



**Family, Friend and Responsible Party
Newsletter
June 2013**



Dear Strathmere Lodge resident's family member/friend/responsible party:

Changes

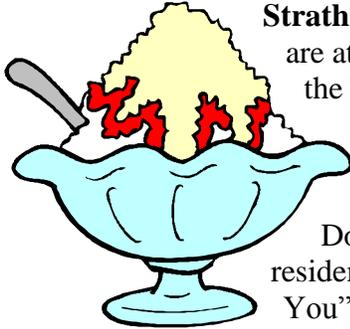
- Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary we have new outdoor furniture on the upstairs terrace: 2 vibrantly colored tables with umbrellas, 8 chairs, 2 rockers and a sitting bench.
- Electronic wall sconce fly traps have been installed in each of our dining areas
- We recently purchased 10 new hew hi-lo beds to replace some of our older beds and to reduce the possibility of our residents injuring themselves.
- We will be installing power assisted door openers on the doors leading into 4 of our resident Home areas. This will allow us to keep the doors closed for security reasons [they are connected to the Wander guard system] and will help reduce noise to and from the lobby areas while allowing ease of access for our residents.

Evacuation Exercise- On Wednesday May 29th we held a mock evacuation of our building to test our emergency procedures. The weather was not very cooperative so we did not evacuate our residents out to the visitors' parking lot assembly area as we had planned, however it was a good learning experience for us all.

Monthly Caregiver Support Group – This new group runs the 4th Tuesday of every month in the Chapel, beginning @ 2pm. For more information please contact Lisa Spurgeon – Social Worker at ext. 319 or at lspurgeon@middlesex.ca

Cable Digital Adapters- Our apologies on behalf of the Hospitality Network for the confusion created for residents and families during the installation of the new, no-cost, digital adapters for resident owned televisions.

Long-Term Care Resident Co-Payment Rates- New accommodation rates for residents become effective July 1. The bulletin from the Province announcing the increases was posted around the Home in late May and copies were sent to all responsible parties. These rates are set by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and are standard across all LTC Homes in the Province.



Strathmere Lodge Auxiliary – 2012 Annual Report –Floral vested ladies are at the Lodge every day, feely giving of their time. They can be seen in the Tuck Shop, Ice Cream Parlour, or helping with an event organized by the Activation Department. All money raised by the Auxiliary goes back to activities to make resident life “more like home”.

The Auxiliary appreciates money raised through Memorial Donations, Ice Cream, the Bazaar, and the Tuck Shop. Families and residents thank us by handshakes, smiles, hugs and words like “Thank You”. Friendships mean a great deal to us of the Auxiliary.

This year, we have given more than 7000 hours of volunteer time. Thank you one and all, for your support!!

Janet Patterson. President.

Resident Profiles – If you have not yet completed a profile on your resident to help staff to get to know him better and to provide her with individualized care and services, please do so ASAP. If you have any questions about the profile process please contact Marcy Welch at extension 226, mwelch@middlesex.ca.

Physiotherapy – It appears that the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care will be reducing funding of physiotherapy services in Long Term Care Homes while introducing special funding for exercise programs in the Homes, effective August 1. At this time we are unclear how this will affect the residents of Strathmere Lodge, or whether residents will continue to receive Occupational Therapy and ADP assessments at no cost.

We are in discussions with our current Physiotherapy provider – Centric Health – on ways to minimize the anticipated future negative impact of this change in physiotherapy funding. I'll keep you updated as we receive further direction from the Ministry.

Activity Calendar – Don't forget to pick up and check out the monthly Activity calendars [available in each RHA [Resident Home Area] and also posted on our website] for events that you may find of interest and would like to attend along with your resident friend/family member. You are encouraged to join us at any time, especially for whole Home events such as:

Sat. July 6th – Gary Muxlow entertains at 1:30 pm

Wed. July 10th – Annual Garden Party 6:30-7:30 pm

Fri. July 19th – Randy Gray entertains at 2:00 pm

Fri. July 26th – Happy Hours with Ross Ward at 2:00 pm

Tues. Aug. 6th – Cam Denomme entertains at 2:00 pm

Fri. Aug. 9th – Entertainment by Peter Mason at 2:00 pm

Sat. Aug. 17th – Strathroy – Caradoc Cruisers Car Show in Front Parking Lot – 1:30-3:30 pm

