



Happy Holidays for OARC

At this festive time of year, I am reminded of the privileged work I do with the OARC team dedicated to strengthening Residents' Councils in LTC homes in Ontario. We seek to provide education and support to Residents' Councils and the people who support them, as residents' views, concerns, and celebratory thoughts are brought forward in their own homes, and ultimately across the province. Life and work in LTC homes is not without challenges, however, LTC homes can be places of tender and authentic relationships that inspire new thinking, and sustain challenging changes. To all the Residents' Councils, thank you for a wonderful year and thank you for the honour of representing your voice in the work we do! Whatever you choose to celebrate at this time of year, may you have a season of renewal, joy, and laughter! Happy Holidays, and Merry Christmas!

OARC Board Update



OARC's Board of Directors, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care representatives, and Management from Sharron Cooke's home Celebrating Sharron's 5th anniversary with OARC!

December's Board of Director's meeting was rich with education and discussions with our Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care representatives. Board members learned about the positive changes to our Resident Quality Inspection program. The question and answer period offered an opportunity to express resident specific questions about living in long-term care, such as culture change and legislation, resident independence, the role of inspectors, and more.

Part of the day was dedicated to discussing Residents' Council Bank Account/Financial practices – options when setting up a Residents' Council account, who can manage the funds, audit questions, banks and more. We are thrilled to bring you details about what we learned in the next edition of Seasons scheduled for April 2017.

Congratulations to Sharron Cooke, President of OARC, who celebrated her 5-year anniversary with the OARC Board of Directors. OARC is thankful for Sharron's dedication and strong leadership!

OARC Supporting the Redevelopment of Older Long-Term Care Homes

OARC was interviewed by the Toronto Star after the recent release of the Ontario Long Term Care Association's submission to the Ontario government's budget plan. OLTC's submission calls on our government for specific measures to support the redevelopment of older long-term care homes in Ontario.

Dee Lender, OARC's Executive Director stated that, "From a residents' perspective, we just need to be assured that the funding, wherever it comes from, is in place so...that residents don't feel like it won't happen in their lifetime." (Toronto Star – 11/7/2016)

OARC is a member of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Enhanced Long-Term Care Home Renewal Strategy, Stakeholder Advisory Committee that is supporting the redevelopment of older long-term care homes. Bringing the unique view of the resident lived experience in older homes, OARC Board member, Devora Greenspon joins Executive Director Dee Lender along with many key long-term care stakeholders in attending these committee meetings that focus on system issues, implementation and progress of the enhanced Long-Term Care Home Renewal Strategy to modernize and improve long-term care facilities.

To read the full Toronto Star article "Provincial Subsidy for seniors' homes falls short: Critics" click here <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/11/07/provincial-subsidy-for-seniors-homes-falls-short-critics.html> More information about the strategy can be found here <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/lcredev/eltchrs.aspx>

OARC Supports OLTC's Resident-Centred Home of the Year Award



Bloomington Cove Team celebrating their OLTC Resident-Centred Home of the Year Award

At a recent Ontario Long Term Care Association event, OARC Board members presented Sienna Senior Living's Bloomington Cove with the OLTC Resident-Centred Home of the Year Award. This is a special award, nominated by the residents of the long-term care home, that demonstrates significant progress in creating a home-like environment, promoting a relationship-centred culture and advances the Residents' Bill of Rights.

OARC was honored to be asked to select the recipient of the award this year. Devoted exclusively to dementia care, Bloomington Cove was selected for their person-centred care, relationship-based approach to residents.

The home has focused their efforts on changing from caring for residents, according to their schedules and routines, to caring for residents according to residents' life time practices and habits.

Sienna's vision is to awaken their communities to the positive possibilities of life's new chapters. It's a beautiful vision full of positive activity and self-actualization. Life doesn't end simply because you move into a LTC home, and in reading the submission of the winning home, it was clear to OARC's Board of Directors that they believe that life continues to be full of purpose and possibility. Congratulations Bloomington Cove!

A Message from Josie-Lee Gibson – OARC's Education and Community Support Manager



Dee Lender, Executive Director; Devora Greenspon, OARC Treasurer; Sharron Cooke, President; Josie-Lee Gibson, Education and Community Support Manager at the OLTCA's November Awards Gala

This past month has been an exciting one! As a new member of the team, I've had the opportunity to meet and become acquainted with many of OARC's long time partners, stakeholders and supporter's. The warm reception felt for my appointment is ever so greatly appreciated.

It's exciting to immerse myself in OARC's signature programs, both of which are at very exciting stages; *Through Our Eyes: Bringing the Residents' Bill of Rights Alive*, and *Togetherness Training Workshop*.

November concluded the *Through Our Eyes: Bringing the Residents' Bill of Rights Alive* usability test, yielding outstanding results! OARC is now in the process of implementing recommendations and, with support from Research Institute for Aging, Schlegel Centre for Learning, Research and Innovation in Long-Term Care, developing a marketing and dissemination plan to move this program forward to all LTC homes!

Togetherness Training Workshop - Bringing together 3 key Residents' Council Team members, from different homes to learn from each other, develop a peer support network and enhance their knowledge base. We are excited to be releasing 2017 dates and locations for the workshop, stay tuned!

OARC is now booking into March for long-term care Residents' Council education and in-person visits. If you are interested in learning more about how OARC can support your Residents' Council, please contact me at 1-800-532-0201 jjgibson@ontarc.com.

OARC Highlights Its Signature Education Programs



A recent article in “Long Term Care Today”, OARC highlighted two of its signature programs, “Togetherness Training Workshop” and “Through Our Eyes: Bringing the Residents’ Bill of Rights Alive”. The article, titled “Bridging the Gaps”, focuses on the uniqueness of the OARC programs that are designed to highlight resident’s unique strengths and the importance of Residents’ Councils and those who support them. The full article can be accessed here. <http://mediaedge.imirus.com/Mpowered/book/vltc16/i2/p42>



More information about these programs will be posted on OARC’s website in 2017 at www.ontarc.com

Upcoming OARC Education

February 28th - Transitioning to a Shared Leadership Model for Residents’ Councils Webinar

Many Residents’ Councils are recognizing that transitioning to a leadership model, (moving away from a traditional model with President, Secretary, Treasurer etc.), has helped in bringing residents together who are eager to share in the responsibilities of Council. This helps to focus on strengths of all who gather together as the leadership team, and ‘takes the pressure off’ of assumptions that often go hand in hand with a title such as ‘President’. Learn more with OARC on February 28th!

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Time: 2 to 3:30 pm

Cost: Free

Target Audience: Residents, Residents’ Council Assistant and may include Administrator

Registration: Registration is limited to the first 50 LTC homes. To register for the webinar click here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TSL2017> Questions? Contact Jennifer Langston jangston@ontarc.com or 1-800-532-0201.

We encourage you to bring this information to the next Residents’ Council meeting in your home.

We love to hear from you...
call, write or email us with your questions,
suggestions and stories.



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Tel 905-731-3710 | Toll-free 1-800-532-0201 | Fax 905-731-1755
www.ontarc.com | info@ontarc.com

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