

CONTENTS

January Highlights	1
Winter Activities	2
Board News	3
Projects	3
Club News	4
Shoutout to Our 2020 Volunteers	5
Housekeeping Items	6
Members' Corner	6
Want to Know More?	6

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Anticipating Amberwood's 40th Anniversary!

August 13, 2021 marks the 40th anniversary of Amberwood, and the Board has begun to discuss options for how and when best to celebrate this milestone! Watch for updates in upcoming issues of the *Amberwood Insider*.

ALE Gift Certificate

Paul Powers was the winner of the \$25 ALE gift certificate. His name was drawn from the attendees at the Amberwood Gallery in December.

Gallery Exhibits

With the COVID-19 restrictions and the new 'lock-down' measures taking effect later this week, the Amberwood Village Recreation Association has temporarily closed the 'Amberwood Gallery' in the members' lounge at the Amberwood Golf and Country Club. When the 'lock-down' measures are lifted, the Gallery will reopen featuring the paintings of Amberwood artist Charles Spratt and photographer John Edkins. Winter hours will remain in effect (i.e., Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 1:00- 4:00 p.m.). COVID-19 protocols will be in place, including physical distancing, mandatory masks, and a maximum of six visitors inside the gallery at any one time.

Charlie Spratt has been painting seriously for more than 40 years. His work can be found in private collections in many parts of Canada, and you can see it on his web site at www.cspratt.ca. John Edkins' exhibit will be selling framed photos of the *Amberwood Golf Course* in various sizes. You can visit John's online gallery at www.edkinsphoto.com. Twenty-five percent (25%) of all Gallery sales will be directed to the Clubhouse interior refurbishment fundraising initiative.

Giving back to our Community

When the lock-down put a stop to Suzanne Hiron's plans to give card making classes, the avid golfer and AVGCC's former Director of Communications decided to refocus her time and energy on making and selling her cards, donating 100% of the proceeds to the Stittsville Food Bank!

Suzanne makes birthday cards and cards for all occasions. She can also make a custom card to celebrate a special occasion (wedding, anniversary, graduation, Valentine) or to simply lift the spirits of people who are finding these times more challenging. For our francophone friends and neighbours, look no further to find the perfect card *en français*. All cards are \$5. Make it a win-win contribution: you make people happy by sending a card while also contributing to a worthy cause.

Click [here](#) to visit her website and see for yourself how beautiful these cards are.

Family Day – February 14th

We invite you and your family to take advantage of the great outdoor space on the golf course. Please refer to the article below on Outdoor activities for more information.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

ALE Dining in Your Own Home

Submitted by Sarah St. Michael, owner of ALE

We had a fantastic number of orders for both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Very successful! This is a critical time of year for all restaurants and we would welcome community support in the form of takeout orders. We are still offering our \$50 Dinner for Two feature, which includes 2 mains and a starter + dessert to share. Customers can order by calling 613-831-2442 or by visiting aleottawa.ca/order.

ALE will be selling gift cards at a discounted rate until January 31st. Gift cards are valid for takeout or in-house dining (not valid for special events). A \$100 gift card can be purchased for \$80. For more information, call ALE at 613-831-2442 during the hours of operation or get in touch with Sarah (sarah@aleottawa.ca) or Ben (ben@aleottawa.ca) through email.

Our current hours for takeout are Wednesday through Sunday, from 3pm to 8pm.

Outdoor activities

Submitted by Christine Adam-Carr, AVRA Secretary

The AVRA Board has secured specific liability insurance to permit walking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing on the course; however, this does not include skating! Please respect the Ottawa Public Health guidelines and maintain a physical distance of at least two (2) meters from persons outside of your household.

After a brief early start to the ski season in November, we are now enjoying more regular skiing with the latest snowfall. Many walkers are enjoying the beautiful pathways that wind their way through the Amberwood Golf Course lands. Yes, dogs are also welcome, but please keep your dog under control/on a leash and be sure to pick up all waste.