Wed. Aug. 21st – The Goldies entertain at 2:00 pm

Sat. Aug 24th – Genevieve Fisher entertains at 1:45 pm

Feeling unwell? - Please do not visit Strathmere Lodge if you or anyone in your home has a cold or symptoms of the “flu” [intestinal or respiratory]. While in the Home please be sure to use our waterless hand cleanser before and after visiting with your resident, upon entering, and as you are leaving the Resident Home Area and the building.



Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Inspections- recently there have been numerous sensationalist reports in the media about the lack of Ministry inspections in LTC Homes. Particular concern was expressed over the fact that not all LTC Homes have had a full comprehensive review, called a Resident Quality Inspection [RQI], since the new LTC Act was introduced in 2010. What was not clearly noted was the fact that each Home in the South West LHIN has been subject to at least one unannounced Critical Incident, Complaint, or Special Follow-up Ministry Inspection each and every year.

While Strathmere Lodge has not had one of the new RQI's [that can take up to 2 weeks with 3 or more Ministry inspectors] it has been inspected annually and results of these inspections have been publicly posted and shared with County Council [as the Board of Management] and our

Resident and Family Councils.

What the newspaper articles also did not note is that even in a Home that has received a positive HQI with few or no non-compliances, a critical or unusual incident [including resident to resident, resident to staff or visitor, or staff or visitor to resident incident], could occur the very next day. While all LTC Homes strive to provide the safest and most secure living environment they can for the residents in their care there are regrettably no guarantees that there might not be an unexpected and unacceptable incident.

Unusual and sometimes horrific, tragic events occur in the general community and I would not expect that any school, workplace, institution or living environment can ever be totally immune from them.

I have worked in the Long Term Care Sector for some 30 years. My mother, my father-in law, and 2 of my favorite uncles have all lived and eventually passed away in Long Term Care Homes. I would not hesitate to admit any of my friends or relatives into a LTC Home because I know of the exceptional care and service that the vast majority of LTC staff provide to their residents, sometimes under the most difficult circumstances.

Our association [OANHSS] and its members welcome a transparent compliance system that proactively identifies and targets risk.

We support the efforts taken by the Ministry to ensure the timely roll out of all inspections and, specifically, are pleased that these efforts mean that the Ministry has the resources to conduct increasing numbers of proactive 'surprise' inspections, RQI and otherwise.

While Strathmere Lodge strives to achieve compliance with all aspects of the Long Term Care Homes Act and its Regulations, we know that compliance and reporting activity is not sufficient to ensure safe and quality care. We are also engaged in comprehensive and innovative continuous quality improvement activities (e.g. Residents First) that aim to ensure that each resident in our Home enjoys safe, effective and responsive care in order to help him or her achieve the highest potential quality of life.

While we fully endorse a proactive, regular inspection program, we also recognize that the Ministry needs to adequately fund and resource (e.g. well trained staff) Homes so that they can properly care for residents with increasingly complex care needs and challenging/responsive behaviours.





Family & Friends Council- This group of involved and caring friends and family members meets on a regular basis to share information and discuss common issues.

Please contact Lisa Spurgeon – Social Worker at lspurgeon@middlesex.ca or ext. 319 for more information or to verify the times and dates of future meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 11th at 1:30 p.m. and new members are always welcome.

Minutes of meetings are posted and available for review at our reception desk.

The Family and Friends Council provided dessert for our recent Staff Appreciation day BBQ's. It is also holding a June 24th Wine and Cheese social for resident family members and friends.

Let me know if you would like to see certain issues addressed in future editions: torvidas@middlesex.ca , 519-245-2520 ext. 222

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

Back copies of newsletters are available in a binder at our reception desk and on our website.

Additional copies of this edition are located on our Public Information Board in the main lobby.

Tony Orvidas, Administrator

Distribution: Responsible Parties, Auxiliary, Info Board, RHA's, website, County Council, staff, other stakeholders.

