

AMBERWOOD INSIDER

DECEMBER 2020

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DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Amberwood Lounge and Eatery (ALE)

Weekend Dine-in Specials

These offerings are available for indoor diners.

Lunches: 2 for \$20 from noon to 4:00pm **Happy hour Snacks:** \$4/\$5/\$6 from noon to 5:00pm

Nutcracker High Tea: Sunday December 13th from noon to 4:00pm *Must be pre-ordered* by Thursday December 10th.

Christmas Take Home Meals

Enjoy a delicious three course meal at home for \$35 per person. Pick up your meal on the 23rd or 24th and reheat it at home when you are ready to eat. Includes a choice of soup (roasted red pepper or orange maple squash) to start, turkey or vegan main course and a caramel gingerbread bar for dessert. Upgrades and side dishes are available too! *Must be pre-ordered by December 20th (while supplies last)*

New Year's Eve

More information coming soon! There will be special dine-in and takeout offerings.

Were you wondering who decorated your condo mailbox?



You can thank our local Christmas elves, busy at work sprucing up the neighbourhood!

Looking for some Christmas Gift Ideas?

Here are some suggestions:

Gift certificates or 2021 golf passes: for the golfer in your house. Stop by the Club to pick them up. (winter office hours Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)

Gift certificates for the ALE dining lounge: Stop by the restaurant to pick them up. Regular winter hours are in effect: (Closed Monday and Tuesday) Open: Wednesday 4-8, Thursday 4-8, Friday 4-9, Saturday 12-9, Sunday 12-8

Calendars and framed photos of Amberwood landscape by John Edkins: Visit the gallery in the member's lounge on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 1:00pm to 4:00 p.m.

EVENTS

Amberwood Gallery



The newly renovated members' lounge at Amberwood Golf and Country Club is now serving as our new, bright, airy, and inviting Amberwood Gallery!

The Gallery is showcasing the photographs of John Edkins. John is selling beautifully framed photographs, calendars and greeting cards featuring Amberwood's uniquely appealing landscapes and photos of other subjects that may be of interest to visitors. John is contributing a portion of the proceeds towards clubhouse refurbishment.

Every visitor to the Gallery will have their name entered into a draw for a **\$25 ALE gift certificate**. The winner's name will be drawn on December 22nd.

Social distancing measures restrict the numbers to six visitors at a time in the Gallery.

The Gallery is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. and on Sunday December 13th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to coincide with the fabulous Ale Nutcracker High Tea mentioned above.

Online sale of surplus furniture

A variety of surplus furniture belonging to AVRA will be sold, with all proceeds going towards the AVRA Refurbishment Fund. As items come up for sale, they will be posted via Facebook so that the community may have priority to purchase. Stay tuned via Amberwood's [Facebook page](#) for upcoming sale posts!

NEW BYLAWS

AVRA's AGM was held on November 30th and members voted in favor of the proposed changes to the bylaws. The voting summary was emailed out to members on December 2nd. The Board extends a big "Thank you!" to members for your input to and support of these important matters.

Click [here](#) to read the new bylaws.

Reserve Fund

One of the new bylaws formally establishes a requirement for a reserve fund to cover the cost of effectively managing AVRA's assets, which are collectively owned by the association members. The reserve fund will be based on the following principles:

- All AVRA members collectively own AVRA's assets, and a reserve fund is needed to ensure that the cost of maintaining these assets over time is covered without compromise (i.e., without having to sell property to accrue needed funds).
- The reserve fund will be funded primarily through annual membership fees, with 100% of fees going to the reserve fund.
- Other sources of income may also be contributed if available to building the reserve fund. For example, this year \$50,000 from Golf Club revenues was directed to the reserve fund.
- The AVRA Board will hire a third-party engineering firm to conduct a formal assessment of AVRA's assets and the anticipated cost of maintaining them. This assessment will drive determination of the appropriate target balances for the reserve fund.
- Annual fees for residents of Amberwood Village will be required only if homeowners wish to be members of AVRA. If a member stops paying their annual fee and later wants to rejoin AVRA, then the previous year's fee would need to be paid along with the fee for the current year.
- Membership will include certain privileges (e.g., discounts at ALE, etc.), to be established in the coming months and before the annual fees come into effect after the 2021 AGM.
- The reserve fund will be used only to pay for new improvements to property and buildings, major repairs, and replacement of aging equipment. It will NOT be used to cover operational deficits.
- Reserve fund disbursements must be approved by a majority vote of the membership—first vote to take place at the 2021 AGM.