The grass on the greens is very delicate, and easily damaged by walking in boots, snowshoes, or skis. To help avoid this, many of the greens have been marked with snow fencing. Note that the nine greens are elevated and are often alongside sand traps. They vary in size, as shown on the map below. After each new snowfall, we hope to see new tracks set out in a manner that goes around the greens, and not over or near them.

Here is a map of the Amberwood Golf Course (Google maps), which shows the areas to avoid. Please use caution around the many ponds and creeks, as there is running water.



Where possible, please stay on or beside the cart pathways and avoid walking on the cross-country ski trails.

Many thanks to Ted Hill for sharing some lovely photographs of two of our Members (Linda and Ted Norton), and some of the neighbourhood kids showing us how to enjoy the winter sunshine:



Indoor Activities

Submitted by Susan Kehoe, volunteer indoor activity coordinator

Oops, it has happened again! The new round of lockdown restrictions imposed by the Ontario government province wide, effective December 26, 2020, (until at least January 23, 2021 in our area) means that the winter activities planned for the members' lounge at AVRA are on hiatus. At this point the following activities are postponed:

- Amberwood Book Club: monthly group gathering at ALE to discuss a book over beverages
- Paper crafting & cardmaking: an opportunity to learn to make greeting cards, gift boxes and other paper crafting items
- How to write your family history: a six-week, in-person, small group course on how to craft family history as a story
- Young at Heart Cardio/Core Workout: a one-hour weekly six-week class that includes a cardio segment, balance work, core work and stretching
- Improve your Health presentation: a one-hour information session on the immune system and how diet, exercise, and supplements can impact it

Stay tuned for further information when COVID restrictions are lifted.

BOARD NEWS

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2020 Annual General meeting are attached and posted on our [website](#).

Termination of the AVGCC lease

At the 2020 AGM held on November 30, 2020, the members voted in favor of the motion to terminate AVRA's 40-year lease with Amberwood Village Golf and Country Club (AVGCC) and move to one Board (AVRA) to simplify management and decision-making. As part of this agreement, AVRA also committed to appoint a standing advisory committee of at least one Director and one club member who is not an AVRA member to advise the Board on a regular basis of issues pertaining to activities at the club.

As part of the dissolution of the AVGCC Board, AVRA's year-end will change from August 31st to November 30th. This allows a full season of club activities before closing the books.

The 'new' AVRA Board organization will become effective February 1, 2021. Ralph Milligan, AVRA Board Director, will sit on the new 'Club Advisory Committee' along with Katharine Usher-Vollett, GM of the AVGCC (TSMI employee) and Tom Woodward, a non-AVRA member and Secretary of the AVGCC Board and was nominated by that same Board. representing the AVGCC members at large. Captains and co-captains for the various club activities (outlined below) will provide input to the Club Advisory Committee regarding programming among other things.

GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB ACTIVITY CAPTAINS AND CO-CAPTAINS	
Ladies Golf	Joanne Milligan and Roberta Tarte
Men's Golf	Tom Woodward and Yvon Tarte
Pickleball	Yvon Tarte and John Thomsen
Pool	Linda Short and Charlotte Gencher
Tennis	TBD

TSMI Sports Management will continue to operate all operations and maintenance of the buildings, equipment, and property with input from our house Director, John Thomsen. Special projects (pool refurbishment, new irrigation system, tennis/pickleball court resurfacing, re-zoning), studies, surveys, business planning and communications are managed by the AVRA Board of Directors.

PROJECTS

Pool refurbishment

Submitted by Board members Bernie Ashe and John Thomsen, and volunteer Paul Silke.

The Amberwood pool is under repair and if everything goes according to plans, will be open for business on June 20th.

The pool refurbishment project has an approved budget of \$302,000 (net of HST). Pool Works was awarded a contract of \$214,00 to perform the following work:

- Remove and replace the concrete deck
- Replace and install the pipes and filters, and install a new saltwater mechanical system
- Install new pool wall finishes, including tiles, lights, ladders, and coping trim

Work completed to date:

- The concrete deck and coping around the pool have been removed.
- The piping has been removed and replaced with new piping and conduits for electrical work.

