

SENIOR SCAPE: Winding down already?

By Sylvia Dickens

It seems like mere days since the Aurora Seniors' Centre reactivated its programs after a long, hot summer and here we are again. We've heard it before. Some programs are set to go idle until fall. It's understandable. People have far more going on in their lives over the summer than they do during bitter winters like the one we just had.

The Book Club, the computer drop-in help sessions and the dances are three that will pause. That doesn't mean you can't still enjoy the Centre over the summer. Besides, it's a great place to hang out when the temperature soars.

One new activity you can enjoy all season is Keep Singing. This informal group welcomes anyone who wants to sing just for the fun of it. It is not a choir. Rather, it takes you back in time to the days before television and computers, when families entertained themselves by standing around the piano and singing traditional favorites like You Are My Sunshine, When The Saints Go Marching In, Five Foot Two, Sentimental Journey and many others.

The group meets every Thursday from 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. for a fun sing-a-long in a social and relaxing atmosphere.

Card player wannabees

Have you ever wanted to learn how to play cards? There are several card games offered where other players will gladly teach you. You can learn Poker, Canasta and Bid Euchre while you play.

Poker players get together Thursdays at 1 p.m. Canasta meets Fridays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn Bid Euchre is held Mondays at 10 a.m. These are included in your \$1 daily activity fee.

Mahjong is a very old game that has a number of variations. Not all versions look the same. In fact, a computer version involves simply removing matching tiles to clear the board. The mahjong played at the Centre is much more involved and takes a bit of learning. Fortunately, the mahjong group is more than happy to teach you during any of their Monday afternoon sessions.

Simply walk through the door and someone will welcome you. When they find out that you've never played before, they will quickly become your teacher. As with the card games, you will learn as you play.

One last chance

You'll get one last chance to enjoy dancing at the Centre before this activity halts until September. June 20 is the final day for Friday Night Dance, which starts at 8 p.m. Singles and non-members are welcome. Your \$4.50 (members) and \$5 (non-members) fee includes light refreshments. A cash bar is also available with beer, wine and soft drinks. Line Dancing Practice will return September 9.

Urgent reminder

Don't forget the Family Fun Day and Picnic on June 22 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. It will be a great time for everyone. Be sure to bring your own food and the rest of the family, especially the children. They can enjoy face painting, a three-legged race, a clown and storytelling while you play bocce and table tennis. Get a peek into your future with a tarot card reader. Following the games, treat yourself to strawberry shortcake and cream dessert with hot and cold drinks.

There will be raffles and much more. The cost is 25 cents per activity, \$2.50 for dessert, drink. From 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., enjoy a music and comedy show by the Silver Stars called 'Fun with Song' with a sing-along for everyone featuring some old traditional favorites. It's a day suited for all ages - just like in the good old days.

Summer reading

The Book Club is another program that will ease off for the summer, but you can still enjoy a good book! Their last book was The Storyteller by Jodi Picoult. If you didn't read it, summer is a good time. It sounds quite intriguing but the images it portrays can be rather disturbing.

Sage Singer, a car crash survivor, faces a life with severe scarring that leaves her self-conscious about her appearance. While at a support group, she meets a 95-year-old former Nazi who committed despicable acts during World War Two.

Why would Josef choose to unburden all his guilt on her? Was what he was telling her even true? Should she share this horrible secret with anyone else and should Josef be made to pay for his crimes? The vivid descriptions of Josef's involvement in the persecution of Jews are difficult to read. Secrets and lies are exposed and the book takes a twist that none of the Book Club members

saw coming.

If you enjoy this activity, consider joining the Book Club when it starts again in September to begin regular bi-monthly meetings.