the club. To make this more manageable for you, you might consider having the receipt reduced to wallet size and laminated – Staples is a good place to have this done, or you may be able to do it yourself. This requirement is being put in place to ensure the health and safety of all club members, and will continue until further notice, or at least until Community (herd) Immunity is reached. We are sure you will agree that the Delta variant is much too dangerous for us to take unnecessary risks.

Opening Date & Calendar

We expect to begin offering classes after Labour Day. As you know, this will be a very cautious reopening with a calendar tailored to manage the restrictions currently in place, including a reduction in the numbers allowed in the two halls. In some instances there has been such a robust response to come back, we are having to split classes to accommodate everyone who wishes to return. This will likely mean that, instead of attending two classes in a particular activity during the week, you may only be able to go once – at least for the time-being. (More about the calendar below.)

None of these activities could happen without the efforts of our volunteer leaders/instructors and conveners. So, when one of them steps down we are left with a huge hole to fill. We have learned that Judy Rousson has decided to step back from her role as Stretch and Tone leader, which she has cheerfully done for the past several years (thank you so much, Judy!) As it turns out, we have a willing and very capable replacement who is ready to take over this class: Lise Archambault. Lise will also be leading the Sit and Stand class, so she will be a busy lady – thank you for stepping up, Lise!

Activity Calendar and Attendance

We really appreciate the collaboration of our conveners and instructors in trying to determine how many wish to return in September. In order to make things as simple as possible, we do need everyone to decide which activity/s you will be participating in and on which day (a reservation, really) because, as mentioned above, there will be a limit on how many can be inside at any one time. We don't want to be standing at the door, guessing who/how many will be coming, so you will be asked to confirm which class/day you will attend. Please note that no "drop ins" will be allowed. The interim *Activity Calendar* will follow once we have attendance confirmed with the conveners. The activities that will begin in September are: Darts, Line Dancing, Stretch and Tone, Sit and Stand, Tai Chi, and Yoga. Most of these classes are already full. However, there is currently room for a few more Dart players. If you are interested, please let Anne Ho know as soon as possible: anneho@rogers.com

Restrictions

In order to meet the Terms and Conditions set out by the City (and Ottawa Public Health), everyone will be required to (1) wear a mask at all times, (2) maintain a physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) from others, and (3) practice proper hand hygiene. Please read the attached *Protocol for Reopening* carefully. Should you feel the need to remove your mask, please leave the building for a short “mask-free” break.

Resumption of Afternoon Activities

At this point, we are unable to project when we might be able to resume card playing and Mah Jongg. We do understand the frustration you must be feeling, but since there is no way to meet the current requirements for physical distancing, we have no choice but to await further direction. While the upstairs remains empty in the afternoons, we expect to use it temporarily for one or two of our active classes. As you can imagine, the downstairs room is not conducive to exercising with masks on, due to the lack of ceiling fans and ventilation.

Membership and Activity Fees

In order to streamline the attendance process and minimize the amount of personal interaction in the lobby, the Board has decided that:

- Membership renewal will be postponed until further notice. We are hopeful that a proper renewal drive can take place in the new year, if not before. Until then, please continue to hold on to your membership cards. New stickers will be affixed upon renewal. In the interim, please be sure to apprise Rosie Schurr of any changes to your contact information, at rschurr6433@gmail.com.
- Based on the above, payment of membership fees will be deferred until the renewal drive. We expect to retain the current fee structure, but a final decision will be made at that time.
- Please note that participation in club activities will be restricted to active members only, until further notice. Anyone wishing to join as a new member is encouraged to provide their contact information to Rosie.
- With the exception of Line Dancing, all activity fees will be deferred until further notice. The fees collected for Line Dancing will be to cover the cost of paying our outside instructor.

Annual General Meeting/ Board Vacancies

You have probably already guessed that there will be no AGM again this year, given that the restriction on numbers would not allow for quorum. We trust you will agree with the Board’s decision to postpone the meeting until next June, by which time we hope to find things back to normal (or as normal as possible). This, of course, means no election. According to the By-Laws, directors have a two-year term. Thanks to COVID, however, this has ‘gone by the board.’ The directors have been polled, and four have agreed to stay on until next June. Two directors wish to step down, so we are now seeking members to replace Nancy Hebert as VP Administration and Nan Frawley as Secretary. The By-Laws allow us to choose someone from the general membership to finish out a term, after which they would be able to stand for election. If you are interested in either of these positions, would like a copy of the job description, or have any questions, please feel free to contact Ann McConnell at amcconnell.home@gmail.com, Nancy Herbert at nancyelh@yahoo.ca, or Nan Frawley at nfrawley@bell.net. We sincerely appreciate the contribution and spirit of collaboration brought to the board table by these two ladies, without whom we would not have been able to accomplish everything we have managed to do.

Phew! That should do it for now. As mentioned, the Activity Calendar will be going out as soon as we are able to confirm attendance/registration, no later than August 31st. In the meantime, you can expect to be contacted to finalize this information. If we all pull together, we can get things going with the hope that further expansion of club activities won’t be too far off.

Board of Directors

Ann McConnell, Marilyn Campbell, Nancy Hebert, Christine Kennedy, Rosie Schurr, Nancy Frawley
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