Keeping the Canadian Macedonian Community In Touch and Informed

### **Message from the Board**

We hope this letter finds you all healthy and well.

Like our lives, Zdravets has been on hold for the past two years as we all attempted to navigate the unsteady reality of COVID-19. With the return of Zdravets, we are pleased to reconnect with our Macedonian community and provide an update on Canadian Macedonian Place.

The period from March 2020 to present has been the most challenging in the Home's history. In this letter we share some of the obstacles and accomplishments CMP has faced over the past 24 months.

The initial and ensuing protocols and actions put in place by the Board are designed to keep our residents and staff safe. We owe an abundance of gratitude to our administrative staff—led by Zlatka Cokov, and with the support of Snezhana and Margarita, they are CMP's front-line workers. Zlatka and her team have shown remarkable leadership, strength and fortitude during this crisis and in their commitment to keeping our residents safe, and it is much appreciated.

CMPF President, George Markou, has demonstrated outstanding leadership throughout this crisis acting decisively to implement fast and effective protocols to ensure the safety of our staff and residents. George's rotating staff schedule kept CMP staff members working separately at intervals, thus ensuring we would always have back-up staff ready to assume administrative responsibilities in the event a member of the team had to quarantine.

In addition, George's position as a director on the Board of Markham Stouffville Hospital has been a great asset to CMP given that he is privy to first-hand protocols that the medical community has recommended and implemented throughout the pandemic. Working with long serving Board member, Dr. Chris Stefanovich, together they implemented a plan at the outset of Covid-19 and immediately locked down the Home and

issued safety directives. Thank you to Dr. Stefanovich for his full-time commitment to CMP over the past year. He has provided support to the Board and staff, and he met with residents at the onset of the pandemic explaining the seriousness of Covid-19 and ensuring everyone understood the need for social distancing, mask wearing and sanitization.

CMPF welcomed our newest Board member Chris Antaris (in October 2020), and as a senior executive at Apotex, Chris was instrumental in securing PPE for our staff and the Home at the onset of the pandemic and on multiple occasions thereafter. Thank you, Chris.

In March 2020, when the seriousness of the pandemic was confirmed, the Board made the decision to put the Home into "lockdown" mode. We restricted all visitors, including family members and made the immediate decision to halt the rotation of multiple PSW (Personal Support Workers) in favour of a few recurring PSWs in order to restrict the volume of essential care personnel visiting the Home. We asked residents to limit their mobility in and out of the Home for medical and essential reasons only. Although difficult to enforce and much resistance ensued, this directive was necessary to ensure the safety of staff and residents. In an effort to enforce these rules and at a substantial expense to the Home, CMP hired a 24/7-security service that has operated throughout the pandemic in an effort to enforce the rules and keep everyone safe.

Thank you to the Macedonian community for continuing to support CMP throughout the pandemic. Included in this Zdravets is a list of our special campaigns and generous donors. We hope you will take a moment to review and recognize our supporters. At the beginning of the pandemic Kat and Blair Bitove (granddaughters of CMP founders John and Dotsa Bitove) launched a GoFundMe campaign and raised close to \$10,000 for PPE equipment, sanitizer, food and much needed supplies for CMP.

### **Inside:**

### Message from the Board continued...



Board member Susan Niczowski made several donations of salads and dips for all CMP residents throughout the pandemic. Thanks to Tom and Jordan Bitove for donating Mother's Day lunch courtesy of Montecito Restaurant. Other donations include: Tim Horton's coffee and donuts from the Brown family; face masks from Vonna Bitove; face shields from Frank Mackovski of Mack Media Inc., and surgical masks from Dr. Kocho Cumandra. Father Sasho Celeski of St. Clements Cathedral visited at Easter with meals for the residents. It is impossible to list everyone and there remains a long list of individuals that stepped up to ensure the Home and its residents were provided for. If we've missed anyone, we sincerely apologize. Please know that we appreciate the generosity and kindness of all our supporters.

Having been forced to cancel the Macedonian Open Golf Tournament—CMP's largest annual fund-raising event—members of the Board launched a meal kit drive that raised over \$40,000. Led by Susan Niczowski, our favourite Macedonian meal specialties (beans, cabbage rolls, sausages, peppers and zelnik) were a huge success and we had many requests for a repeat in 2021. The success is not only in the much-needed funds raised for CMPF, but in continuing the tradition of our Macedonian cuisine.

For Thanksgiving 2020, Minerva Isovski offered meals to all CMP residents and arranged delivery from The Canadian Caribbean Cultural Association of Durham.

