

INTEREST GROUPS

Activities and Planning for September 2021

Before sharing this information, a heap of gratitude is in order. Thank you, Interest Group Leaders, for your dedication to your role during the pandemic. I am sure that our members were well-informed and felt that safety and health precautions were always in place.

A number of our interest groups are at capacity or are missing leaders. This makes it difficult for our members to join a smaller group or to get to know others. If you are enjoying being part of our Branch activities, please consider volunteering to lead a group. Ideas for new groups are always welcome.

Remember that to participate in these Interest Groups, your membership fees for 2021-2022 must be paid.

Cathy Terrio-Lakeit 905-932-0775

Interest Group Convenor

B **READING:** Leader - Geneviève Habib gen3habib@gmail.com

We are looking for members who are interested in forming a beading class in September, run by our talented Geneviève. The group will meet at Geneviève's studio at a time and date to be determined by the participants. There is a fee for each project that includes all materials.



B **BOOK CLUBS**

Revolving Book Club: Leader - Patt Chivers pchivers@cogeco.ca

The Revolving Book Club has an active membership of 80 members once again this year. The books will be chosen in mid-August using the input of the owners of "Someday Books" on King St. in downtown St. Catharines. Pat Wilcox and I will be meeting with Graham and Alicia to decide on a variety of books. We aim to stretch your reading comfort zone as well as introduce you to new authors and some of the latest books on the shelf.

As was the case last Fall, I have a team of members who will help me hand deliver your book to you personally. Each book will come with a chart on the inside cover telling you to whom you pass your book and who will pass to you.

Remember that each book should be passed on **at the end of each month** in its own zip lock baggie.

Calling ahead of your delivery would be helpful, especially if you deliver to an apartment or condo.

Our intention is to have your first book in your hands by the last week of September.

I hope you find a book or two to enjoy that is new and exciting to you this year!

P.S. If you are interested in joining this Interest Group sometime in the future, please contact **Patt Chivers**, 905-934-6636 in the Spring of 2022.



Let's Chat About It: Leader - Marg Pulford margpulford@gmail.com

Marg has kept in touch with her group of 10 throughout the pandemic. They are willing to meet again when things open up. This group is at its maximum. If you are interested in starting another discussion book club, contact Cathy Terrio-Lakeit.

B **BOWLING:** Leaders - Barb West cats@vaxxine.com Bonnie Leistner bonnie13@hotmail.ca

We are optimistically hopeful that we will be able to resume bowling on September 9. We play Thursday mornings at 10:00AM at Pla-Mor Bowling Alley in Port Dalhousie. No set teams. New members welcome.



B **BRIDGE:** Leaders - Alvine Robinson alviner@vaxxine.com
Sharon Thorne sthorne@cogeco.ca

Helen Self hself@cogeco.ca

Well, it's been a different 2020-2021 bridge year for all of us. Hopefully, many of you have been able to play Bridge on the computer either by yourself or on Zoom. We are quite willing to organize a Bridge schedule for 2021-2022 but we need to be cognizant of any COVID safety issues during this time. We can set up the schedule to begin play at the end of September. However, if we are delayed, we can make any changes that are necessary.

Those of you who wish to sign up to play this year, please send your name and your partner's name to **Helen Self as soon as possible**. New members are welcome.



C **CREATIVE COOKS:** Leader - Linda Thiessen Lthiessen9@gmail.com

This group has stayed in touch with each other through monthly emails. They plan to resume their activities during stages 3 and 4.



D **DINING DIVAS:** Leader - Kathleen Bradley kath49bradley@gmail.com

Hi Divas! It has been an interesting year for those of us used to enjoying dining out in a group. The pandemic with lock downs, stay-at-home orders and reduced numbers when the restaurants were actually open, curtailed our ability to meet and share a meal. However, as we all receive our second dose of vaccine and develop herd immunity, new possibilities will open up. It is my hope that while you've been supporting local businesses and ordering meals in, you have discovered new eateries and we'll have a list of fabulous places to visit once we are able to do so. I look forward to dining with you all again. Fingers crossed that with Stage 3 reopenings, we may dine out this August!

E **AT, DRINK and BE MERRY!**

If anyone is interested in organizing this group for the 2021-2022 coming year, please contact Cathy Terrio-Lakeit.