NEXT STEPS:	
February	Board shares design concepts for the pool deck and asks AVRA members to provide feedback
March	Board decides on a 'core' design*
March	Board sources furniture products and other suppliers
April-June	Pool Works replaces the interior equipment room, including pumps and the salt machine, and installs new electrical. They connect new skimmers and new jets to the pipes, and when the weather is warm enough, they prepare the pool surface and apply a new epoxy coating. They add new tiles at the waterline and new coping stone around the rim of the pool, and they install new lighting and new ladders. A new concrete deck will be poured.
May-June	New fence installed
June 20th	Pool opens

We have \$86,000 allocated from our 2021 budget for the pool deck. Our priority in 2021 is to install a new fence, shade structures and new pool side furniture. We will add more shade structures, additional furniture, and improved landscaping in future years. Future capital budgets will include an allocation for the pool deck.

Tennis/Pickleball court resurfacing

Court resurfacing is scheduled for mid May 2021. Barring any COVID-19 related work issues, we anticipate the courts being in action by June 1, 2021. Programming discussions for 2021 are underway with Yvon Tarte (pickleball captain) and TMSI.

Golf course Irrigation system

Part of the new irrigation system involves repairing the pump house and installing a new variable speed pump to improve efficiency.

Advance Cutting & Coring has completed the concrete work. They removed the old uneven concrete and poured a new concrete slab. Mark Hyne, the course Superintendent, will insulate and panel the walls and repair a small hole in the roof. An electrician has been hired to install the electrical panel, and Pumps Plus will install the new variable speed pump at the end of January.

Re-zoning the Trailway Circle lots

The Zoning By-Law Amendment will be in front of the City Planning Committee on January 14, 2021. Click [here](#) to read the article written by Lesley McKay, Stittsville Central.ca. Assuming a positive outcome from that meeting, the next steps are to obtain City Council approval and then register the lots. Based on these factors, the expected closing date of the sale of the lots to Inverness Homes will be in March.

Reserve Fund/Annual dues

AVRA members approved the bylaws update to establish a reserve fund. This project is being led by Bernie Ashe with the support of Joseph Elchakieh, Terry Wright and Robert Lloyd-Rees. They are currently writing the Terms of Reference and plan to secure a contractor to conduct the reserve fund study and have it completed and approved by the Board by the end of July. The results of the reserve fund study will be shared with AVRA members in August in preparation for the discussion on annual fees with the members in September.

CLUB NEWS

Submitted by Katharine Usher-Vollett, General Manager of Amberwood Golf and Country Club (TMSI employee)

2021 what a year it is going to be! I am very excited to be back at Amberwood after a few years. TMSI and AVRA are in the process of finalizing a new management contract and we are excited to stay on with the Club and work with the Board of Directors.

This year will keep us hopping with many new projects. In addition to the improvement projects that are underway, and the exciting Gallery shows, we are also looking forward to many great new programs and events for the whole family to enjoy. It will be like going on vacation in your own backyard with great new junior programs, events and activities for the whole family, disco pickle, music by the pool, date night, just to name a few. Information on all upcoming programs will be available mid-February.

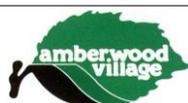
Amberwood has a lot to offer everyone, check out the [2021 Membership information](#) on our website, or purchase a membership at the Proshop (winter hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm.).

I look forward to seeing everyone again this year.

Stay safe and healthy!

"A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference." –

Eeyore (*Winnie the Pooh*)



SHOUTOUT TO OUR 2020 VOLUNTEERS

Submitted by Linda Norton, AVRA Program Manager (former Volunteer Coordinator)

The number of volunteers that came forward to help the AVGCC with their great turn-around last year is a true testament to the great community we live in. 2020 was a year full of challenges but everyone's contribution, large or small, made a difference within the Amberwood Community. We would like to welcome Andrea Felix and Sandra Carter, our two new Volunteer coordinators. These ladies are replacing Linda, who has assumed a non-elected AVRA Board role as Program Manager.