Upon making his 2020 year-end donation, Chris Paliare called upon fellow CMP Board members to rally in support of the Home. The Bitove Foundation pledged a matching \$10,000 gift and as a result, the CMP Board raised an additional \$32,050.

A fun donation drive that George Markou together with the generosity of Tom Bitove organized, was a Blue Jays box to watch our boys in blue play New York Yankees in September 2021. Everyone was asked to contribute \$1,000 to attend and we were able to raise a NET \$17,910. It was the first and only time that the Board members were able to gather in person and enjoy each other's company and raise some funds for the Home.

In February 2021, Toronto Public Health provided CMP residents with their first vaccine shots and in June, most received their second vaccine dose. The booster, or third vaccination was offered in November. Unfortunately, not all CMP residents follow the science and have instead declined to receive the vaccine.

Sadly, one resident of CMP did succumb to Covid-19 in early 2021. We also saw the passing of several CMP supporters and leaders of our Macedonian Community. Our inability to gather over the course of the pandemic is a reminder of how cherished our Macedonian traditions truly are. We send our sincere condolences to all who have suffered a loss. Bog Da Gi Prosti.

After 24 months of continuous Provincial lockdown orders, we look forward to the day that we can welcome everyone back to CMP. Our residents are looking forward to welcoming guests and inviting friends and family back inside the doors of Canadian Macedonian Place and we have just loosened restrictions allowing for family to once again visit.

Again, we thank you all for your continued generosity, support and understanding. We Macedonians are a resilient people, and we all look forward to celebrating together again soon.

Warmest regards, CMPF Board of Directors



### 2022 Macedonian Open

After two years of COVID-19 restrictions, the Macedonian Open committee is excited to welcome back golfers and supporters of CMPF this summer 2022, for our 78<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian Macedonian Open at Station Creek Golf Club in Stouffville.









### **2019 Trophy Winners**

### Van Petroff Trophy

Jordan Bilkas

#### **Cuzo Tamo Memorial Trophy** Kyle Thomas

#### Alex Evans Memorial Trophy John Petrovski

#### Alex Alexander Super Dedo 65+ Trophy

Kosta Opashinov

### Chris Vasilev Family Trophy

Richard Reininger

## **Steve Stavro Memorial Trophy** Dustin Mandel

**Stanley (Nace) Thomas Trophy** Jasmyn Andreevski

#### **Adams & Miles LLP Trophy**

Andreas Diogenous

#### **Dotsa Bitove Team Trophy**

Brett Bitove, Chloe Bitove, Jordan Bitove, Quinton Bitove

#### John (Lazo) Bitove Trophy

Chris Popalis, Themy Koutrakos, Nick Zarafonitis, Dan Parigoris

### Save the Date!

Join us for this year's 78<sup>th</sup> Macedonian Open 2022!

### Tuesday, July 5th, 2022

For more information visit www.MacedonianOpen.ca



### **2022 Sponsors**

#### **Tournament Sponsor**

Creative Wealth Media Jason Cloth & Paul Tennyson

#### **Registration & Breakfast Sponsor**

MAV Beauty Brands Tom Hortons-Branoff Family

#### **Lunch Sponsor**

Powerbev Inc. Summer Fresh Salads Niczowski Family

#### **Dinner Sponsor**

North American Development Group

#### **Diamond Sponsor**

The Bitove Foundation

#### **Gold Sponsor**

Precision Renovation Ltd. Stanwyck Family

#### **Hole-In-One Sponsor**

Wimpy's Dinner

#### **Silver Sponsor**

ARCH Corporation
Dan & Sue Argiros
RBC Dominion Securities Inc
Marilyn Trentos
Robert D. Petroff, BA, CPA, CGA, LPA
Robert D. Petroff Professional
Corporation
Chartered Professional Accountant
Summer Fresh Salads

## Niczowski Family **Bronze Sponsor**

Continental Carbon Group ScarboroSmiles.ca Dr. Kocho Cumandra Stan & Adie Thomas and Family

#### **Cart Sponsor**

Heritage Funeral Centre

#### **Food And Beverage courtesy of:**

A Special Group of Macedonian Ladies, Canadian Macedonian Place Foundation, Summer Fresh Salads, Tim Hortons-Branoff Family, Triple "A" Cheese These past several weeks have been unlike anything we have ever experienced in our country before. Our already caring community has come together in amazing ways and is handling this challenge with tremendous courage and optimism. Your kindness and generosity are, as always, very much appreciated. Because we're all concerned about our loved ones, friends and neighbours – especially those who are at greatest risk – I'm sharing this update on the current status of CMP, our resident seniors, and staff.

