

Resident Expert Advisors and Leaders (REAL) Biography



Jim Gilhuly, Resident Leader

REAL Group Member

Sunnyside Home Long-Term Care, Kitchener

Jim was born in Chatham, Ontario, but lived there for a brief 4 days before relocating to the town of Wallaceburg with his family. Jim earned degrees from Western University and the University of Toronto. He taught English in the secondary schools of the Waterloo Regional Board before becoming an Administrator. For 31 of his 33 years of service, Jim held a position of added responsibility. The last 7 years he was the Principal of an Adult school, then a Vocational school, and finally Adult and Continuing Education.

Following his retirement, Jim worked for the local food bank mainly as a truck driver but was also involved in the Speaker's Bureau. Although physically handicapped, Jim retains a voice and an intellect. Jim believes in resident-centred-care and culture change and fears that the institutional and industrial model that many long-term care homes are based on is the greatest barrier to achieving these things and to good mental health. Jim has expressed that he wants to be a strong advocate for homes.

Jim is an avid reader and enjoys his personal library of books. He enjoys cryptic crosswords for intellectual stimulation and displays a collection of rhinoceros figurines in his room. Jim has been married to Mary Ann for 56 years; they have 5 children and 14 grandchildren.