- Information related to the amount and method of collection of the annual fees will be shared and put to a member vote as part of the annual fee process at the 2021 AGM. Changes to annual fees may be subsequently proposed by the Board, but these changes will be applied only with the majority agreement of members.

There will be consultations, including focus groups, to allow the community to provide input into the proposed annual fees. Stay tuned for further details – this will begin once the formal reserve fund review has been completed.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Three new board members were acclaimed at the AVRA AGM, and two of them have been nominated to the executive team:

- Marius Felix – New Vice-President
- Christine Adam-Carr – New Secretary
- Robin Richardson – New Director

David Pipkins, AVRA's Vice-President has ended his second consecutive two-year term.

The Board also re-elected Steve Lockett as AVRA President. The Board will meet later this month to discuss their plans for the year and will provide an update in January's issue of the *Amberwood Insider*.

NEW STANDING COMMITTEE TO MANAGE CLUB ACTIVITIES

The motion to approve the termination of the lease between AVRA and the Amberwood Village Golf and Country Club (AVGCC) was approved by members at the AGM. With the merger of AVRA and the AVGCC now in place, the new bylaws also formalized creation of an advisory Standing Committee with at least one non-AVRA club member to advise the Board on issues pertaining to activities at the club.

What does all this mean?

When the AVGCC lease is terminated, all work previously conducted by the AVGCC board will be transferred to AVRA. The only exception will be management of the club activities (golf, tennis/pickleball, pool), which will now be done by the new AVRA Standing Committee.

The Standing committee will report to AVRA monthly on all issues related to club activities.

The members of this committee are:

- Katharine Usher-Vollett (General Manager)
- Ralph Milligan (AVRA member)
- Tom Woodward (non-AVRA, club member)

Katharine Usher-Vollett brings her Expertise to Amberwood



Katharine Usher-Vollett is back at Amberwood Golf and Country Club as our new General Manager. For those who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting her, we'll take this opportunity to tell the community a bit more about her.

Katharine is a professional who brings with her 28 years of golf experience gained in a variety of positions within TMSI. She has always wanted to be in the hospitality industry and graduated from Algonquin Hotel and Restaurant Management. After a year in Whistler, she began her TMSI career at Thunderbird, hired by TMSI president Darin McCorrison, and then proceeded to hold almost every job in the company. She saw many changes and considers herself lucky to have contributed to the design, build and management of TMSI. Over the years, she has seen the vision come to life and continues to love what she does.

Asked if she has encountered any challenges as a woman in a traditionally male environment, Katharine smiled and shared that, "There are challenges in any career, but they aren't specifically related to being a woman. Recreation has evolved greatly over the past 30 years and golf is no exception. I love it," she adds, "I'm not intimidated. Women can do anything."

Katharine sees the future of golf in a positive light, sharing her view that, "COVID has been the best thing that has happened to the golf industry and has brought people to the sport either for the first time or returning to a sport they had set aside. Amberwood is in the perfect place for growth as it is a 9-hole course with a great location in an industry that is trending right now."

On a personal note, Katharine was introduced to her husband Chris when she was working at Thunderbird, and they have been together for over 20 years after taking their vows under the large willow tree on the 9th hole of the Amberwood Golf course. Chris and Katharine now live in Nepean and have a 19-year-old son, Carter, who is busy working and playing Junior A hockey. They also have their beloved chocolate lab, Ryder, who just loves being out on the course. Amberwood golfers can expect him to chase away a few geese while he runs by Katharine's cart, on his enthusiastic romps.

Asked what she looks forward to most in her role as General Manager was, Katharine says her two favourite aspects are the people and the ability to be outdoors, and she looks forward to meeting everyone and being a part of the new Amberwood.

During the winter months, her office hours are Monday to Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Club Activity Planning

In January, the new Standing Committee will meet with the designated activity captains and co-captains to plan their various events, schedule bookings with ALE for league events (where meals are required), discuss opening and closing functions and Canada Day and Club Championship tournaments, etc.

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

MEMBERS' CORNER

AVRA would like to welcome the following new members to our Association.

- Jennifer and Jason Pantalone
- Lisa and Steve Mancuso
- Monette and Don Guillemette
- Nancy Armstrong and Taoufiq Bouhlal
- Christina and Kent Bugatsch

Membership is open to any Amberwood Village resident. Click [here](#) to find out more and register.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you have any specific topics you would like covered, please send us an email at Amberwoodvillage1981@gmail.com 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.