#### GoFundMe Campaign

On March 13, 2020, Blair & Katrina Bitove, the grandchildren of CMP founders John & Dotsa Bitove, launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise funds for the purchase of supplies to keep our CMP residents and staff safe during the pandemic. The goal was to raise \$1,000 and, to date, \$9,846 has been raised. Well done Blair and Katrina!

#### Blair Bitove writes as follows:

"Thank you all for your generous contributions. We far exceeded what we anticipated and couldn't have done it without you. We bought supplies and food and delivered them to CMP. The balance of the money was donated to CMP to continue to purchase needed supplies during this pandemic. Please feel free to keep the donations coming, as all contributions going forward will be donated to the CMP."

#### **Donations Received**

Thanks to the wonderful support of our community, CMP has received many donations for our residents and staff in recent weeks. A huge thank you goes out to everyone for your thoughtfulness and generosity, including:

- Vonna Bitove for donating face masks
- Susan Niczowski & Summer Fresh for donating food and snacks
- Stephanie Temovsky, Sonya & Dina Arrigo for taking the time and effort to make hand sanitizer sprays
- Marilyn Trentos for her donation of assorted fresh fruits
  - George & Pennie Markou for donating disinfectant wipes and lovely Easter treats
- The Brown Family for donating coffee and donuts







### Stronger Together continued...

- Dr. Stefanovich, Dr. Cumandra, Marilyn Trentos
   & Glen Day of Heritage Funeral Chapels for donating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and sanitizing wipes
- Dr. Denkovski & Dr. Markou for securing much needed PPE and sanitizing wipes at the beginning of the lockdown
- St. Clement of Ohrid, Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral – A special thank you to Father Sasho and all the wonderful ladies that prepared delicious, homemade Easter treats
- Rooster Coffee Shops for donating gallons of milk and cream
- Frank Mackovski of Mack Media Inc. for donating much needed face shields
- Tom & Jordan Bitove of Montecito Restaurant for donating a Mother's Day dinner for all of the Babas at the Home

#### **CMP Staff**

Although all social gatherings and activities have been suspended due to COVID-19, the staff at CMP remains engaged and in contact with our seniors. While in full PPE gear and practicing social distancing, Zlatka and her staff continue to connect with and support CMP residents with weekly door-to-door visits to check on the wellbeing of residents and to distribute all of your wonderful donations.

#### **CMP Volunteers**

A very special thank you goes to John Zolis, Filip Zolis, Coraleigh Tomlyn and Deborah Lauzon. We greatly appreciate your help, dedication and hard work.

#### **Final Word**

On behalf of the CMP Board, our residents, and especially our frontline professionals Zlatka, Margarita and Snezana, a big, heartfelt "Thank you!" for your kindness, generosity and support. During these unprecedented and challenging times your thoughtful donations will help facilitate the protection and wellbeing of our most precious and most valuable assets... our people!

Again, I thank you for the donations and I look forward to the day in the not too distant future when we can meet and I can thank you in person.



