

Residents' Council Week Webinar: Inspiration and Ideas

Join OARC resident leaders and team members on **August 2 from 2pm-3pm EST** as we host an interactive webinar in anticipation of the 4th annual Residents' Council Week, taking place between September 11th – 17th. In this webinar, we will offer celebration ideas, interactive polls, details about the Sharron Cooke Legacy Award and contest ideas. This week of celebration and recognition is the perfect time to showcase what makes your Residents' Council and your home special!

Register below to save your spot today!

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lzh1qFO5SnSs8xgsHNTLUQ

It's never too early to start your RC Week planning... OARC is here to help!

Website: Visit our website www.ontarc.com and explore the 'RC Week' drop-down menu for downloadable tools, posters and activity ideas.

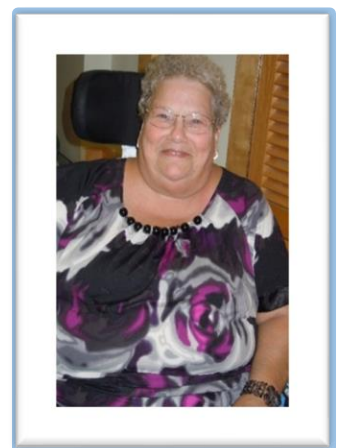
Webinar: Invite your Residents' Council members to attend our August 2nd webinar for celebration ideas, then bring them to your August meeting for further discussion.

Calendar of Events: OARC's Residents' Council Week Schedule of Events will be released in a special bulletin mid-August.

Contest/Annual Award: Work with your home team to submit an application to the [Sharron Cooke Legacy Award](#) (more details below) before August 11, 2023 by 5pm.

Celebrate Your Home's Person-Centred Culture by Applying for OARC's Sharron Cooke Legacy Award by August 11th

The Sharron Cooke Annual Legacy Award recognizes long-term care teams who have demonstrated a commitment to authentic communication, relationship-building, establishing trust, and inspiring a sense of hope. Don't miss this special opportunity to celebrate, share and be recognized for the person-centred culture that makes your long-term care home the best place to live, work and visit. Apply today! **For Award details and applications visit [our award page](#) or download the [brochure](#).**



OARC Spends a Memorable Afternoon with Ministry of LTC Investigators

On Wednesday, July 12th, OARC Resident Leader Devora Greenspon, accompanied by OARC team members, Dee Tripp (Executive Director) and Stephanie Ventura (Director of Education) delivered an interactive workshop for the Ministry of Long-Term Care Inspections Branch's first-ever group of Investigators.

In this newly created role, Investigators will help expand the Ministry's capacity to investigate and lay charges for offences under the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021, where appropriate. OARC was invited to participate in the in-depth orientation and on-boarding provided to this inaugural group of Investigators.

Our role was to build an understanding of what life in a long-term care home is like from the residents' perspective, and to emphasize that to fully understand what is happening in a home, it is essential to ask residents. The OARC team was encouraged by the thoughtful questions posed, and the meaningful discussions experienced, and we look forward to sharing more updates on the important work this group will be involved in.



OARC and Ministry of
Long-Term Care
Investigators
July 12, 2023

OARC's Home Support Travelogue

It's been a busy and exciting few weeks on the road for Education and Home Support Manager, Melissa Matheson. We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to the following Residents' Council groups and LTC home teams that welcomed Melissa so warmly:

Algonquin Nursing Home (Mattawa)

Cassellholme Home for the Aged (North Bay)

Eastholme Home for the Aged (Powassan)

Lakeridge Gardens (Ajax)



We look forward to keeping in touch!
Keep doing all the amazing things that you're doing!

Congratulations to our Seasons Contest Winners!

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to enjoy the Spring/Summer edition of our [Seasons magazine](#)! We received 8 entries for our "Find the Hidden Rainbow Flag" contest. Congratulations to the following 3 winners who were selected by random draw:

Wayne Dugas (Powassan)

Joanne Easby (St. Catharines)

Harold Moffatt (Bowmanville)

Special thanks to those who submitted entries from Lakeland Care Community, Altamont Community, Grove Park Home, Queensway Long-Term Care and Extendicare Brampton. **What item do you think we should hide next and what kinds of prizes would you like to see? Share your ideas with Melissa McVie at mmcvie@ontarc.com.**

COVID-19 Response Measures Update Webinar Recording and Resources

On July 5, OARC hosted Ministry partners on our Zoom platform for a webinar outlining the most recent COVID-19 updates.

Missed our live session? Catch the recording [here](#). Accompanying slide decks are available in [English](#) and [French](#).

