

# Sharron Cooke Annual Legacy Award



Recognize and honour the people who live and work in long-term care homes.



Collaboration



Communication



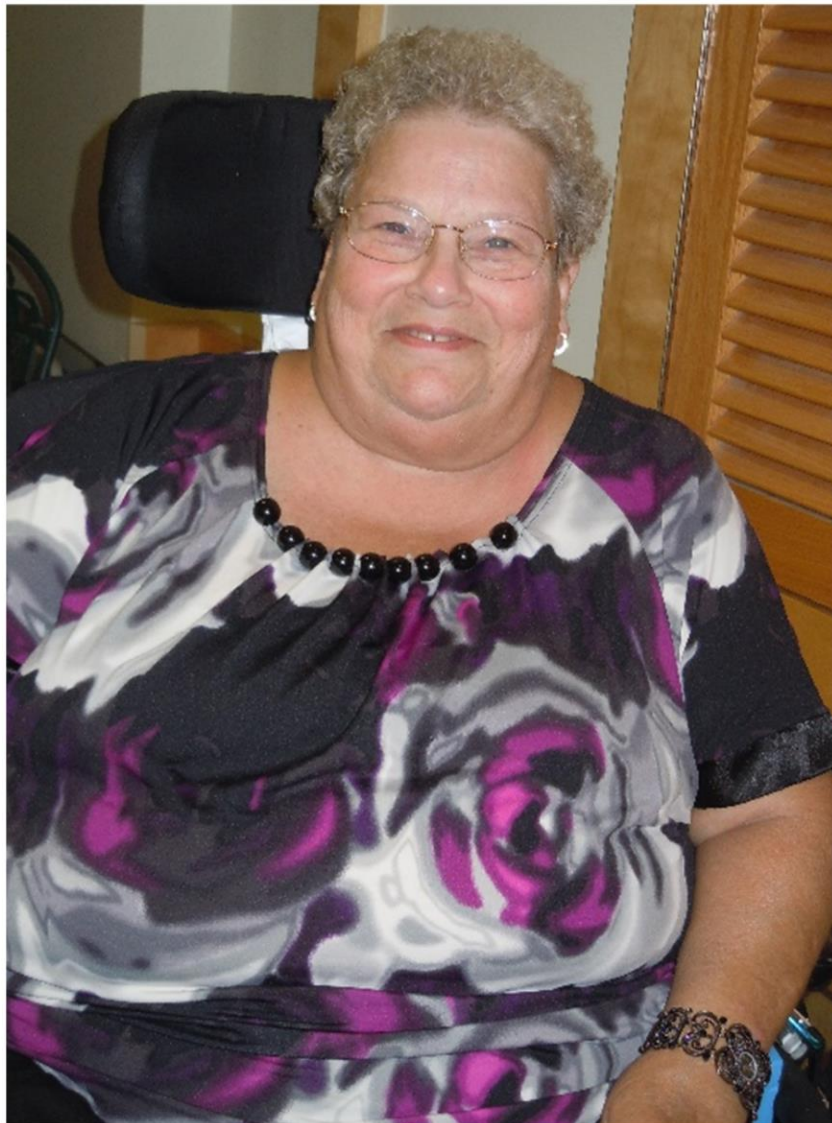
Trust



Friendship



Hope



“You can have all kinds of nice things in your home but the atmosphere and interaction with residents shows more person-centred care than material items. A friendly smile, conversation, involvement of volunteers, team members etc. make a good home. That is all any resident will ask for; the company of a friend to talk and listen to...life is simple really.” ~ Sharron Cooke, Former OARC President



## PURPOSE

The Sharron Cooke Annual Legacy Award was created to memorialize the vision and collaborative spirit of the late Sharron Cooke, former OARC President, and was conceptualized (with Sharron’s help!) as a way to honour the people who live and work in Ontario long-term care (LTC) homes. The award recognizes teams who have demonstrated a commitment to authentic communication, relationship-building, establishing trust, and inspiring a sense of hope. This award is based on these principles and supported by the influence of Residents’ Councils in every LTC home.



*Sharron and a team member sharing at the Elder Wisdom Bench*

The purpose of the Award is to encourage and celebrate long-term care homes that promote a culture of open, authentic communication and collaboration between residents and team members. Sharron envisioned a time when all homes would embrace the principles of ‘culture change’, a process described by the United-States-based [Pioneer Network](#), as “...the transformation of older adult services, based on person-directed values and practices where the voices of elders and those working most closely with them are solicited, respected and honored. Core person-directed values are relationship, choice, dignity, respect, self-determination and purposeful living.”

