

Glen Rouge Community's Circle Café: Creating Connections



Sharron Cooke was a dynamic and inspiring Resident Leader from Newmarket, Ontario, who was engaged on OARC's Board for over a decade, and remembered fondly as our longest-serving President. Before her passing, Sharron helped to envision the basis of what would later become the Sharron Cooke Legacy Award— an annual award designed to recognize and celebrate long-term care homes that promote authentic communication, collaboration and relationships between residents and team members— the very things Sharron admired and advocated for so passionately.

Our inaugural award recipient, Glen Rouge Community (formerly Altamont), submitted a stand-out application illustrating their home's collaborative journey of creating their Circle Café— a new, welcoming space for people to gather and visit. This project brought together residents, families and team members to design and execute the Café and their award submission demonstrated how this initiative supported relationship-building and strengthened connections in the home. This was especially important after navigating years of the pandemic. OARC Resident Leader Dave Stanyon, from our award adjudication committee, shared that the Circle Café program rose to the top as our clear winner because it reminded us— the way Sharron Cooke always did— that it's the simple things in life, like a cup of coffee amongst friends that make people feel good and can make a good day. The residents and team at Glen Rouge Community look forward to using their prize money towards some new enhancements for their Café, including the purchase of a cookie oven and replenishing supplies.



*Congratulations,
Glen Rouge Community!*