We would also like to thank AVRA President Steve Lockett, who provided great leadership through a very challenging year. David Pipkins, Bernie Ashe, John Thomsen, Joseph Elchakieh, Gary Kurlicki, Robert Lloyd-Rees, Ralph Milligan, Dave Short and Glyn Jones also spent countless hours serving on the AVRA Board of Directors. Your combined efforts have made a positive difference throughout the Community and are very much appreciated by all AVRA members.

Thanks as well to Mark Bjorkstedt, Brad Hiron and Terry Wright, in forming a finance committee with representatives from both the Trails and Condos. Financial tracking and reporting may not be perceived as the most glamorous activity, but your unique talents and skill set are truly valued and necessary.

Thank you to John Thomsen, as well as Debbie Belfie who joined me in the Nomination Committee and ensured that we had an excellent slate of candidates for our Board.

David Pipkins, Bernie Ashe, Marius Felix, Ted Norton and Yvon Tarte, your work on the AVRA Bylaws required much reading, thinking and writing, and resulted in clearer updated Bylaws.

Thank you to Bernie Ashe, John Thomsen and Paul Silke who ran with the pool refurbishment project. It will be very exciting to see the new pool when it is finished early this summer. The progress to date has been fun to watch. As well, thank you Paul for all your project management efforts on the pool initiative.

Pickleball took off this year with over 80 members thanks to the drive and energy of Yvon Tarte.

Joseph Elchakieh, Robin Richardson and Mark Bjorkstedt, thank you for the time and effort you spent working developing the AVRA Strategic and Business plans. They clearly outline where AVRA was last year, where we want to be and how we will get there.

Communications are essential to any organization and many thanks go out to Elizabeth Stoqua, along with Robin Richardson, Christine Adam-Carr, Jennifer Junop, Carolyn Johnstone, Suzanne Hiron, Barbara Robson, Ron Sabourin and Dave Short for their creative efforts in providing clear, timely and effective communications, and to Amanda Leighton for designing the website. Also, thank you to John Edkins, Ted Hill, and Frank Knorr for providing your photography skills, Ralph Milligan who initiated the communications committee, Elizabeth Stoqua and David Pipkins who leapt into a very quick virtual meeting learning curve to organize and facilitate the AGM, and Robert Lloyd-Rees for printing of the AGM materials.

The Landscape and Maintenance volunteers made a big difference around the clubhouse and grounds. A lot of hard work took place with many thanks to John Thomsen, Frank Campbell, Marius and Andrea Felix, Glenn Carr and his wife Christine Adam-Carr, Ted and Debbie Hill, Debbie Watt, Karen Broadman, Patricia den Boer, Adriana Galan, Heather Ouimet, Judy Scott, Nina Willman, Michael and Sarah Clarke, Bob Davis, and Hendry Kanters.

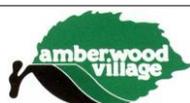
Thank you to John Thomsen, Alberta Aboud, Stephanie Amos, Eleanor Baumgart, Karen Broamann, Margaret Burnett, Andrea Felix, Guy Fortier, Faith Gillier, Bob Goudie, Nancy Green, Gail Hall, Bev Healey, Debbie and Ted Hill, David and Sara Iley, DeAnne Kelly, Frank Knorr, Jan Lockett, Joanne Milligan, Carol Orr, Muriel Peterson, Barbara Robson, Dave and Linda Short, Robin Richardson, Clarisse Woods, Barrie Marfleet and Margaret Wynia and Terra Narraway for making Queensway Carleton Hospital Appreciation Day so successful. And what a fantastic day that was! So many people pitched in to support our frontline workers who are still dealing day in and day out with the Covid-19 virus.

