



Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party Newsletter – Dec. 2025

Dear Strathmere Lodge residents, family members, friends/responsible parties:

1. Lodge Initiative – Strategic Review and Strategic Plan



Further to last month's newsletter, an external consultant firm, the Centre for Organizational Effectiveness (In London), has been contracted to facilitate the establishment of a strategic plan – a roadmap for The Lodge to follow for the coming years.

Eliciting resident/family feedback is a vital component in the development of The Lodge Strategic Plan. Please stay tuned (further communication to follow) as to the vehicle(s) that will be used to obtain your feedback.

This strategic plan initiative is expected to conclude in March with the publication of The Lodge's strategic planning document.

2. Specialized Foot Care Services



For those residents who receive foot care services from our contracted service provider, please be advised that the cost of these services is going up, from \$40 per visit to \$45 per visit, effective February 1, 2026. The last price increase was two years ago.

Typically, a significant number of long term care home residents require specialized foot care.

Specialized foot care is applicable to those who need on-going assessment of their feet related to circulation, swelling and the potential for pressure injury development, and those who require treatment for such things as ingrown toenails, fungal infections and thick nails.

We discuss the need for specialized foot care with applicable residents/families.

Specialized foot care is not a provincially insured service. It is provided at The Lodge by a contracted (external) service provider (“Sole Solutions”) with specialized foot care training.

Specialized foot care is typically required every six (6) to eight (8) weeks.

For more information on foot care, please contact Sonya Gillett, Director of Resident Care (519-245-2520, ext. 6234, or sgillett@middlesex.ca).

3. December Special Events



Please pick up and check out our monthly Recreation calendar (given to every individual resident, in addition to being available in each Resident Home Area, and on our [web page](https://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care/recreation) at: <https://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care/recreation>) for events that you may find of interest and would like to attend.

Our upcoming events for December include:

- Dec. 3rd – Strathroy Chorale Performance (2:15pm in the Rose Room)
- Dec. 11th – Christmas Attire Day (come out wearing your festive Christmas sweater)
- **Dec. 11th** (Snow date Dec. 18th) – **Resident/Family Christmas Open-house** (come partake in Christmas treats and complimentary family Christmas photos, in the Rose Room from 1:30pm-4:00pm)
- Dec. 13th – Entertainment by The Pierce Band (2pm-3pm in the Rose Room)
- Dec. 16th – Members of the Strathmere Lodge Ladies’ Auxiliary will be handing out Christmas gifts to every Lodge resident (starting at 1:15pm)
- Dec. 20th – Music with Wayne Gaudon (2pm-3pm in the Rose Room)
- Dec. 23rd – Annual Lodge Christmas Parade (2pm in the Rose Room)
- Dec. 23rd – Red and Green Day (please dress accordingly)
- Dec. 31st – New Year’s Eve Happy Hour with Randy Grey (2pm-3pm in the Rose Room)
- Throughout December – Nursing Station Christmas Decorating Staff Contest (check out the fun and creativity in each of the 5 resident home areas)

4. Purchasing Christmas Day Meal at The Lodge



Family members/visitors may purchase a Christmas Day (Dec. 25th) meal from The Lodge for \$20, in order to have a Christmas meal at The Lodge with a loved one residing at The Lodge. You can reserve a meal in advance by contacting The Lodge (519-245-2520) as soon as possible. Due to space/operational limitations, we can only accommodate five (5) visitors per each of our 5 resident home areas. To be equitable, we need to limit family/visitor meals to one person per resident.

Please ensure you reserve a Christmas meal as far in advance of (and before) December 25th as possible in order to avoid disappointment.

5. Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) Resources



The Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) is highlighting resources and initiatives to assist older adults, including those offered by the province:

- A comprehensive **(Link:) Seniors Guide**, with resources on tax credits, health and wellbeing, caregiving, volunteering, transportation and staying safe;
- An online **(Link:) Seniors Portal** that provides information on programs and services for seniors, such as tax credits, health care, caregiving, housing, transportation and more; and
- Free **(Link:) Tax Talk Webinars** to help individuals understand provincial taxes, tax credits, and benefits.

6. Lodge Improvements Implemented



As part of adhering to our provincial long term care homes legislation, we communicate initiatives we implement aimed at improving our care, services, programs, goods/products and/or accommodations. To that end, improvements made since our last newsletter include:

- a) Aluminum cladding of Lodge window sills to enhance weather resistance (e.g., prevent rain leaks)
- b) Automatic sliding door track replaced (front entrance)
- c) Resident washroom plumbing upgrades (Hickory Woods)

d) Staff fire extinguisher training with Strathroy-Caradoc Fire Prevention Officer

7. Resident Clothing Closet and Drawers



Our Lodge clothes laundering process results in quick turnaround times, which minimizes the need to have/store large volumes of clothing in the provided closet and drawers.

Given that our closets and drawers have finite space, we ask families to rotate clothing in/out as the seasons change, in order to avoid large volumes of clothing in the closet and drawers, which can lead to disorganization.

We appreciate families' assistance in reviewing clothing in order to ensure that clothing is kept organized, easily accessible, and seasonally relevant.

8. Labelling of Residents' Clothing



To prevent missing clothing ... This is a reminder that new clothing needs to be labelled with the resident's name before a resident begins to wear it (this also includes items such as shoes/slippers and personal blankets/throws). Please ensure that you use the Clothing Bin near the main entrance to deposit clothing requiring labelling, after inventorying the clothing items on the form provided at the bin (further instructions are provided at the clothing bin). Note that, if clothing enters our laundry system without first having a resident's name affixed, it may not be possible to trace unlabelled clothing back to the applicable resident.

For inquiries regarding missing clothing and the like, please contact Jeff Turnbull, Lodge Environmental Services Manager, at (519) 245-2520, ext. 6244 (or, via email: jturnbull@middlesex.ca).

9. Labelling of Other Personal Resident Items



Apart from clothes labelling noted above, residents/families are encouraged to label other personal resident effects (including new items brought to The Lodge from time-to-time), notably items that are more portable in nature, such as TV remote controls.

10. In Conclusion



Please let me know if you would like to see certain issues addressed in future newsletter editions (contact Brent Kerwin, Administrator, 519-245-2520, ext. 6222, or via email at: bkerwin@middlesex.ca).

Please share a copy of this newsletter with other family members and friends, or direct them to our web page: <http://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care>.

Hardcopies of our newsletter are also maintained at our Public Information Board near Reception. Copies of older newsletter editions are compiled in binders at our Reception Desk, and are available for your review.



Brent Kerwin, Administrator