

The SOCIETY Scoop



Updates from Interim CEO Julie Horne

While it's hard to believe that we're already a few months into a new decade, we have many updates to share that will set the tone for an exciting 2020 for our campus.

DEVELOPMENT MOVING AHEAD

The construction of underground utility services, new roadways and parking are well underway on campus. As well, York Region's development has broken ground. A new staff parking lot opened in late December and expanded visitor parking provided in early January. While construction is messy and disruptions are expected, North Rock

Group is managing their work and the traffic flow as best as possible to ensure everyone's safety and to get the construction done in the most efficient way. Look for construction updates on our website and feel free to contact the "Access Hotline" at (416) 819-0102 for up-to-date information on campus access.

NEW UNIONVILLE HOME SOCIETY – A PARTNER IN LOCAL ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM



We are excited to be a part of the Eastern York Region and North Durham Ontario Health Team (EYRND

OHT) which was endorsed by the Ministry of Health as one of the first 24 teams in December 2019. The EYRND OHT will bring together health care providers in our community to work as one

integrated health team and provide clients easier transitions from one provider to another. Building on existing relationships, we have partnered with a number of other organizations and through data analysis and collaboration have determined that our first year initiatives will focus locally to improve the care for clients who have mental health challenges and/or addictions, and those living with dementia (and their caregivers).

TIME FOR ACCREDITATION

Our long-term care and adult day program services have been accredited by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) Canada since June 2008. Accreditation signifies our commitment to advancing quality and continually improving services, encouraging feedback, and serving our community with integrity. Our next assessment is coming this Spring and our staff are getting ready to showcase how we live our Mission, Vision, and Values everyday. Watch for more information on when the surveyors will be visiting and how you can get involved.



NUHS Announces Appointment of New CEO

New Unionville Home Society (NUHS) and its affiliate corporation Boards are pleased to announce the appointment of **Abby Katz Starr to the position of Chief Executive Officer.**

Abby Katz Starr worked for the Ontario Public Service in a variety of different Ministries for over 30 years, in a number of senior roles.

In October 2011, Abby was the Director of the Retirement Home Project with a mandate to bring the Retirement Homes Legislation fully into force and support the development of the governance and accountability structure to oversee the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority. Abby then became the Director for the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA), a newly created position in recognition of the increased program and policy responsibilities related to the provincial response to the rapidly changing demographics. In January 2016, she took on the role of Interim Assistant Deputy Minister of MSAA and in September 2016 was appointed permanently as Assistant Deputy Minister of MSAA.

Abby recently retired from the Ontario Public Service as the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Seniors Policy and Programs Division of the MSAA.

Abby has an extensive background in seniors' issues, beginning her career as a social worker with a gerontology focus working in both institutional as well as community settings. Abby brings her vast experience in organizational leadership, regulatory policy, corporate governance, policy development as well as strategic and corporate planning and reporting to her new role at NUHS.

With all the changes initiated and contemplated by Government, we believe that Abby can identify and promote the most applicable and ongoing role for NUHS in seniors' and health care. She is well known for building consensus and strong teams and for achieving results on complex projects.

Welcome, Abby, to our NUHS family!

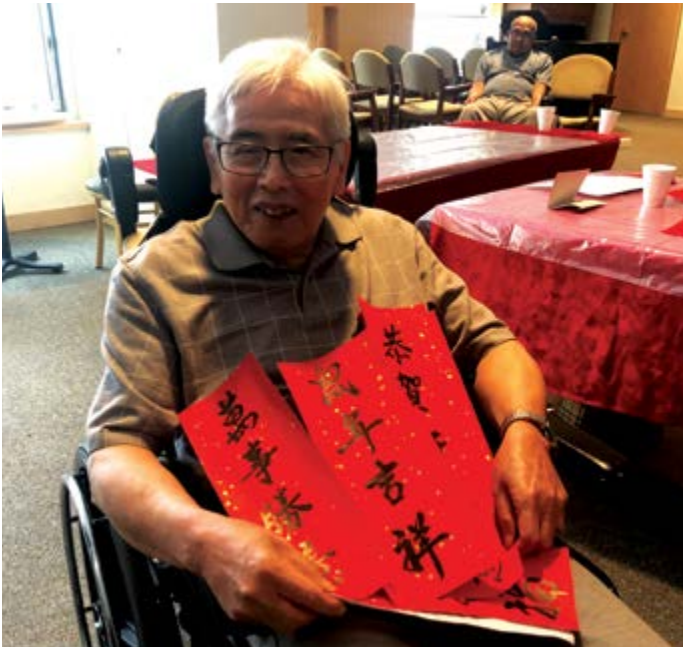


HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY UNION VILLA

This year marks a major milestone for Unionville Home Society.

