

The SOCIETY Scoop



Never A Dull Moment

Message from our CEO, Debra Cooper Burger

This saying holds true as I reflect on campus happenings over the past several months. Many exciting and positive things have occurred on the campus and the support of our community has been amazing. Significant donations were made to the Unionville Home Society Foundation since last summer, most notably from the Mayor Scarpitti's Annual Harvest Golf Tournament and the Alex Chui Golf Tournament. We are grateful for being chosen as their selected charity. This fall, The Women's Committee of Markham once again held their annual Fall Fling Fashion show, with record attendance and financial goals exceeded. The proceeds from the event are directed to enhancement of dementia care in both Union Villa and Markhaven Long Term Care homes. The UHS Foundation celebrated another successful "Dinner Party Gala" on November 8th, 2014 and raised over \$100,000 to enhance the home-like environment and resident experiences at the Villa.

Special recognition was received in November when the Unionville Home Society was awarded the City of Markham/ Board of Trade Business Excellence Award for "Accessibility". It was an honour to be recognized for campus innovation and our commitment to accessibility for all.

Two issues that continue to be top of mind both at the governance and operational levels of our campus are the need for improvements in funding for long term care and more availability of seniors housing in our community.

Physically, long term care residents are older, frailer and more chronically ill than ever before. Mental health issues, dementias in particular, have increased significantly and will continue to grow. In fact, 60% of long term care residents suffer from dementia. The challenging behaviours often associated with mental health conditions have become a critical issue directly affecting the safety and well being of residents and staff. Long Term Care homes want to provide better staffing ratios and make improvements in staff training and education but are limited with the current provincial funding levels.

We also know that seniors must have access to a range of safe and affordable housing with the necessary supports to meet their diverse needs. The wait time between applying for Rent Geared to Income assistance and being offered housing for a senior has increased from 2.5 years (2011) to 3.72 years (2013).

As an organization and a campus of care, we are strongly advocating and promoting progress on both these issues.

Upcoming Campus Events

Unionville Community Centre for Seniors

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| Friday January 23 | "Cheers to Robbie Burns" Wine & Cheese Event |
| Friday February 13 | Valentine Luncheon sponsored by Councillor Don Hamilton |
| Tuesday February 17 | Shrove Pancake Breakfast |
| Saturday February 28 | Chinese New Year's Celebration |
| Tuesday March 17 | Luck of the Irish Luncheon |
| Friday April 24 | Heritage Campus Candlelight Memorial |

Union Villa LTC

- | | |
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| Tuesday April 14 | Union Villa Candlelight Memorial |
| Fri. & Sat. June 19 & 20 | Lavender Vintage Fair and Hidden Treasures Bazaar |

* fee may apply to some events

MY LIFE: A Resident Profile

Meet Jane Leech



My life has been devoted to helping children and those who need support. I was born in England and grew up with 7 siblings before immigrating to Canada in 1967.

Growing up in a large family, it's no surprise that I ended up working for the Anglican Children's Aid Society and caring for over 100 children. Many of the children I helped were addicted to drugs or had Down syndrome. It was a busy job caring for them all, and I would often have to pick up the older children off of the streets in Toronto in the middle of the night to make sure they were safe. I had three children of my own, two boys, and one

daughter that I adopted. I am most proud of my three children and the many children that I helped get on the right path for life.

My favourite hobbies are cooking, reading and social activities. I also knit newborn hats and mittens for Sick Kids Hospital. One of my greatest accomplishments has been winning 6 ribbons at the Markham Fair for my knit work, crochet, and delicious spare rib recipe. I am a generous supporter of St. Justin Martyr Church with my crafts and philanthropy. I am happy to be living at Union Villa, with such caring staff, clean rooms, and many fun activities for me to enjoy. My advice for new residents of Union Villa would be to give yourself time to adjust, be open, friendly, and ask questions. There are such wonderful friends to have here, which is why I'm happy Union Villa is my home.