Everyone be well and stay safe,

George Markou President Canadian Macedonian Place Foundation





## CMP would like to thank the following individuals, organizations and clubs

<b>BITOVE GO FUND ME</b>	Christopher-Thomas Dimoff	. 1,125
Steve & Sally Stavro Family Foundation 2,000	Billy Kuminovski	100
Olga Sandolowich	Zlatka Cokov	. 1,040
St. Cyril & Methody Church 500	James Solomos	. 1,132
Tom Vassos	•	·
Anonymous	MACEDONIAN MEAL KIT	
Natalie Bitove	Helen Argiro	250
Paul & Mary Christie	Susan Argiros	
Steve & Stephanie Demestihas	Boris Aceski	
Vlade & Mary Dimitrovski	Zhivko Aceski	
Zhivko & Vera Fillcoff	Radmilo Anicic	
Elenore Hakomaki	John Bitove Jr.	
Nick Ilkos	Jordan Bitove	
Professor Kristina Kramer	Vonna Bitove	
Tom & Sophia Litsas	Tom Bozanis	
Dorothea Manos	Helen Chicules	
Chris & Leta Masin	Boris Christoff	
William & Mary Nasho	Doug Curapov	
Tanya & Zivko Nedelkovski	Helen Delaney	
Alex Nitsis	Virignia Evans	
	Edith George	
Jim Petroff	William Giamos	
Sophie & Renzo Tanel	Robert Gill	
Chris Dewsbury-Rodrigues	Robin Gingras	
Angelo & Thelma Sideris	Pat Gonsalves	
George Strezov	Jayson Horner	
Virginia Stoymenoff	Nikola Janevski	
Jim Vassos	Sharon Jones.	
Kathleen Wallman	Goran Jovanovich	
Tom Ylkos	May Kapches	
J. Gerald Paul	Walter Kiryakov	
7 A ZDD AVIE	George Kizoff Professor Kristina Kramer	
ZA ZDRAVJE Zhivko & Vera Fillcoff	Chris Kuzmas	
Perunika Mirchevski	Peter Lazarevski	
Vasil & Kathy Plasko	Steve Lazarevski	
	John Lazarou	
Elpida Vassos100Tom Ylkos400	George Markou	
Dr. Chris & Mrs. Vasilka Stefanovich & Family	Kim Marshall	
Olga Sandolowich	Zoran Misevski	
74 DOC DA DDOCTI 74 CITE CUOLUMDENII	Alex Mishos	
ZA BOG DA PROSTI, ZA SITE SVOJ UMRENI	Steve Moskowski.	
Chrisoula Nicholas	Jim Nikopoulos	
CMD/C 40TH AND HYPED CADA/ 40TO 2040	Mary Niczowski	
CMP'S 40 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1979 - 2019	Susan Niczowski	
Dr. Chris and Mrs. Vasilka Stefanovich and Family 400	Alex Nitsis	
D 11.1 ' '	Elena Opasini.	
Payroll designation	Alex & Grozda Ostas & Family	
BENEVITY (CDN ONLINE GIVING)	Kathy Oushalkas	
John Vasiliou	Garry Paspalofski	
CANADA HELDO	Helen Paul	
CANADA HELPS	Debbie Penzo	
Louis Ivanovsky	Diane Petroff	
Dr. Chris and Mrs. Vasilka Stefanovich and Family 500	Jim Petroff.	
Paul Christie - Missing CMP Golf	Mary Petroff	
Paul Christie - Memories of Meca Grill	Robert Petroff	
HINTERFED TALANA	John Petrovski	
UNITED WAY	James Phillips.	
John Vidinovski	Helen Rentis	250

## for their contributions received between January 2019 and February 9, 2022.

RBC Investments - Marilyn Trentos	Memory of The Gang at the Meca Grill
Olga Sandolowich	Paul Christie500
Damiani Sekoulidis	
Mary Sheehy	Memory of Maria Moukas
Mary Sialtsis	Alex Mishos
Peter Simeon	
Robert Simeon	Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Danny Skoufranis	Robert D. Petroff
Steven Smirnis	
Tom Smirnis	IN HONOUR
Steve and Sally Stavro Family Foundation	In Honour of Bruce & Zoe Christo -
Michael Stoyan	50th Wedding Anniversary
Louis Strezos	Bruce & Zoe Christo
Tom Strezos	Pero & Zlatka Cokov
Dr. Chris and Mrs. Vasilka Stefanovich and Family 1,000	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Chris & Leta Masin
Chris Temovsky	
Stanley Thomas	Congratulations to Darryl (Jessie) Christo for receiving the
Olga Tomev	Top Diamond Award for IG Wealth Management
Nick Tomovski500	Love, Bruce & Zoe Christo (mom & dad) 100
Marilyn Trentos	
John Tsarvenkov	In Honour & happiness for my grandchildren
Teddy Tzogas	(Jack & Roxanne DiPucchio)
Alexander Tzotzis	Diana Thomas
Alex Vassos	
Geroge Vertkas	In Honour of Milestone Birthdays in 2019
Bill & Christine Ziskoff	Donna Scotland 75 - Virginia Stoymenoff 85
Paul & Mary Christie	Daisy Koleff 90 - Olga Sandolowich 90
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Virginia Stoymenoff
YEAR END BOARD DRIVE	
Memory of sister Faith Croxon, and parents Norm	In Honour of my mother in law Dorothea Manos
Memory of sister Faith Croxon, and parents Norm	In Honour of my mother in law Dorothea Manos Thomas & Karen Bitove
& Hope Paliare	In Honour of my mother in law Dorothea Manos Thomas & Karen Bitove
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## CMP would like to thank the following individuals, organizations and clubs