E **UCHRE**

Group 1: Leader- Elaine Reimer rereimer2e@gmail.com

This group has gathered together in groups of 4 for awhile during COVID 19. Now that things are opening up we will be ready to resume this Interest Group in September. More information will be sent out at the end of August.

Group 2:

The Euchre club is excited to be getting back together in August when we are fully vaccinated in order to socialize safely outside. Our numbers need to remain small until we are allowed to meet with more people. We have a wonderful group of women who love to laugh and support each other while playing cards. In order for this group to continue, we need a leader. Please contact Cathy Terrio-Lakeit.



G **OLF:** Leader - Linda Holmes lholmes7@cogeco.ca

The Golf Interest Group continues to meet on Tuesday at the Garden City Golf Course. We are not able to accept anymore new members to the 2021 golf group. Golf has become very popular this year, so our roster is full. Consider joining next spring.



L **UNCH BUNCH:** Leader - Peggy Allen peggy.j.allen2@gmail.com

The Lunch Bunch is expecting to start up in November where good food, good friends and good fellowship are enjoyed by all!



SINGING FOR FUN: Leader – Laurie Benson jetty_22@hotmail.com

During the pandemic our group has reinvented itself with singalong Zoom meetings. We choose a theme each month and gather a list of *You Tube* songs with lyrics that we can sing together. We take time to have a good chinwag before and after singing. We sometimes jazz up our virtual rendezvous with costumes and libations. However, the best part is our camaraderie and laughter.

We look forward to non virtual sing-a-longs next year, if possible, but thankful that we have been able to Zoom. We are definitely part of the 21st century.



TRAVELOGUE: Leader- Marilyn Weber marilynw167@gmail.com

Despite COVID restrictions, we have managed to meet on the usual schedule, but in a very adaptive manner. In the Fall we met outside, socially distanced, at Charles Daley Park, Queenston Heights and Grimbsy Beach (Painted Ladies). In January we began to meet virtually via Zoom. Attendance has ranged from 8-18 members. We watched travel presentations of Croatia and Cinque Terre, Italy. We shared souvenirs from around the world and learned how to make Power Point presentations and then store them virtually on *You Tube*.



In September we will return to our rental room at First Grantham United Church if it is allowed. The alternative will be similar to this year with some outdoor and some virtual meetings. We are always looking for people who would like to make travel presentations. The Travelogue group meets on the second Monday of the month at 1:30 PM starting in September. So, mark your calendars now! More information will be distributed by email as we get closer to the date.

WALKING GROUPS

Morning Walkers: Leader - Susan Burnison susanburnison@gmail.com

Our group walks at 8:30 every Monday and Thursday morning taking in the beauty of Port. On Mondays we meet at the Lakeside parking lot and walk the piers, Jaycee Park or surrounding subdivisions. On Thursdays we meet at the Lions Club and walk through Port, the Green Ribbon trail or the trail along the water. On both days we bring chairs and water and sit out for a chat, following Covid rules. Coffee can be purchased on Monday at the cafes. It's a great group of ladies, who choose to walk at a fast or slow pace, depending on your need and who show up for most types of weather. Lots of great conversations too!



Afternoon Walkers: Leader – Christine Honsinger christine@honsinger.com

We walk Friday afternoons at various trails in Niagara. In the Fall we were able to follow our schedule of nature walks. We enjoyed refreshments after our walks in many wonderful parks right into December. January onward brought many starts and stops to our walking. We also changed the schedule to keep with the regulations set out by the province. Regrettably, we had to stop our group walks in the spring. We were able to switch back to part of our schedule this summer. See Fall schedule below. New members welcome. Please contact Christine for more information.

FALL SCHEDULE: More to follow at a later date.

Date	Trail	Parking
September 10	Jaycee Park across bridge to Port Dalhousie	Jaycee Park on Ontario St. (Entrance opposite Anchor Point)
September 17	Steve Bauer Trail – Fonthill More scenic route - Newer Walk	Harold Black Park - 953 Haist St. Fonthill Go straight down Haist, then a quick right turn on Welland St., then an immediate left onto the continuation of Haist – Park will be on left.
September 24	Morningstar Mill	Decew Rd. (some uneven ground)