



**Family, Friend and Responsible Party
Newsletter
February 2012**



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

Changes – The Royal Canadian Legion committed \$7,500 towards the purchase of our new Air Loss Therapeutic Surface [specialized air mattress] for the Lodge. A most sincere thank you.

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.

The Council met at 1:30pm in the conference room on February 22nd.

For more information or to check on the times and dates of future meetings please contact Recreation Manager Marcy Welch at ext. 226.

Monthly Caregiver Support Group – for family members of Strathmere Lodge residents living with Alzheimer's or related dementias.

They are held on the 4th Monday of each month [next meeting- March 26] from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in our Conference room.

If interested, contact Diane at VON ACSP [Alzheimer Community Support Program] (519) 245-3170, or talk to our Recreation Manager, Marcy Welch at ext. 226.

Foot Care - I realize that the recent change in foot care policy/procedure has been somewhat confusing for some people. I just want to clarify the difference between "regular" foot care and "special" foot care (the service our residents now have to pay for.)

All residents must have their feet washed and their toenails clipped, and in the majority of cases, this is done by a PSW/HCA. In the case of a diabetic resident, a registered staff member (i.e., RN or RPN) cuts the residents' nails. This is all done free of charge, as part of our regular service.

The 'fee-for-service' foot care that we now provide is intended for residents with more serious issues, such as corns, open lesions, bunions, etc. Residents who would like treatment of these conditions are asked to pay \$25 for a half hour of more in-depth special foot care or to seek treatment from an alternate service provider.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me. Similarly, if other residents or family members have any questions or concerns, please direct them my way.

Chris Saxby, DRC.

Growing Together - People and Plants – please note the attached information from our Horticultural Therapist.

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 our Home.

Activity Calendar – Don’t forget to pick up and check out the monthly Activity calendars [available in each RHA [Resident Home Area]] 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 anytime, especially for whole home activities such as:

Entertainment by Lorne Whitby – Wed, Mar 7th at 2:00pm

Music by the Barbershop Singers – Wed, Mar 7th at 7:30pm

St.Patrick’s Day Party with “The Goldies” – Fri, Mar 16th at 2:00pm

Excellent Reading – I’m in the process of reading a very interesting and informative book called “Late-Stage Dementia [Promoting Comfort, Compassion, and Care]” by Dr. Michael Gordon. It covers issues like Palliative Care; Decision making and Ethical Decisions; Symptom Management; Family Conflict; and much much more. I recommend it highly!

A number of our employees and family members recently attended an excellent presentation by Dr. Gordon here in Strathroy. He is a medical professor, ethicist and one of Canada’s best known geriatricians, based at Baycrest in Toronto.

We have a number of excellent books about aging, dementia, and Long Term Care available for loan through our Recreation Manager or found in our Palliative Care library.

Long Term Care Task Force on Resident Care and Safety – please note the attached information and questionnaire.

Feel free to contact me 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>.

Recent back copies of our newsletters are available in a binder at our reception desk and on the Middlesex County 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.





LONG-TERM CARE TASK FORCE ON RESIDENT CARE AND SAFETY

PLEASE MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

The Long-Term Care Task Force on Resident Care and Safety was set up to examine and address issues related to incidents of abuse and neglect in long-term care homes and the underreporting of these incidents.

- Abuse includes physical, emotional, financial, sexual and verbal abuse. Abuse can occur between residents and staff, between residents and other residents, between residents and volunteers, between residents and visitors, and between visitors and staff.
- Neglect happens when a resident does not get the treatment, care, services or assistance they need, and this has a negative impact on their health, safety or wellbeing.

YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US

The Task Force needs your input on abuse and neglect in long-term care homes so that it can develop an action plan on resident care and safety that is targeted for public release by the end of April 2012.

- If you need help to answer the following questions, please ask someone whom you trust and are comfortable with.
- You do not need to sign your name or identify who you are. Your answers are confidential and anonymous. Only the Chair of the Task Force and a research analyst will see your responses. They will be summarized and all identifiers will be removed before the Task Force sees the results. Please note, however, by law, the Task Force must report to the Ministry any information it receives that relates to abuse, neglect or other reportable actions where a long-term care home and/or individual(s) are identified.

There are a number of ways for you to give us your input to these questions:

- Visit www.longtermcaretaskforce.ca and click on "Your Voice" to respond online.
- Send your answers to the Long-Term Care Task Force, 1938 Bloor St West, P.O. Box 30026, Toronto, ON M6P 4J2.
- Fax your responses to the Long-Term Care Task Force at (416) 766-8007 between the hours of 8:00 am-8:00 pm.
- Call 1-866-399-6073 to record your responses.