IN MEMORIAM	In Memory of Chris Dimoff, Tom Litsas and Naso Nitsou
In loving memory of Latsa Alexiou	Tom & Kathy Dimoff500
Marilyn Trentos	7 7 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
T 3.6 (400F)	In Memory of Afroditi (Dita) Dimou
In Memory of parents Lexa (Fotevska) Andreoff (1987) & Vancho Andreoff	Louis, Lena and Mary Damopoulos
Virginia Evans	In Memory of Dana Elia
	Dr. Chris & Mrs. Vasilka Stefanovich & Family 100
In Memory of Sophie Antonopoulos	Robert Petroff100
Mary Petroff50	Mary Petroff
Robert Petroff50	Diane Petroff & Stuart Campbell
In Loving Memory of Anna Baker (Alexovsky)	In Memory Frank Evans - Bog da go prosti, da e zhiva familijat
Marilyn Trentos	Dr. Chris & Mrs. Vasilka Stefanovich & Family 100
In Memory of Dime Balkou	In Memory of the passing of our dear friend John Evans
Anne Papaioanou	The Bitove Foundation
	Chris Paliare & Ewa Marszewski 500
In Memory of John Bitove	Diana Thomas
Chris Bozanis	
	In Memory of Grozda and Milka Giannopoulos
In Memory of Tula Bozanin	Louie & Vicky Calko60
Chris Bozanis	
	In Memoriam Jim Ginou
In Memory of Spiro i Trayanka Bozanis	The Bitove Foundation
Chris Bozanis	I. W
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In Memory of vujna Marika Tsugios	
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### **Recipes**



#### **Gevretsi so Susam (Sesame rings)**

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 teaspoon dry active yeast
- $\frac{3}{4}$  tablespoon plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon sugar
- 3 cups all-purpose flour, sifted, plus extra for dusting
- 2 teaspoons salt

- 2 tablespoon olive oil, plus extra for greasing
- 2 egg whites, whisked
- 1 cup sesame seeds

#### **Instructions** (*Yield:* 16 rings)

- 1. In a small bowl, add yeast and ½ teaspoon sugar to warm water. Stir once. Cover bowl with a plate and let stand until yeast begins to foam, about 10 minutes.
- 2. In a large bowl, add flour, salt and 2 tablespoons of sugar. Make a well in the centre.
- 3. Pour in the yeast mixture and 2 tablespoons of olive oil into the center of the well. Using a spatula, gently work flour into liquid and stir until dough begins to form. Transfer dough to work table dusted with flour and knead for about 10 minutes until dough is smooth and elastic. Dust surface with extra flour if dough feels sticky.
- 4. Place dough into a large bowl that has been greased with olive oil. Brush the top of the dough with a thin layer of olive oil. Cover bowl with a large plate and set aside in a warm place to let dough rise for 1 hour.
- 5. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Grease 2 baking sheets with olive oil.
- 6. Transfer dough to a clean workspace and cut into 16 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a log about ½ inch thick and 8 inches long.
- 7. Attach the ends of each log to form a ring. Place rings onto greased baking sheets and cover loosely with a tea towel. Set aside in a warm place for 30 minutes.
- 8. Brush each ring with whisked egg whites and cover generously with sesame seeds.
- 9. Bake for 25-30 minutes until golden brown. Bake in batches if both baking sheets do not fit in oven at once.



#### **Tavche Gravce**

#### **Ingredients**

- 2 cups dried white kidney beans or Great Northern beans
- 1 table spoon unsalted butter
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 1 red bell pepper diced
- 1 teaspoon paprika

- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 ½ cups boiling water
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 2 teaspoons roughly chopped fresh mint
- 2 teaspoons roughly chopped fresh parsley

#### **Instructions** (serves 4-6)

- 1. Soak kidney beans for 6 to 8 hours or overnight in about 8 cups of water. Drain and rinse beans.
- 2. Place beans in a medium stockpot and add in 8 cups of water. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium and simmer uncovered for 30 minutes. Drain beans and set aside.
- 3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
- 4. In a Dutch oven melt butter on stovetop over medium heat. Add in onion, red bell pepper and paprika.
- 5. Sauté until vegetables are tender, about 3-4 minutes.
- 6. Sprinkle in flour and stir to coat vegetables. Sauté for an additional 2 minutes.
- 7. Pour in boiling water, salt and beans. Gently stir and bring up to a simmer. Cover with a lid or aluminum foil and place in oven for 1 hour.
- 8. Remove from oven. Sprinkle with mint and parsley and bake uncovered for another 30 minutes.

The recipes are provided by Katerina Nitsou, author of the Macedonian cookbook:

### **MACEDONIA: Recipes and Stories from the Balkans**

(the cookbook is available on macedoniacookbook.com & amazon.ca)

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