

The SOCIETY Scoop

Message from our CEO, Debra Cooper Burger



Outside enjoying the company of the residents with local Councillor Don Hamilton who treated all to ice cream

The campus has always been a hive of activity but these past several months have given new meaning to the word “busy”. Campus clean-up took quite a bit of time to remedy the damage done from the winter ice storm. However, the spring not only brought blooms and buds but many corporate

volunteers to our campus to help beautify our gardens.

For 3 days in early June, we had 2 CARF Site Surveyors for our Accreditation Review. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. Feedback from the surveyors was extremely positive as they measured our practices against hundreds of best practice standards. We are optimistic for another full 3 year accreditation, the highest level that can be awarded.

Once again the Lavender Vintage Fair graced our campus and promoted all things lavender and raised funds for the Villa. A highlight this spring was the Art Expressions Resident Art Exhibit. The Heritage Lounge was turned into an art gallery where residents showcased their artistic talents. New this year was an intergenerational art collaboration with 17 students from Markville High School.

Of course May would not be complete without the auditors reviewing the finances of the campus. The auditors completed their work in record time this year thanks to the efficiency of our Finance Services staff. The audited financial statements and the board member appointments were all reviewed and approved at our Annual General Meetings held on June 25, 2014. Of special note – this year the Unionville Home Society was honored for 25 years of support to the Markham Board of Trade.

It takes a team of great staff members and volunteers to manage all the many activities on the campus and I am so glad to work with such a productive and creative team.

Volunteer Impact:

Bank of Montreal employees beautify Union Villa gardens



The Volunteer Services Program at New Unionville Home Society actively recruits both individual and group volunteers to help enhance the experience and environment of the seniors who live on our campus. This past June 3rd and 4th, over 45 volunteers from BMO spent hours putting their gardening tools to work beautifying the gardens of Union Villa. They also provided us with a generous gift of plants and countless bags of mulch and topsoil. Our gardens have never looked better thanks to the time and hard work of the BMO volunteers. Thank you!

MY LIFE: A Resident Profile

Meet Maria from Cedar Grove



My name is Maria and I was born in Colli, Italy in 1929. I grew up in a small town where my family were farmers. I remember working alongside my family in the fields as a young girl. In 1950 when the Second World War was over I married Enrico, who was a police officer. At that time there were few good jobs for men in Italy and we decided to start a new life in Canada.

My husband moved to Canada in 1952 and started working in the construction industry. I stayed in Italy for seven years to help immigrate our family here so we could all be together. When I came to Canada I did not speak English and I was amazed at all of the new technologies and ways of doing things. In our home in Italy we did not have electricity, which made our move to Toronto a completely new way of life. My husband and I had two beautiful children, a son and a daughter, that have been my life's joy.

My husband sadly passed away in 1973, which was a very difficult time in my life. I had to be strong for my children and I worked very hard to provide for them.

We lived in Toronto for 20 years, where I worked as a seamstress and raised my children. At the time I earned 20 cents an hour. In 1979 we moved out of the city to the beautiful community of Markham. I retired and helped raise my young grandchildren.

I am really happy to be living at Union Villa because my nurses are caring and attentive, my family is close to me and visit often, I have a nice room, and my neighbours have become my friends. I enjoy painting in the Art Therapy Program and staying busy with programs and activities. I have always loved gardening as it is part of my roots. Last weekend in the Sensory Garden at Union Villa my family and I planted tomato plants, herbs, and some carnations that smell beautiful.

The accomplishment I am most proud of is my family. I have been blessed in my life to have an incredibly close-knit family, with my two children and four grandchildren. My life has been filled with joys and many challenges, new beginnings and hard work. I have learned from my life experiences that family is the most important thing in life and their love gives me strength and joy every day.

Residents showcase their art work at the 2nd Annual Union Villa Art Exhibit



On May 28th, the Union Villa Art Exhibit showcased the spectacular art work of Union Villa residents. The art was created throughout the year in Union Villa's Art Expressions Program, which enhances the social, emotional and cognitive well being of residents. The event was well attended by residents, family members, and friends who flocked to see the beautiful art pieces on display. The program has grown in the last 2 years, from an initial group of 6 to now over 30 engaged residents.