As a relational and strengths-based leader, Sharron believed in the importance of relationship-building and partnerships between team members, residents and Residents’ Councils. Relationships in the long-term care home transform it into a HOME, shaped BY and WITH residents. This award celebrates homes that have been on their own ‘culture change’ journey.



## AWARD

The winning LTC home team will be consulted to select a prize item (valued up to \$500) that helps to bring people together to build community in your home. We recognize that prizes are not ‘one size fits all’ and the intention of this Award is to afford flexibility to select a prize that best suits your home’s current needs and resident preferences.

Below is a sample list of prizes, but your innovative ideas are most welcome:

- Elder Wisdom Bench (engraved with a quote from Sharron)\*
- Outdoor enhancements: Flagpole, Raised Garden Planters, Patio Umbrella, etc.
- Residents’ Council Meeting Materials – Talking Sticks, Projector, Microphone, etc.
- Gift certificate for a new Residents’ Council Information Board or other Board of your choosing
- Utility/Activity cart (to create a mobile Residents’ Council cart, for example)
- Gift card towards something else for Residents’ Council



*\* The Elder Wisdom bench, originally developed by Schlegel Villages Inc., is a symbol and means for authentic conversation and learning. Sharron was a supporter of the bench program (and worked with her Council to get one in her own home) because she liked what it represented, and how the bench provided a physical space that brought people together. Sharron’s hope was to build compassion, empathy and self-esteem through story telling on/at the bench.*



## ELIGIBILITY

In conjunction with the purpose of the Award, applicants must also meet the following eligibility:

- Applications must include a Team Member(s) and Resident(s)
- The applicants must work/reside in a long-term care home in Ontario
- Applications should be no more than 1100 words
- Recipients of the Sharron Cooke Legacy Award may apply for the award again 2 years after receiving the Sharron Cooke Legacy Award

## CRITERIA

Application packages must include the following :

1. Application form jointly completed by a Team Member(s) and Resident(s)
2. Description of how the initiative has positively influenced your home in at least one of the following areas:
  - Building trust and inspiring hope
  - Enhancing communication
  - Building compassion and empathy
  - Facilitating resident to resident peer support and friendships
3. Include direct feedback/quotes from residents as well as team members to illustrate the impact of your collaboration/project
4. Include pictures to support your application – email to [jlangston@ontarc.com](mailto:jlangston@ontarc.com) in a .jpeg format

## SELECTION

Using the criterion outlined above, a Working Group comprised of OARC Resident Leaders and Education Committee members will review the applications and select a winner. The LTC home's Residents' Council, Council Assistant and the home's Administrator will be notified in the first week of September. All applicants will be notified, via email, to learn if they are successful. Prizes will be coordinated in September, but delivery times might vary depending on the chosen item.



## IMPORTANT DATES

June 1, 2023	Applications Open
<b>August 11, 2023 – 5 pm</b>	<b>Applications Close</b>
Aug 14 - Sept 1 (3 weeks)	Award Selection (internal review)
Week of September 4	Applicants Notified/Prize selection
Residents’ Council Week 2023 (week of Sept 11)	Winner announced

## HOW TO APPLY

You may choose from 1 of 2 methods to apply for the award:

### 1. How to apply online:

Online link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCLA2023>

Photos are to be submitted via email to Jennifer Langston [jlangston@ontarc.com](mailto:jlangston@ontarc.com) in a .jpeg format

### 2. How to apply using the attached/paper application:

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE MS WORD VERSION OF APPLICATION FORM

Submit your application (maximum 1100 words) and photos via mail, email or fax:

Mail: Ontario Association of Residents’ Councils  
4261 Highway 7 East, Suite #A14-360, Markham, ON L3R 9W6

Email: Jennifer Langston [jlangston@ontarc.com](mailto:jlangston@ontarc.com)