In 1967, a small group of volunteers in our community sparked an idea that became reality 50 years ago with the opening of Union Villa in October 1970. This year will be one of celebration and we welcome you to join us as we remember and rejoice in our continued dedication and devotion to serving seniors in our community.

Activity Highlights on Campus



Celebrating Chinese New Year at Union Villa with Raymond



Happy 100th Birthday Roger!
Welcome to the Centurian Club



UCCS members kicking off the New Year with Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton and Councillor Reid McAlpine



Prepping for the Seniors' Holiday Luncheon



Enjoying Robbie Burns Day with Debbie and Robert

Resident Profile: Meet Julius Zakhar

Julius Zakhar was born in May 19, 1927 in the city of Mezocnsat, Hungary. He has spent a lifetime pursuing freedom. Julius is a WWII veteran who served in active duty. These difficult experiences have given him a thankful heart, a vest for life and a strong devotion to those he loves.

Julius was the oldest child with three sisters and one brother. His father was a mailman, and his mother was a housewife. After finishing school, he took his mother's advice to become a tailor but on September 7, 1944, without telling his family, he went to the Army Recruitment Office and joined the Royal Hungarian Army. On the second day after joining, he was sent to another city with a small group of soldiers and fought in battles with the Russians.

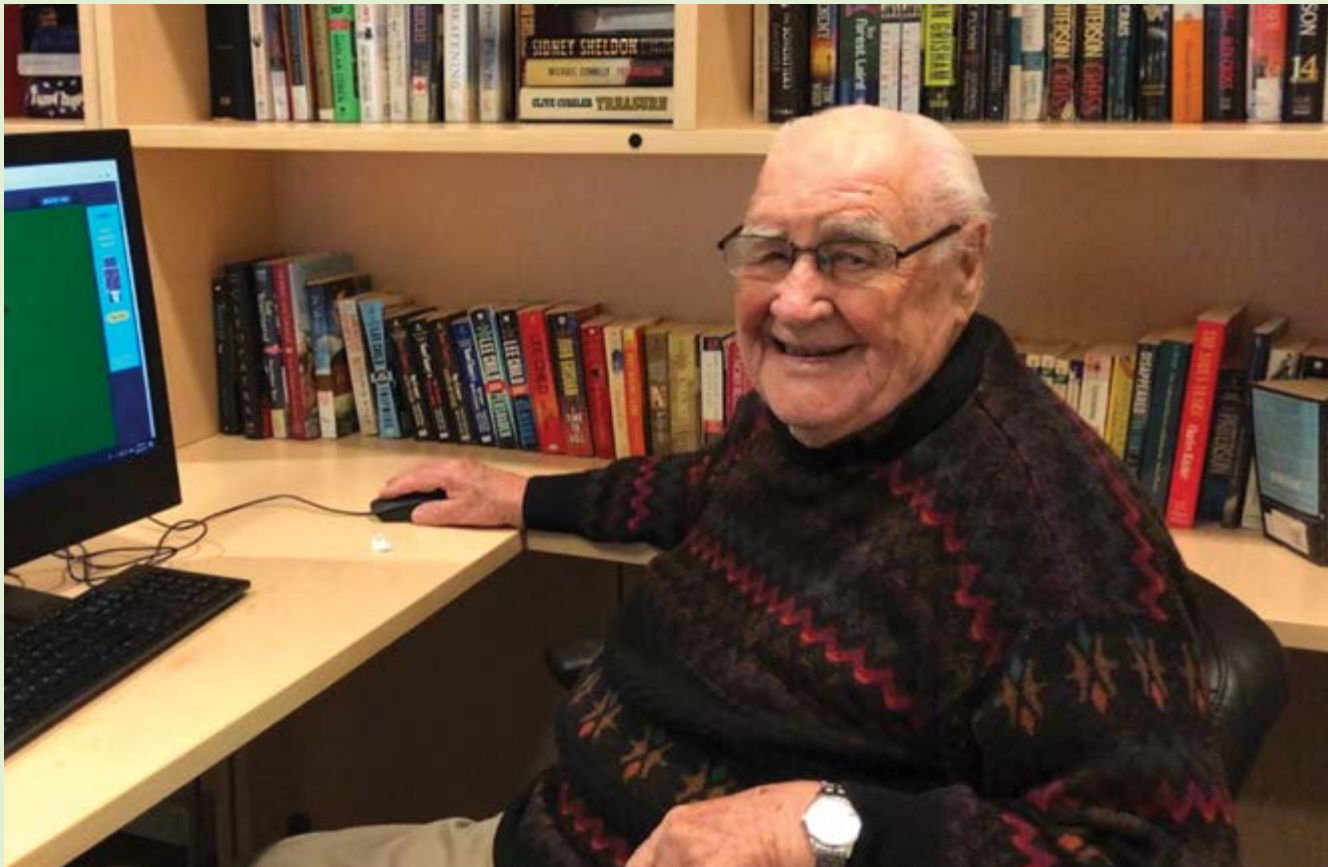
In 1945, he joined thousands of Hungarian soldiers and went to Germany but eventually moved toward the Austria and Hungary border. In Austria, he and other soldiers were captured by a small group of Russian soldiers and spent six weeks in a concentration camp located near the border. The living conditions were terrible with constant food shortages. One evening, after eating some questionable food, Julius and a few soldiers experienced severe stomach bleeding and ended up in a local hospital. This misfortune saved his life as the remaining Hungarian soldiers at the camp were sent far into Russian territory. Many never returned home.