Please send us your responses by March 19, 2012.

We appreciate your input. Thank you!

Please see next page for the questions.

Please note: The investigation of incidents of abuse and neglect is not within the mandate of the Long-Term Care Task Force on Resident Care and Safety. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is responsible for ensuring compliance with the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* and conducting inspections.

If you have reasonable grounds to suspect that a resident of a long-term care home is being or may be harmed or abused, please immediately contact the Ministry by calling the Long-Term Care ACTION LINE any day from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m (1-866-434-0144).

The Ministry will look into your allegation. By law, the Task Force must report to the Ministry any information it receives that relates to abuse, neglect or other reportable actions where a long-term care home and/or individual(s) are identified.

For further information on legal requirements please see www.longtermcaredtaskforce.ca.

LONG-TERM CARE TASK FORCE ON RESIDENT CARE AND SAFETY IN ONTARIO

– PLEASE REPLY BY MARCH 19, 2012 –

USE EXTRA PAPER IF YOU NEED TO

- 1. Based on what you have seen, heard or experienced, please tell us the key things that make a long-term care home a place where residents feel safe, respected and well cared for. Please be specific and give examples.**

- 2. From your experience and knowledge, what kinds of things lead to abuse and neglect in long-term care homes? (Abuse includes emotional, financial, sexual, verbal as well as physical abuse.) Please be specific and give examples.**

- 3. In your view, how can incidents of emotional, financial, sexual, verbal and physical abuse and neglect be prevented?**

Please turn page

4. By law, a long-term care home must post the government's Long-Term Care ACTION LINE phone number for anyone to call if they want to report the abuse or neglect of a resident or even the suspicion of abuse or neglect. When a call is made, a government inspector must investigate and the report of the investigation must be clearly posted in the home.

4a. When a resident is abused or neglected, why do you think it might not be reported?

4b. Why do you think the outcome might not be communicated properly, as required by law?

5. Please add any other comments that you may have that will help the Task Force develop its action plan on resident care and safety.

6. Please tell us if you are speaking as a (check all that apply):

- Resident
- Family Member/Friend
- Staff Member: Please specify your role _____
- Volunteer
- Family Council Member
- Long-term Care Advocate
- Other: Please specify _____

THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING YOUR INPUT

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Growing Together

— People and Plants —



Submitted by Mary Laskey, HTR (519) 245-3975

February is a month to recall the loves in our lives as Valentine's Day has passed. There is no better way to say I Love You than with a bundle of flowers – especially roses. During the Victorian Era (1837-1901) the language of flowers (floriography) was used to communicate messages and express feelings which could not be spoken. The language was often expressed through tussie-mussies. Today some of the nuances and associations still apply. For instance red roses imply romantic love and pink ones a lesser affection. White ones suggest chastity and virtue, while yellow roses suggest friendship, forgiveness and devotion. Even a handkerchief scented with floral water could convey a message. In the language of flowers the colour can also be symbolic as the type of plant to relay different messages.

Though today we certainly don't rely on flowers to express feelings, they are still often used for many occasions and the type of flower used may still relay a commonly understood message. Charities and organizations at times use specific flowers to represent a thought or image. For instance, the Forget-me-not is the flower of choice for Alzheimer Societies and the daffodil for the Cancer Society. Roses are the flower of choice to send messages of love and White lilies for Easter. Seeing a poinsettia tells us it is Christmas, seeing pussy-willows tells us it is spring. Traditional bridal flowers may still have sprigs of ivy to convey matrimonial fidelity and marriage vows. Kate Middleton carried a traditional bridal arrangement including Sweet William (her gallant groom Prince William), Hyacinth (constancy of love), Ivy (fidelity, marriage and love) and myrtle (matrimonial love).

As a reminder of Valentine's Day perhaps you have received a Victorian message through the language of flowers just as the 'proper' men and women of the Victorian Era did. In addition to the ones mentioned above here are a few more plants and their floriography meaning to help you.

Blue Violet – faithful love

Sweet William – gallantry

Honeysuckle – bonds of love

Red Carnation – pure love

Coreopsis – love at first sight

Pink Carnation – I will always remember

Yellow Tulip – hopeless love

Red & White Rose – unity

Purple Lilac – first emotions of love

Tulip – declaration of love

Primrose – young love

Rose of Sharon – consumed by love