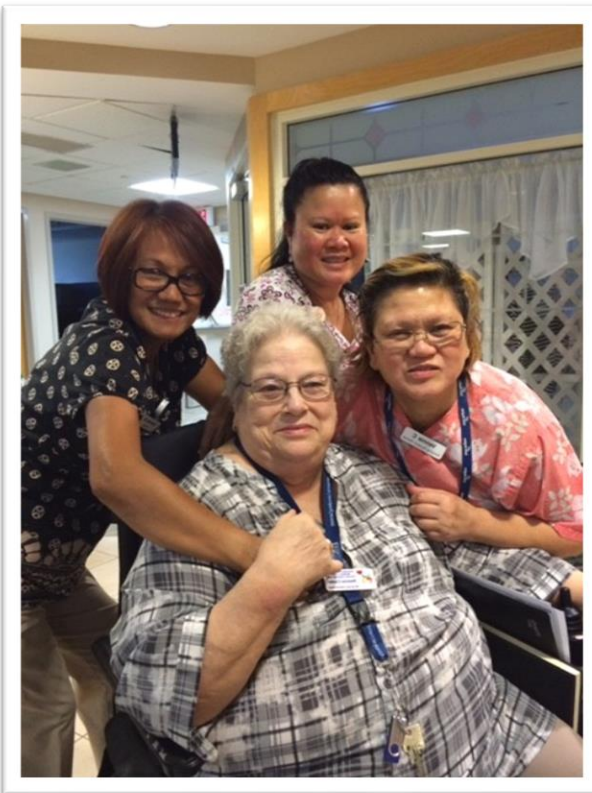
Fax: 905-731-1755

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE THE NAME OF YOUR LONG-TERM CARE HOME OR THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PORTION OF THE APPLICATION.





## SHARRON COOKE | April 1948 – August 2022



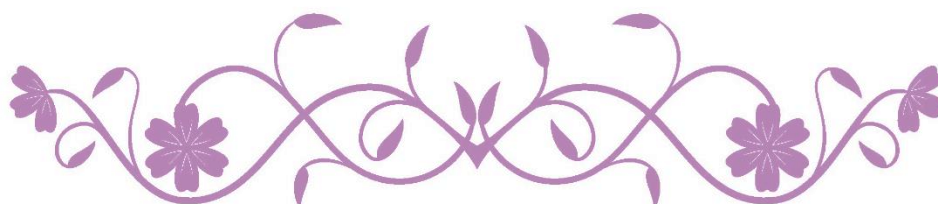
*Sharron and team members.*

Sharron Cooke was a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration for residents, team members and long-term care sector partners across the province. As former Director and Chair of the OARC Board of Directors, Sharron led with compassion and focus for over a decade. She gave selflessly to others and was guided by a fierce sense of determination and a commitment to enhancing quality of life for all residents living in long-term care.

Sharron spoke with conviction and was not afraid to challenge the status quo. Her advocacy work included participation on countless government committees and stakeholder groups,

she offered insightful contributions to research and resource development, she infused resident voice into presentations and course curricula, and she was a devoted mentor, teacher and friend to team members, students and fellow Resident Leaders.

Before her passing in August 2022, Sharron helped to articulate her hopes for an annual recognition award, for a long-term care home that embodied the culture change principles she so admired and strived to promote. Her final wish for her peers was to live in a long-term care home with a culture that welcomes open communication, builds trust, hope and friendships.





# APPLICATION FORM

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE MS WORD VERSION OF APPLICATION FORM

1. Main Contact: Person OARC would contact regarding the status of the application

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Long-Term Care Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Resident(s) and Team Member(s) Involved in Project/Program/Initiative – list up to 7 members

First Name and Last Name or Initial	Position/Role



## APPLICATION FORM

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE MS WORD VERSION OF APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE THE NAME OF YOUR LONG-TERM CARE HOME OR THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PORTION OF THE APPLICATION.

3. Provide an overview of your project/initiative, including what prompted the initiative and how residents and team members worked together. (Up to 500 words)
  
4. Describe how the initiative has positively influenced your home through at least one of the following areas (Up to 500 words):
  - Building trust and inspiring hope
  - Enhancing communication
  - Building compassion and empathy
  - Facilitating resident to resident peer support and friendships
  
5. Remember to:
  - Include feedback/quotes from residents as well as team members to illustrate the impact of your collaboration/project, and
  - Send photos illustrating your activity/project/impact to [jlangston@ontarc.com](mailto:jlangston@ontarc.com)
  - Limit your entire application to a maximum of 1100 words
  - Not include the name of your home and applicants in this portion of the application (Q3 & Q4)

Thank you for your application.