Companion resources to support your understanding include an updated [“What Residents Can Expect”](#) handout and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) resource highlighting the latest changes.

Residents’ Council Fundraising and Spending – We Want to Hear from YOU!

The OARC team wants to learn more about how Residents’ Council groups across the province are currently engaged in fundraising *and* what are some of the creative ways your Council have spent their funds?

Perhaps your long-term care home has an auxiliary group or Board that engages in fundraising? We’d love to hear if/how funds might be allocated for Residents’ Council spending etc. and how residents have been engaged in the process.

Please reach out to OARC’s Director of Communications, Melissa McVie, to share at mmcvie@ontarc.com. *Thank you!*

Looking for some inspiration? Catch our archived webinar, [Councils Making Coin](#).

Residents’ Rights Corner

Did you know? The Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021, which is the piece of legislation (or law) that contains your protected Residents’ Bill of Rights, says that: **“every resident has the right to be given access to protected outdoor areas in order to enjoy outdoor activity unless the physical setting makes this impossible.”**

Spring and summer months bring the sunshine and warmth that many people enjoy. Residents’ Councils, working together with their LTC home teams, family members and friends, can play an important role when it comes to keeping outdoor spaces looking lush and operating functionally, ensuring that everyone can enjoy them. OARC has heard many examples of Councils that have provided input and/or helped to purchase flowers for outdoor planters, raised garden boxes, flagpoles, firepits, and furniture to enhance their outdoor spaces. We’ve also heard some incredible stories of how Residents’ Council groups have brought forward important feedback to their home’s management teams that led to quality improvements directly connected to outdoor spaces.

OARC Resident Leader, Devora Greenspon recalls the time when her Council spoke up about heavy doors that made getting outside independently quite difficult. Thanks to some Council advocacy and great teamwork, the home prioritized the installation of an accessible door that residents could open with the push of a button to enter the outdoor courtyard. It's important to remember that as residents, the way you experience your home matters. Don't be afraid to speak up and bring forward questions and solutions! Consider bringing ideas to a Council meeting or Quality Committee.

Ministry of Long-Term Care Updates

On July 13, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health released a [memo](#) outlining guidance for COVID-19 booster shots.

As booster doses are recommended in 6-month intervals, it was recommended that people consider waiting until the fall for their next eligible dose, to “maximize protection against COVID-19 outcomes when peak circulation of the virus is expected.”

OARC recommends that residents with any questions about their health, including vaccination timing and eligibility, should speak to their care teams in their LTC homes.

Boost your Environmental Services team's confidence in resident interactions

OARC is pleased to share the following promotion for a new education offering from the Ontario Centres for Learning, Research and Innovation (CLRI) in Long-Term Care at the Research Institute for Aging (RIA), designed to support relationship-building between team members and residents:

When residents turn to your team members for assistance, company, or support, are they equipped to respond knowledgeably? Exceptional care starts by making sure every team member has the right skill set and knowledge.

Enhance your Environmental Services team's proficiency and ability to interact and support residents with our new activity: *Resident Interaction for Environmental Services Team Members*! This open-access interactive activity explores seven resident interaction scenarios team members commonly encounter in a real-world care environment and suggestions on how to respond.

This FREE activity is offered by the Ontario CLRI at the RIA and can also be beneficial as a refresher for family members and care team members.

Interested? Explore this 7-minute activity today! Find the eLearning activity [here](#).

Registration Now Open: This is Long-Term Care Conference – October 22-24

Our friends at the Ontario Long-Term Care Association (OLTCA) will be hosting their annual sector conference, [This is Long Term Care 2023](#) again this fall. OARC team members and Resident Leaders look forward to participating in this interactive event and spending 3 days sharing and learning from our sector partners. Mark your calendars for October 22-24! Conference registration is now open: <https://thisisltc.com/2023-registration/>

Forums to Stay Connected: Residents and Residents' Council Assistants

Looking for a way to connect and learn from other residents or team members that support Residents' Councils. Join us any time your schedule permits!

RESIDENT FORUMS: Weekly, Thursday at 2 pm EST – Find more details [here](#). Participation is limited to residents living in long-term care homes.

RESIDENTS' COUNCIL ASSISTANT FORUMS: Monthly, last Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm EST – register [here](#). Participation is limited to team/staff members who assist long-term care home Residents' Councils.



Thank you to [Java Group Programs](#) and [Extendicare](#) for supporting OARC's Culture Change products and education programs. To find out more about how you can support OARC, please contact Dee Tripp, Executive Director dtripp@ontarc.com 1-800-532-0201 x 240.

We encourage you to share this information with residents in your home. We love to hear from you - call, write or email us with your questions, suggestions and stories.



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