Adult Day Program Adds pFIT Program



The pFIT mobility strength training for seniors program continues to spread across the Unionville Home Society campus. pFIT started as a York University research study in 2012 to prove the effectiveness of a new resistance device for seniors called the p44 Stepper. After the completion of the study, a Trillium grant helped fund the purchase of 8 p44 Steppers so the pFIT program could continue for members of the Unionville Community Centre for Seniors. And now pFIT is available for clients of the Adult Day Program.

“Our Adult Day Program strives to offer quality therapeutic programming and so we are embracing opportunities such as pFIT to show families and caregivers that we are always looking at ways to maintain and/or improve client ability,” shares Kate Papillo, Manager. “In October, we ran a 4 week pFIT pilot and the results spoke for themselves—all 16 of the participants showed measurable leg strength improvement.”

“We are pleased to be able to offer more members of UHS the benefits of our pFIT program,” says pFIT instructor Andrew Coates. “We run pFIT in many other retirement residences and seniors centres across the GTA, but this is the first adult day program.

For more information on the pFIT program, contact 905 477 2839 ext. 4265.

2014 Union Villa Dinner Party A Success!



When you think of a Dinner Party, you think of nights filled with good food, interesting people and fascinating conversation. These are experiences to be valued which is why our annual signature fundraiser focuses on bringing friends and acquaintances together all in support of our residents. The Union Villa Dinner Party Committee spent almost a year planning and thoughtfully organizing this event to not only raise money but to create awareness of our residents needs. The funds raised from the 2014 Dinner Party will touch the lives of those residents and help them age well and live with dignity.

Over the years, the fundraising priorities at Unionville Home Society have evolved in order to ensure we are able to provide enhanced care and comfort for those who call Union Villa their home. We are proud to share that over \$105,000 was raised from this past event and it will focus on the second phase of security enhancements and the exciting renewal of spaces that will enrich resident-family interactions.

The Foundation wishes to thank our corporate sponsors, donors, dinner guests and the volunteers whose collective contribution has made a difference.

Thank you to our Sponsors

UNION VILLA DINNER PARTY & AFTER LOUNGE

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Save the date:

2015 DINNER PARTY
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2015

A Resident Focused Team



My first three months at Unionville Home Society have been a flurry of activity with an initial analysis of what we're doing well, and where we have opportunities to improve. I have spent considerable time building our Unionville Home Society Leadership Team with new people that bring a great deal of Long-Term Care (LTC) experience, as well as the passion and caring that are vital to a person centered approach.

In October, our interim Director of Nursing and Personal Care, Fran Lind, completed her term to take on a new opportunity. After a long search for a suitable and permanent replacement, we were happy to announce the appointment of Jacqueline Tudor. Jacqueline has performed this role in a number of LTC homes, most recently Winbourne Park in Ajax, and now, she brings her extensive Nursing Administration experience to Union Villa. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated strong leadership skills, and is well versed in quality improvement initiatives, as well as the accreditation process. Jacqueline is a strong proponent of a respectful workplace where person centered care is a top priority.

Shortly after I arrived, I met with Peter Yeung, our Manager of Environmental Services to discuss a long-term plan to ensure the environmental needs of the campus are being met. We decided we would be well served to incorporate an Environmental Supervisor into the team who would be dedicated to overseeing this function specifically for Union Villa. In November, John McLaughlin was hired as Supervisor, Environmental Support Services at Union Villa. John brings with him a wealth of experience he's accumulated over nineteen years in building maintenance, and close to ten years experience in Long-term Care. John is well versed in quality improvement procedures, quality audits, and health and safety.

In early December, we added Laurie Porter to our Leadership Team in the role of Supervisor, Recreation and Social Activities. The addition of this position will enhance the Recreation staff members ability to focus on direct programming enriching the experience of our residents. Laurie is a Certified Recreation Therapist, and her most recent position saw her managing a Recreation department in an LTC home similar in size to Union Villa.

Transitioning into a new role can sometimes be daunting, but I have felt so welcomed. I would like to personally take this opportunity to thank all the residents, families and staff for such a warm reception.

Thank you,
Mike Bakewell
Chief Operating Officer



**Unionville Home Society
receives the 2014
Markham Board of Trade
Accessibility award.**

L-R: Patrick O'Hanlon (Foundation Chair), Debra Cooper Burger (CEO), Glenn Crosby (Board Chair)