

**Resident, Family, Friend and Responsible Party** **Newsletter – July ‘24**

Dear Strathmere Lodge residents, family members, friends/responsible parties:

1. **Future Mailings of This Newsletter**

For the past few months, we have been mailing this newsletter electronically (in addition to the hardcopy mailings you typically receive with the monthly hardcopy mailing of your monthly financial statement) to families/residents/friends, using an extensive email distribution list of family members/residents/friends that you have assisted in compiling by providing us with your email address. In fact, more family members/residents/friends receive this newsletter electronically than do those who receive the hardcopy version.

To conserve on paper and mailing costs, we will henceforth continue with electronic newsletter mailings only, noting that hardcopies of this newsletter will still be available at our Reception area, and in each of the five (5) resident home areas.

If we do not already have your email address (or that of other family members/friends), you can pass it along to us by sending us an email (at bkerwin@middlesex.ca), or by informing our Receptionist.

1. **Provincial Notice of Co-payment Rate Increase**

A reminder that the province has implemented an annual co-payment rate increase of 2.5% effective July 1, 2024. This increase pertains to both Basic and Private rooms.

For those in a basic (two-person) room who are accustomed to receiving a provincial rate reduction on the Basic rate, please ensure that we have your 2023 Notice of Assessment from the Canada Revenue Agency, if you have not already provided it.

Please contact Augustine Caines, Office Supervisor (519-245-2520, ext. 6246, or via email at: acaines@middlesex.ca), if you have any questions on the monthly co-payment amount.

1. **Lodge Improvements**

As part of adhering to our provincial long term care homes legislation, we communicate improvements made to our care, services, programs, goods and accommodations. To that end, improvements made since our last newsletter improvement report include:

* Additional PSW, RPN and RN hours being added with increase in provincial Nursing funding (an additional PSW on Bear Creek, both days and evenings, has been implemented as “Phase 1” of additional staffing)
* Three (3) new swing sets for resident patio areas
	+ Donation from The Lodge’s Ladies’ Auxiliary
* New Tub for residents on Sydenham Meadows
* New Shower and Hygiene Chair
	+ Height adjustable and reclining
	+ Allows staff and residents to reach preferred height to perform full hygiene routine – including dressing/undressing, toileting, showering, and nail care
* New safety seatbelts for resident wheelchairs
	+ Used for residents in wheelchairs who may attempt to ambulate, but are at high risk for a fall if attempting to ambulate unassisted
	+ Seatbelts alarm if unfastened, alerting staff to respond prior to a resident getting up to ambulate
* New mobile dental hygienist service
* New Bose soundbar for Chapel programming
* Updated End of Life booklet for residents/families
* Staff education for registered nursing staff on “Falls Prevention and Related Medications”, done by our Contracted Pharmacist
* 10 new therapeutic mattresses
* Gentle Persuasive Approach (GPA) staff training sessions have commenced
	+ GPA training enhances staff ability to respond respectfully, and with confidence and skill, to behaviours associated with dementia
1. **Resident Clothing Closet and Drawers**



Our Lodge clothes laundering process results in quick turnaround times, which minimizes the need to have/store large volumes of clothing in the provided closet and drawers.

Given that our closets and drawers have finite space, we ask families to rotate clothing in/out as the seasons change, in order to avoid large volumes of clothing in the closet and drawers, which can lead to disorganization.

We appreciate families’ assistance in reviewing clothing in order to ensure that clothing is kept organized and easily accessible.

1. **Labelling of Residents’ Clothing**



To prevent missing clothing … This is a reminder that new clothing needs to be labelled with the resident’s name before a resident begins to wear it (this also includes items such as shoes/slippers and personal blankets/throws). Please ensure that you use the Clothing Bin near the main entrance to deposit clothing requiring labelling, after inventorying the clothing items on the form provided at the bin (further instructions are provided at the clothing bin).

For inquiries regarding missing clothing and the like, please contact Brent Kerwin, Administrator, at (519) 245-2520, ext. 6222 (or, via email: bkerwin@middlesex.ca).

1. **Labelling of Other Personal Resident Items**



Apart from clothes labelling noted above, residents/families are encouraged to label other personal resident effects (including new items brought to The Lodge from time-to-time), notably items that are more portable in nature, such as TV remote controls.

1. **In Conclusion ….**



Please let me know if you would like to see certain issues addressed in future newsletter editions (contact Brent Kerwin, Administrator, 519-245-2520, ext. 6222, or via

email at: bkerwin@middlesex.ca).

Please share a copy of this newsletter with other family members and friends, or direct them to our [web page](http://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care): <http://www.middlesex.ca/departments/long-term-care>.

Hardcopies of our newsletter are also maintained at our Public Information Board near Reception. Copies of older newsletter editions are compiled in binders at our Reception desk, and are available for your review.

**Brent Kerwin,** Administrator