



Residents Partnering for Quality Improvement and Positive Change

The Sharron Cooke Legacy Award is awarded on an annual basis to a long-term care home that demonstrates a commitment to partnering with residents on a specific quality improvement project or initiative.

The award honours its namesake, OARC's longest serving Board Chair, who led with tenacity and heart, and helped to envision this special award prior to her passing in August 2022.

Last summer, OARC received five applications for the Sharron Cooke Annual Legacy Award, each showcasing a unique resident-centred program. We struck a small adjudication committee comprised of OARC Resident Leaders to carefully review each submission, and select our recipient.

Sharron Cooke Legacy Award Recipient 2024, Kensington Village, London



Taste of Home

What? Residents involved on the Council and Food Committee wanted to improve their home's menu options.

Who? Residents collaborated with LTC home Administration, Dietary and Recreation Departments and families.

How? Resident recipes were sought, prepared and taste-tested on Saturday mornings, with favourite selections added to home's regular menu cycles.

Outcome: Residents are proud to see their cherished recipes incorporated and mealtimes are more enjoyable!

Advice to other homes: Start small and scale the program. Keep an open mind. Include home management in all discussions to explore actionable ideas.

Honourable Mentions for Inspiring Submissions:

Welcome Club, Meadow Park Chatham, Chatham
Welcome Tea, Southbridge Lakehead, Thunder Bay
Carnival Day, King Nursing Home, Bolton
Dream Team, Trillium Community, Kingston

(Read about each initiative on page 15!)

Applications open Summer 2025:

www.ontarc.com/residents-council-week/sharron-cooke-legacy-award.html

Award presented during RC Week

Spotlight on 2024 Award Applications

Welcome Club



At Meadow Park Chatham, a formalized group of resident peer mentors founded a club dedicated to making residents feel welcome and included. The group meets monthly to identify opportunities to build connections and to develop their capacity as peer mentors. Residents have received education about communication strategies and understanding peers living with dementia. Being a peer mentor gives residents a sense of purpose, while contributing to a positive home culture!

At Southbridge Lakehead, what started as a welcoming program for new residents and families, evolved into a Residents' Council-led initiative designed to make new team members feel welcome. Residents designed refreshment cups with welcoming messages to hand out at staff orientation, and they use these interactions as an opportunity to teach the team about Residents' Council and residents' rights.



Welcome Tea

Dream Team



At Trillium Community, residents and team members work together to identify and make resident dreams come true. With the generous support of donations, the team has helped residents to make some lifelong dreams a reality, including the coordination of special outings to attend sporting events, a Ringo Starr concert and a family reunion at a cottage. The dedicated efforts of the Dream Team also enabled the purchase of custom hearing aids for two residents, giving them a new lease on life!

Teamwork really does make the dream work!

At King Nursing Home, the idea to create an interactive and memorable event for residents became a reality thanks to the collaborative efforts of the whole team. The home hosted a full day event featuring 11 activity stations and concession stations serving up classic carnival treats. The event not only provided entertainment, but it also strengthened bonds among team members and residents.



Carnival Day