

We Are Proud to Share OARC's Annual Report 2021-22

This report captures highlights of our activities and contributions over the last year. Available now in digital format in both [English](#) and [French](#).

A hard copy of this report has been mailed to the attention of Residents' Councils in every long-term care home in Ontario. This is a great resource to share with Residents' Council groups who proudly hold memberships with OARC to demonstrate our reach and impact. We thank all of our supportive partners for their continued assistance and commitment to doing better for and *with* residents.



A Quick Question...

Your answers will help inform our communication efforts with our Ministry of Long-Term Care. Recognizing the impact of COVID-19 and related infection management/isolation on residents, our Ministry of LTC has recently made changes to their guidance in several areas including masking, visitation and isolation. See OARC's October 7th bulletin for more details ([English](#) | [French](#)) [Do you think that current COVID-19 rules are adequate for long-term care homes?](#)

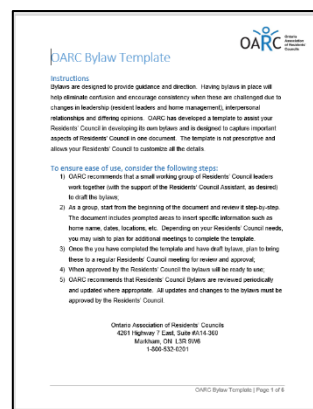


Home Visit Travelogue: Discovering Ontario, One Home at a Time



OARC's home support visits continued into the Fall after our Summer adventures. Melissa Matheson, Education and Home Support Facilitator headed to Ottawa to be with the Councils for Residents' Council week. On her way there she stopped into Cornwall, where she met with Dorothy Asselstine, one of OARC's Board Members, who gave her a tour of Sandfield Place Long Term Care home. Unfortunately, her Ottawa visits were cancelled due to a close contact having COVID-19 but will be rescheduled to another time.

During her travels and home visits, Melissa has worked in partnership with residents and team members to explore strategies to help Residents' Councils rebuild, she has delivered Residents' Council 101 education sessions to new members, and she has helped facilitate thoughtful discussions and idea sharing. A recurring theme from her visits has involved supporting homes to better understand and implement Residents' Council Bylaws. Melissa has been able to walk beside a few Councils during their process of creating Bylaws and establishing procedures to promote stability, cohesion and clarity within the Councils and their homes. If you are interested in learning more about what <https://www.ontarc.com/education-support/tools.html#template> are, how they can support your Council operations, and how to go about creating them, please reach out to Melissa x 280 mmatheson@ontarc.com.



Melissa would like to express her sincere gratitude to the following homes for allowing her the opportunity to connect in-person: Castleview Wychwood Towers, Sandfield Place and True Davidson Acres. Thank you to the following homes for your patience and understanding as we work to reschedule in-person visits: Wellington House, Peter D. Clarke Home, St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa, Garden Terrace, Ottawa Jewish Home for the Aged, and Perley Health.

Are you looking for support for your Residents' Council? Contact Melissa Matheson at 1-800-532-0201 x 280 | mmatheson@ontarc.com

OARC Engagement Highlights

Inspiring LTC Leaders – OARC presents at the Advantage Ontario Administrator Leadership Program

On October 26, OARC Resident Leaders, Devora Greenspon and Steven Wenzowski, met with 45 students seeking to further develop their leadership skills (including many aspiring long-term care leaders) enrolled in the [Advantage Ontario Administrator Leadership Program](#). [Devora and Steven’s passionate contributions](#) helped to infuse the resident perspective into the curriculum through a presentation called, “It All Comes Back to the Residents” which was supported by OARC’s Melissa McVie.

In addition to contributing to a pre-recorded *On Demand* training module outlining the role of Administrators in supporting Residents’ Council operations, Devora and Steven led the group through several interactive exercises to help them “walk a mile in a resident’s shoes.” They also shared advice and a list of qualities that residents hope to see modelled by their home’s leadership teams – including the importance of active listening, communication, authentic engagement and follow-through. Wishing the best to this cohort of long-term care leaders!



Worth a Listen: Catch OARC’s Devora Greenspon and Melissa McVie on the latest episode of the [#ElderWisdom: Stories from the Green Bench Podcast](#). Devora Greenspon, OARC’s [REAL](#) Group Co-Chair, gets REAL about Residents’ Councils and why they are important. Listen here: <https://link.chtbl.com/ElderWisdomBonus3>

City of Toronto Residents' Summit 2022

On September 28th, OARC was invited to participate in the City of Toronto's Residents' Summit. The annual event, hosted by Toronto Seniors Services and Long-Term Care, is normally held in person at one of the City's ten owned and operated long-term care homes. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Summit was hosted virtually, which allowed more residents and team members to participate. The session started with a presentation from OARC on the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021, and the rights and responsibilities awarded to residents and Residents' Councils in the new Act. The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session, where residents shared some of the challenges they have experienced with influencing positive change in their homes. The event concluded with homes sharing some of the innovative and engaging activities and programs that are available to City of Toronto long-term care home residents. Thank you to the City of Toronto for their continued support through OARC membership and for their invitation to this annual event.

OARC's Resident Expert Advisors and Leaders (REAL) Group is Expanding

OARC is expanding our resident advisory group to broaden our group's perspective and to reflect more diverse lived experiences of residents living in Ontario LTC Homes.

Do you have a unique perspective and a willingness to bring your individual strengths and experiences as a resident to inspire change and support the work of OARC? You don't need to be a Residents' Council expert or have any specific training to apply.

OARC will be accepting applications beginning November 1st. Visit

<https://www.ontarc.com/who-we-are/real.html> to meet our current REAL group and to express your interest by completing a "[Get to Know You](#)" form.



New Opportunity – Become a Medication Safety Trailblazer!



The Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) is pleased to announce that the *Strengthening Medication Safety in Long-Term Care initiative* is moving into an exciting NEW phase! ISMP is now launching up to **100 [Trailblazer Homes](#)** with the tools, facilitation, and coaching that have successfully supported the great medication safety work of the Champion Homes over the past year. The **goal** of the Strengthening Medication Safety in Long-Term Care initiative is to reduce harm associated with medication management errors within long-term care (LTC) in Ontario. This is a 3-year initiative funded by the Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care. OARC Resident Leader/REAL member, Les Froats, took part in ISMP's first phase of the Strengthening Medication Safety in Long-Term Care Initiative while living in 1 of 10 Champion homes involved with the project. Reflecting on his experience, Les shared, "I have enjoyed getting to know about pills and how they're handled, and I think everyone should get to know how. Every home should be learning this."

Registration is free and limited to the first 100 homes to register:

- View the "[Become a Medication Safety Trailblazer](#)" [poster](#) for more information
- [Register Now](#) (NOTE: registration will close when 100 Homes have registered)



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Thank you to Java Group Programs and the Ontario Centres for Learning, Research and Innovation in Long-Term Care 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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