There were many small tasks that took place last year as well, such as counting houses, putting up posters, stuffing and delivering envelopes. Thank you so much to Karyn Beggs, Karen Broamann, Owen Danis, Andrea Felix, Gail Hall, Debbie Hill, Sara Iley, DeAnne Kelly, Barbara and Leo Kerklaan, Jan Lockett, Joanne Milligan, Donna Milliken, Carol Orr, Muriel Peterson, Dave and Linda Short, Roberta and Yvon Tarte and Robin Richardson for all your help.

In December, AVRA opened a Gallery in the Amberwood Members' Lounge featuring the photography of John Edkins. Thank you to John Edkins for sharing your beautiful work, and to John Thomsen, Joanne Milligan, Sara Iley, Karen Whillans and Barbara Kerklaan for volunteering your time for this new initiative. The feedback on both the room and the photographs has been great!

Some planned activities—developing a fundraising program, opening the pool, Doors Open and all indoor activities—are still on hold due to Covid-19. This does not mean people were not involved in starting to plan for the time when Covid-19 restrictions are behind us. Thank you to Rob Petten, Linda Short, Charlotte Gencher, Christine Adam-Carr, Susan Kehoe, Stephanie Amos, Mandy Boyes, Carol Orr and Carol Rosenthal, Barbara Robson, Bev Campbell, Jan Lockett, Joanne Milligan, Andrea Felix, Margaret Wynia, Jane Findley, Dayle Mulligan, and Joyce Craig. We'll be sure to call on each of you when we get the green light to launch these activities again.

The collective efforts of all of you have made AVRA a much stronger and more viable association. Thanks to our volunteers, AVRA is entering 2021 in a very positive perspective with great hopes and plans for the year ahead.



HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Renovations

Renovations are underway at the Club. The Members' Lounge was recently given a fresh coat of paint. New stairs and a new railing have been installed at the back of the Clubhouse leading up to the patio. Some of the lower-level rooms are being emptied and surplus furniture listed is being sold (see below). Contractors are being sourced for new lighting in the parking lot and recladding of the Annex. Washrooms and other areas needing small repairs and a fresh coat of paint will be tended to this winter.

The 'Library' room inside the Clubhouse is being repurposed as a 'Captains Room.' This is where the AVRA Captains will hold their meetings, where club activities will be posted, and trophies will be displayed. Consequently, the books in the Library will be given away to charity. If you have a book in the Library and would like it back, please contact Club General Manager Katherine Vollett at kvollett@tmsiottawa.ca before the end of January.

Surplus Furniture

A variety of surplus items from the Clubhouse will be posted for sale in the coming weeks. All of it is used but in good shape, and items will be posted for sale, first on the [Amberwood Village website](#) and the [Amberwood Facebook page](#), and then on Facebook Marketplace and/or Kijiji. Sales will proceed as Covid-19 restrictions allow. Buyers must arrange to pick up items as delivery is not available, and all money raised will be turned over to AVRA.

The items include:

- dining chairs (26 wooden, rounded back with fabric seats)
- two tall artificial plants
- one white shelving unit with open shelves plus four drawers
- two 2-seater couches (light gray fabric)
- two light beige-striped wingback chairs
- wood shelving suitable for display items
- electric fireplaces
- dart boards
- books (novels from former Library)

MEMBERS' CORNER

On August 13, 1981, AVRA was incorporated to operate a golf course and related amenities. In 1986, the property title was turned over to the homeowners of Amberwood Village. Just before that happened, homeowners were enticed to join the Association for a one-time fee of \$25. Want to guess how many signed up the week of October 2, 1985? Click [here](#).

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you have any specific topics you would like covered, please send us an email at info@amberwoodvillage.ca and we will include it in the next issue of *Amberwood Insider*.

Subscribe to our newsletter

Click [here](#) to sign up for our monthly newsletter. You do not have to be an AVRA member or a resident of Amberwood Village to subscribe.