As you would expect in an Art Gallery setting, all art pieces were for sale. There were eager buyers in the room and over \$1,000 was raised to support future art initiatives. The Art program promotes overall well being by providing participants with opportunities to activate the artistic side of their brains, express autonomy, express themselves in a new way, stimulate their minds, have improved moods and behaviours, reduce their anxiety or depressive emotions, and enhance their personal control. They also get to have fun with fellow residents and Art Instructor, Diane Brown and her dedicated group of volunteer instructors. The art is created, the experience is shared and the relationships are strengthened.

Bringing a Jazz Vibe to Campus



Renowned pianist, Ralph Fraser

It's a beautiful Friday afternoon and renowned pianist Ralph Fraser is performing a concert for his neighbours in the Wyndham Gardens Cafe. These intimate concerts have become a new bimonthly tradition at Wyndham, and the residents are enthralled as they listen to jazz and pop music from the 1940's and 1950's. Fraser received a piano as a young child and after discovering his musical talent and passion

he went on to study at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Fraser's career saw him performing around the world, from the Beverley Hills Hotel to Maple Leaf Gardens. He travelled on cruise ships as Music Director, performed on the 1950s CBC variety show Holiday Ranch, and was in the Canadian Tribute to Glenn Miller. Fraser also performed during games of the Toronto Blue Jays, the Toronto Argonauts, and for the Toronto Maple Leafs in the 1970s. Fraser recently performed at the Union Villa Art Exhibit.

Ralph Fraser will be performing jazz as part of Jim Galloway's Wee Big Band, the long-time leader of the original Harbourfront Centre house band, at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto on Sunday, June 29th from 2:00 – 3:00 PM. With such an exciting career, the residents of Wyndham Gardens, Union Villa, and the Unionville Community Centre for Seniors members are so pleased to enjoy 'the piano man' in their homes and community.

Adult Day Program expands to serve more clients in need



31,000 hours of respite relief was provided to caregivers while clients enjoyed over 31,000 hours of quality programming

The Adult Day Program is a welcoming and inclusive program where older adults can enjoy independence and wellness.

A range of supervised programs are offered that focus on enriching the clients' lives, building upon their skills, knowledge, and unique abilities and strengths.

The benefits for the client: a secure and safe environment in which to spend the day, enjoyable and educational activities, improvement in mental and physical health, enhanced or maintained level of independence, socialization and peer support, nutritious meals and snacks.

Benefits for the caregiver: an investment in their loved one's health and wellness, as well as a source of respite for the family.

The need for this quality program in the community is apparent and growing. Our commitment to the aging community was reflected in environmental modifications to enable greater client participation and increased capacity to serve individuals in the program. The improvements have created an area conducive to smaller therapeutic programs and improved accessibility to promote a home-like sense of comfort.

Geriatric Outreach Program (GOP)

One of the many programs and services available to the seniors on our campus is the Geriatric Outreach Program. This is an interprofessional team which provides comprehensive geriatric assessment, consultation and recommendations to high risk seniors living at home.

The goals of this team are to maintain seniors at their highest level of function, promote independence and minimize hospital visits. There is no fee for this program however, a referral is required. For more information, please contact the GOP office at (905) 201-3389.

Upcoming Campus Events

Unionville Community Centre for Seniors

Annual UCCS Open House Membership Drive & BBQ

September 12, 2014 from 10 AM – noon

Annual Holiday Bazaar

November 29, 2014 from 9 AM – 2 PM

Union Villa LTC

Union Villa Candlelight Memorial

October 7, 2014 at 7 PM

Remembrance Day

November 11, 2014 at 10:30 AM

Union Villa Heritage Lounge

Union Villa Dinner Party & After Lounge

November 7, 2014 at 6 PM

Angus Glen Golf Course