

# The SOCIETY Scoop



## Message from our CEO, Debra Cooper Burger

CELEBRATING OUR PAST,  
PRESENT & FUTURE



As we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Unionville Home Society, we have been doing a lot of “looking back”. With great interest, we have sifted through archival records, scanned old photographs and dug up Villa memorabilia. In searching through what remains of the old Villa, there was a strong sense of past memories and untold stories. We even found some old pictures of the rather risqué sculpture that was so offensive it had to be removed from the front lawn of the Villa. The campus has a rich history and it has been great fun exploring the past. But it has been the

“looking ahead” culture that has made the campus what it is today. This newsletter will showcase some current programs and activities that demonstrate our ongoing commitment to create innovative ways to support our seniors.

## Young at Art



On Tuesday, May 26th, 2015, the Union Villa Heritage Lounge was transformed with vibrant and radiant water-coloured artwork created by our very own residents. These were accomplished pieces painted during the past season of the Art Expressions program. The resident artists were inspired and given direction by Diane Brown and her dedicated group of volunteers who shared their passion of art during each class. This volunteer led and staff supported program started in 2012 and now boasts 57 residents. One of the exciting conversations revolved around the Hubble Space Telescope and what you would see when looking through it. The Art Expressions program goes beyond the instruction of painting. It promotes pride, independence and enjoyment of life. During the exhibit, framed and matted art works were available for sale. Over \$1200 was raised with proceeds directed back to the Art program ensuring continued benefits, now and in the future.

## MY LIFE: A Resident Profile

### Meet Leslie Haydon



I grew up in Tasmania, a small island in Australia; but my life journey has allowed me to see the world.

As a teenager, I apprenticed at a printing company that published a newspaper known as "The Mercury". Following that, at age 17 I began military training. My appreciation of the military training experience led me to enlist in the army. Later, I became a warrant officer for the air force and worked as a radio technician. These assignments offered me opportunities to travel the world, as I was posted in countries such as Malaysia, England and France.

During my travel overseas to England, I met Sophie. We stayed in touch and eight years later, we married. Together we have two children and to this day, Sophie and I remain husband and wife.

In 1973, after more than ten years in the Australian air force, we emigrated to Canada and I began working as a technical writer for various companies. I also wrote a guide on technical writing and it was printed by a global publishing company. Looking back, apart from my family, I regard my book as my greatest accomplishment.

In my leisure time, I enjoy reading, woodworking, classical music, watching television and creating cassette recordings from records.

Now, as I reflect on my past experiences – work, travel, family – and my new life here at Union Villa, I think about what advice I would pass on to younger generations. As I have done and seen much in my lifetime, I would urge today's youth to follow their interests and pursue them. Life is full of opportunities.

### Celebrating Diversity one Taste at a Time



Union Villa residents were taken on a trip around the world with their taste buds at the first "Taste of Diversity". It was a popular event that showcased the culinary skills of staff with international fare representing the diverse cultures of UHS. Together, residents and staff plotted their place of birth or ancestry on a huge world map followed by sampling of foods from around the world. Over 15 countries were represented including Italy, India, Greece, Egypt, China, and England. It was a great experience that not only filled our palate but also celebrated and embraced the various cultures that live and work at Unionville Home Society.

### Enhancing Quality Of Life Through Interactive Programs



The Union Villa Recreation Team is excited to share some new programs and special events that further promote resident involvement in activities and also encourages families to participate.

**Seated Yoga and Meditation** will guide residents through a process of achieving relaxation and mindfulness and the **Heart2Art** program will explore expressive mediums in art related to drama, dance and poetry.

Additional developments include an iPod/iPad program launched to expose more residents to the magic of advanced technology; events celebrating residents and their accomplishments; and more family-centered activities such as our Grandparents Day and Walk 'N' Roll Event.

Resident Ambassador Day has been designed to thank those residents who give back to our home by helping staff, contributing to programs, and supporting their peers. Their contributions will be recognized at an upcoming award ceremony.

Union Villa is also scheduled to host other exciting themed events such as monthly campfires in the Courtyard Garden with sing-a-longs and roasted marshmallows to authenticate the camping environment experience. To follow, an End of Summer Party is on the horizon.

These new programming initiatives have been created with residents and their families in mind to encourage inclusion and promote community.

### Upcoming Campus Events

- **Thursday August 6**  
1st Annual Main Street Unionville Charity Golf Classic in support of Union Villa – *Angus Glen G.C.*
- **September 11**  
UCCS Open House Membership Drive & BBQ – *10:00 am*
- **September 13**  
Grandparents Day: Full Home Invasion – *Union Villa – 2:00 pm*
- **October 7**  
Semi-Annual Candlelight Memorial Service – *Union Villa – 7:00 pm*
- **November 6**  
Union Villa Dinner Party & After Lounge – *Angus Glen Golf Club – 7:00 pm*
- **November 11**  
Union Villa Remembers – A Remembrance Day Program *10:30 am*
- **November 28**  
Home for the Holidays Campus Bazaar – *9:00 am*

## Volunteers Have A Ripple Effect



This past April, marked the 3rd annual New Unionville Home Society Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Pickle Barrel. The room was filled with thoughtful and highly dedicated volunteers, who share the common goal of enhancing the lives of residents through meaningful interaction and celebrated programming.

Volunteers were warmly greeted by senior leadership and all guests were officially welcomed by Debra Cooper Burger, CEO and Nicole Barton, Coordinator, Volunteer Services. This year's theme was introduced as The Ripple Effect and tables were adorned with decorated flat rocks, bearing words reflective of the compassionate nature of volunteers. Just as one rock dropped into a pool of water creates a ripple effect, the contribution of our volunteers touches not only the lives of one, but of many. Also included were hand-made cards

bearing message of sincere thanks, created by local Girl Guides and a hidden treasure on each table that later revealed itself as a tried, tested and true Bingo card for added enjoyment and playful interaction.

Additional recognition was presented to four of our long-standing volunteers for their much valued time and talents: June Healy and Branch Duncan with over 45 years of volunteer service and Rose Heath and Margaret Murphy, with over 35 years of service.

Volunteers range in age from 14 to 95+ years. The impact of their commitment is evident in countless resident programs, seniors activities and campus events. Thank you for helping our residents and seniors "age well and live better"

*For more information on the Volunteer Services Program, please call 905 477 2839 ext 4240.*



## Campus in Bloom:

### AND THE WINNER IS... HILDE'S GARDEN

During the month of May, over 25 youth volunteers from "Change the World" Markham provided campus residents with countless hours of gardening assistance. A friendly competition was held on May 26th with over 50 gardens ready to take home the prize for most beautiful garden. COO Mike Bakewell was appointed "The Judge" and was impressed by the care and passion put into each garden. Unfortunately there can only be one winner but all participants should be proud of their efforts. We know the residents will be enjoying the beauty in the warmer months ahead.