Julius was able to leave the hospital as there were no guards watching him. He hopped on a train and returned to village where his mother was waiting for him. All she asked was "Where have you been?". Julius later found out that his mother went to the train station daily hoping he would come home.

In 1949 with Russia in control of Hungary after the war, Julius and two close friends decided to leave. It took two days by foot to cross the border of Hungary and head to Vienna. While on their way, some villagers reported them to the police who sent them back to Hungary and placed in prison. Julius was subject to beatings by rubber sticks on a regular basis. Julius was eventually released from prison but forced to serve in the communist army for a year and half.

In 1956, Julius took part in the Hungarian revolution and became the temporary leader of the local police station. He assisted in the arrest of a high ranking communist political leader but the victory didn't last long. The Russian army returned and Julius now feared for his life so he fled and ended up in the Canadian Embassy by accident.

Julius had no idea where Canada was but at the embassy he met a Canadian couple who told him that Canada was one of the best countries in the world. Julius took their advice and boarded an Italian boat heading to Canada, landing in St. John. That was 1957 and true freedom followed even though the first several years were tough as a new immigrant.



Julius later moved to Manitoba taking on whatever job he could find. In 1958, he arrived in Toronto and began a job as a truck driver. In 1963, Julius first met Nora at a dancing party and soon after they married and had a daughter named Julie. In 1974, he bought his first truck to start a business but that dream came to an end when he got into an accident and permanently damaged his hand.

Julius' love of cooking led him on a new career path as a chef at a Hungarian restaurant called The Wooden Plate.

In 2018, Julius moved into Union Villa and joined his wife Nora who was already a

resident. Julius was a loving and attentive husband until her passing in 2019.

Julius is in his 90's, and his daily routine involves a walk through the building with his walker and regular visits to the library to access the computer. He loves watching his favorite TV shows in his room and always welcomes a game of cards when a visitor comes by.

His passion for cooking has continued at the Villa with invitations to cook for the residents and share his famous Hungarian goulash recipe.

PSWs are More than Just Caregivers

Personal Support Worker (PSW) Lori Toal is one of our committed and passionate staff who provide more than just basic care to our residents. In her own words below, Lori shares the impact of caring:

There's no doubt that the work we do as PSW's is hard. We care for individuals during the most private moments of their day. We often run from one resident to the next, barely looking up to see the time. I am always shocked at how quickly the day passes. The role of a PSW is mainly to provide care, but the truth is that we do so much more. The "more" that we pride ourselves on is that we make genuine and thoughtful connections with the residents we care. We share conversations of hopes, dreams and days gone by, we lend an ear on a day where the sun might be shining to everyone around, except a resident who's having a tough day. We happily provide a shoulder to cry on, a hug or a hand to hold. PSW's share their stories and lives with the residents often finding shared moments. While we are qualified professionals, we continue to learn through the residents who are much wiser and have so much more life experiences than we do. The daily interactions turn into friendships and without hesitation, we become their advocates.

