



**Family, Friend and Responsible
Party Newsletter
April 2015**



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

Annual Survey- Please complete and return the annual family and resident survey no later than May 10th. If you misplaced your survey, additional copies are available at the reception desk. Your input is very important.

Activity Calendar - Don't forget to pick up and check out the monthly Recreation calendars [available in each Resident Home Area [RHA] and also posted on our website] for events that you may find of interest and would like to attend along with your family member.

You are encouraged to join us at any time, especially for Home events such as:

Gerri Fashions Clothing Sale on Wed. April 29th from 9 am-3 pm in the Rose Room

Baby Parade on Thurs. April 30 at 6:30 pm in the Rose Room

Mothers & Others Day Tea on Fri. May 8th at 2:00 pm in the Rose Room.

Family & friends welcome.

Uptown Dixieland Band entertains on Mon. May 11th at 2 pm

Eric Shain entertains on Sat. May 9th at 1:30 pm

Music with Greg at 2:00 pm on Fri. May 15th

Happy Hour with Dan Skelter on Fri. May 29th at 2 pm

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 next meeting is at 1:30 p.m., Monday, May 4th in the 2nd floor conference room. All family and friends of residents of Strathmere

Lodge are welcome to attend. No pre-registration is necessary. Please contact Marcy Welch at ext.226 or at mwelch@middlesex.ca for more information. Minutes of meetings are posted and back-copies available for review at our reception desk.

Ministry of Health Inspections – Just a reminder that a public copy of the results of the most recent visit from a Ministry of Health and Long Term Care inspector is posted on the public information board by the Chapel. Copies of results from previous visit are located in a binder at our reception desk and available for your review. The Ministry provides a public copy of the inspection results to both our Family and Residents' Councils and I share the information with our QI Committee and with Middlesex County Council – our Committee of Management. If you have any questions about the results of the inspections feel free to contact me.



Smoking Areas- It has been brought to our attention that Strathmere Lodge has not been appropriately enforcing on-site smoking regulations. No-smoking enforcement authorities from Middlesex/London Public Health have informed us that smoking at the covered entrance to the Lodge under the overhang is not permitted. Any smoking is to be at least 9 meters away from the overhang or any canopy/awning.

In order to meet these smoking regulations we have relocated the signs at the entrance and moved the smoking bench and ashtray away from the entrance, under the latticework. This is the only approved area for resident and visitor smoking. Resident and visitor smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building, including fenced in areas, on patios, balconies or other unapproved areas of the Lodge. Staff smoking is restricted to 9 meters away from the staff entrance area and is not permitted in the staff gazebo.

If you have any questions or concerns about these regulations please advise me at your earliest opportunity.

Good Reading – 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.

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] and get your annual “flu-shot”.

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 the RHA and the building.

In the event of any outbreak here at the Lodge you are requested to restrict your visitation to only one individual in the Home in order to prevent cross infections.

W5 Report on LTC Abuse -Recently CTV's W5 program aired a segment based on their undercover investigation of staff to resident abuses in Canadian Nursing Homes. It was intentionally provocative and lacking balance –there was little attempt to look at the systemic issues in our sector.

It is important to note that:

- Any incident of resident abuse hits the whole Long Term Care sector very hard
- The staff members working in our Homes are dedicated and caring individuals – we are so saddened when the actions of a few tarnish the reputation of the whole sector
- Unions by law are obligated to represent their members to the best of their ability
- Strathmere Lodge makes every effort to ensure a safe and caring environment for our residents in keeping with provincial regulations
- We take every possible measure to properly screen our staff and ensure they have the necessary training and supervision
- The reality is that we are dealing with a human service – people caring for people – and all the social, emotional and physical challenges that come with caring for a large resident population living in a congregate setting
- Because of this, we cannot always prevent incidents from occurring but we can and do ensure that the proper procedures are in place so that swift and appropriate action is taken when an incident happens.
- Not only do we have a legal obligation to report abuse, but we also do it because it is the right thing to do
- Every incident is investigated - not ignored and not hidden. All staff are required to report any incident witnessed as well as any inappropriate conduct

- We have a very transparent and highly regulated long term care system in Ontario to support the care and safety of residents and to prevent abuse and neglect.
 - Duty to report
 - Public reporting of all incidents through a Ministry website
 - Residents' rights
 - Quality improvement plans



Lost and Found – Please advise nursing staff if any items are missing and we will look for them. All unmarked resident clothing is sent to the Laundry. Other non- engraved items [jewelry and the like] end up in our business office. If an item has been lost, please check at reception.

Security – For the safety of our residents, please ensure that as you leave the building [and if you are visiting in Bear Creek, as you leave that RHA] that you do not allow any resident that you don't know to leave at the same time. Wait until the exit door closes before you move on. If you are not sure that a particular resident is permitted to leave the building unattended, please check with staff.



Did You Know? – In 2014: 51 new residents moved into the Lodge; 6 moved out to either the Community or to other LTC Homes; 46 passed away. 47% of our new residents were from outside of Middlesex County [29% were from London].

We report these year-end and monthly Occupancy and Activity Statistics to Middlesex County Council – our Committee of Management.



Visiting Pet Vaccinations – If you or someone you know brings a pet in to visit at Strathmere Lodge, for resident health and safety, we require a copy of the pet's up-to date vaccinations. Please ensure that the pet owner's name and resident's name is noted on the proof of vaccinations. If you previously handed in your pet's vaccination sheet but have recently had it updated we require a copy of the updated vaccinations.

As per Ministry of Health and Long Term Care regulations, any pet without proper and up-to date vaccinations cannot be permitted to visit our Home. For more information please contact Marcy Welch at ext. 226.

Let me know 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>.

Electronic back copies of our newsletters can be found on our website.

Hard copies are compiled in binders at both our reception desk and the staff lounge, and are available for your review.

Find additional copies of this edition 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.