



Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party Newsletter – Sept. 2026

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

1. Lodge Initiative – Strategic Plan



Working with an external consultant firm (the Centre for Organizational Effectiveness, in London), our strategic planning efforts to establish our Lodge “roadmap” for the coming years in the form of a written strategic plan document have come to fruition with recent Middlesex County Council approval of Strathmere Lodge’s 2026-2031 Strategic Plan.

The strategic plan will be introduced to residents, families and staff in the coming weeks.

Thank you to those who participated in the feedback process.

The strategic plan development phase now turns to the strategic plan implementation phase. We look forward to continuing to work with residents, families and staff to implement The Lodge’s strategic plan.

2. Mock Evacuation Exercise



On the morning of Thursday, September 10, 2026, The Lodge will be conducting a mock evacuation exercise, in keeping with provincial long-term care home legislation that requires all homes to have various emergency response plans in place, and to periodically test their plans.

As part of the exercise, we will physically transport some Lodge residents (i.e., those consenting to participate in the exercise) to our “temporary evacuation site” identified in our evacuation plan (which is the East Strathroy Christian Reformed Church).

All of The Lodge's emergency response plans are posted on The Lodge's webpage (<https://www.middlesex.ca/emergency-plans-manual>).

Please contact Brent Kerwin, Lodge Administrator (phone: 519-245-2520, ext. 6222, or email: bkerwin@middlesex.ca), with any questions about The Lodge's emergency response plans and/or the upcoming mock evacuation exercise.

3. New Lodge Pharmacy Services Provider



Please be advised that The Lodge is changing pharmacy service providers effective November 4th, from CareRx to Advantage Care Pharmacy.

All Ontario long-term care homes contract with pharmacy service providers to provide prescribed medications to residents, and to provide related medication management services.

Advantage Care Pharmacy is a regional provider of pharmacy services, providing pharmacy services to long-term care homes in Ontario.

Further information on The Lodge's new pharmacy services provider is attached to this newsletter mailing.

Please contact Sonya Gillett, Lodge Director of Resident Care (email: sgillett@middlesex.ca, or phone: 519-245-2520, ext. 6234), with any questions about pharmacy services.

4. New Lodge Spousal Support Group



Beginning in September, Strathmere Lodge will be launching a new **Spousal Support Group** for the spouses of Lodge residents. This monthly gathering provides an opportunity for participants to connect, share experiences, discuss challenges, and offer mutual support as they and their loved ones navigate the aging process in long-term care.

Our first meeting will be held on **September 23rd at 1:30 pm in the Chapel.**

Kristie Ouellette, Lodge Resident and Family Liaison, will be facilitating our meetings, so please reach out to her with any questions (519-245-2520, ext. 6223, or via email at: kouellette@middlesex.ca).

We warmly welcome all resident spouses who are interested in joining us for this supportive and meaningful conversation.

5. September 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 September include:

- Wednesday, September 2nd, 2pm – Music with the Sisters of Choice (in the Rose Room)
- Saturday, September 12th, 2pm – Jimmy's Old Time Radio Show (in the Rose Room)
- Tuesday, September 15th, 2pm - Garden Party and Pathway Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for newly renovated garden area (ceremony to be conducted outside in the Hickory Woods/Sydenham Meadows garden, weather permitting)
- Tuesday, September 15th, 5:30pm-7pm (rain date Sept. 17th) – Strathroy-Caradoc Cruiser Car Club Show (in the visitor parking lot)
- Wednesday, September 23rd, 6pm – Strathmere Lodge Choir Practice (in the Chapel)

6. Next Lodge Family Council Meeting



This group of involved and caring friends and family members meets on a regular basis to share information and discuss common issues. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 1:00pm, in the Chapel.

All family/friends of residents of Strathmere Lodge are welcome to attend. No pre-registration is necessary.

For more information, please contact Kristie Ouellette, Resident and Family Liaison (519-245-2520, ext. 6223, or kouellette@middlesex.ca).

Minutes of the most recent Family Council meeting are posted on the family information board in the Rose Room (near the Chapel), and previous minutes are available for review at our Reception desk.

7. 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).

8. 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.

9. 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