Where possible, we look for opportunities to go the extra mile to do something special for those we care for. Their happy days become our happy days. Not too long ago, one of my residents named Julius took great pride in showing me a baseball that he had signed by Roberto Alomar. Julius told me how much he admired him, praising him as a great baseball player. Immediately an idea came to mind and given Mrs. Alomar was a good friend, with her help we made the idea a reality.

You see, it's not just in the care we provide, it's in the actual connection of conversations that take place; it's in the listening and the precious moment shared from just taking a moment, regardless of

the constraints of time. We are always bonding with our residents and, it's not one sided. They care for us too.

While we are seen in comfortable clothes that look like pajamas, our work is labour intensive. If you ask me, we have a pretty great job; and as much as we are making a difference in their lives, our residents are making a difference in ours.



This past December, Lori made arrangements to surprise Julius (resident) with a signed hat and holiday greeting from Roberto Alomar.

Thank you to Roberto and Kim Alomar for making this happen.

Volunteer Spotlight – Meet Christine Joe

Have you ever thought volunteering could strengthen your family ties? That a volunteer experience can help you feel closer to your aging parents?

Christine Joe, one of our volunteers on campus, has experienced all of these. Christine has lived in Markham for over 15 years and enjoyed a fulfilling career in health administration. When the time came to begin her volunteer path, she knew it would be with her local community and thankfully we were one of her chosen charities.

Christine contributes generously of her time as a board member of both New Unionville Home society Board and Union Villa. In addition she volunteers at Customer Service, with fundraisers and events at the Unionville Community Centre for seniors.

While growing up in Ottawa, her parents set the example with their community involvement and volunteer commitments. Christine embraced this philanthropic philosophy early in her life, but it was in 2017 when her UHS introduction began as a guest at the annual Union Villa Dinner Party fundraiser. Christine recalls meeting wonderful people and being inspired by the volunteers and donors at the event.

Christine recalls the day she decided to be a volunteer and states “I was drawn to, and impressed by UHS because they are not only a Long Term Care home but a community that includes an Adult Day Program, Geriatric Outreach Services, a community centre and housing for older adults.”

As a board member, Christine is surrounded by equally passionate volunteers and feels encouraged to contribute her skills in health administration, corporate strategic planning and project management to help advance quality and innovation to NUHS.



As a front line volunteer, Christine enjoys building relationships with people. She cares genuinely and passionately for the residents, their families, staff and all our clients.

She knows that in each interaction, she makes a difference. Her volunteer efforts are a tribute to her parents' legacy of helping to make the community a better place for all.

The word “home” brings family, love, familiarity, and security to mind and “volunteering” makes you think about time, commitment, and passion. For Christine, these two words are interconnected as both “home” and “volunteering” come from the heart.

**A heartfelt thanks
to Christine,
and all our dedicated volunteers.**

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE



Thursday May 7, 2020
Angus Glen Golf Club

Net proceeds from the event will go towards enhancing the residents' garden at Union Villa.

10:00 am – Garden Marketplace
11:30 am – Floral Demo
12:00 noon – Lunch and Guest Speaker

TICKETS

Early Bird (until March 31).... \$55.00
Regular price (after April 1).... \$65.00



2020
UNIONVILLE
CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC
THURSDAY JUNE 18, 2020

Net proceeds from the event will go towards completion of the resident dining room renovation

ANGUS GLEN GOLF CLUB • SOUTH COURSE
6:30 AM REGISTRATION • 7:45 AM SHOTGUN

Cost: \$275/golfer

Includes: 18 holes of golf/cart, Breakfast & Lunch, Passport & Activities



To register or for sponsorship opportunities, Contact (905) 477-2839 ext. 4270

INVESTING IN OUR RESIDENTS' CARE



Unionville Home Society Foundation is a registered charity founded in 1991. The foundation is dedicated to a single mission: to fund amenities and initiatives that enhance the lives of our residents. The foundation believes quality seniors care is a priority and endeavours to provide a variety of “giving” opportunities ranging from special events, to personal and corporate giving campaigns.

Charitable Registration #87172 1940 RR0001