

Villa Bulletin
April 2008
No. 66

Congratulations!

St. Joseph's Villa was nominated for a 2008 Passport to Prosperity Champion Award. This award recognizes Ontario employers who have exhibited an outstanding commitment to providing schoolwork experiences to high school students in their communities. St. Joseph's Villa is one of the five employers selected to receive this award! Thank you to all staff who have assisted with the St. Mary's students placements over the past few years.



It's Here!!

The Snoezelen Room has arrived! Therapeutic Recreation Staff took part in a full-day training session in the therapeutic uses and strategies on how to best use the Snoezelen room and it's many components, for the most beneficial outcomes for our Residents.

Many thanks again to Alan and Marlise Clark as well as the Edith H. Turner Fund (Hamilton Community Foundation), for their generous support of this project.

There remains much work to be done to finalize the room in order for full usage to begin - new room darkening blinds, a couple of resources which are still to arrive, etc. However, as many staff have pointed out, "We've waited a VERY long time to get this room!"

Please feel free to ask Therapeutic Recreation about having a peek if you see someone around the room, but please be aware that this room has very expensive and sensitive equipment, and does require full training prior to being used. At this time, only Therapeutic Recreation staff have been trained; training for other staff will be planned and announced for those interested in learning more.

Palliative Care Awareness Evening ... April 23rd ...

Last month you received an invitation to attend an information evening to hear and ask questions about our palliative care program here at St. Joseph's Villa.

We are looking forward to this evening and are happy to share with you that Dr. Shankardass, one of our attending physicians, will be joining us for the evening. There will also be representatives from Nursing, Spiritual Care, Social Work and Recreation.

No matter what stage in life your loved one is at, this is an opportunity to ask questions that may put your mind at rest. Once again, you are invited to join us on **Wednesday April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Villa Auditorium** to discover what palliative care means for you and your loved ones. Refreshments will be provided.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Beverley Greenwood, Chaplain, at 905-627-3541 ext. 2263. Looking forward to meeting with you.

Paintings from the Heart

There are several new paintings on Willow Grove that were donated in honour of Helen Candlish (nee Bradbury). Helen painted these wonderful creations - each with a different story to tell.

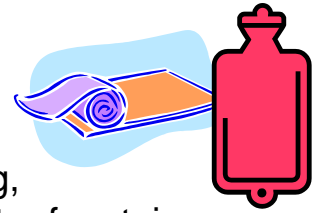
Helen was born in Scotland on September 26, 1916 and died in Hamilton on September 22, 1993. The Hamilton Mountain News had a delightful article about Helen in Artsfocus in 1987. These are a couple of the excerpts:

"She plots every dab of the brush hoping to capture that elusive "perfect" painting." Her own quote – "Nobody else knows exactly what I'm after every time I begin to paint, so nobody else can say whether or not I've been successful...success means pleasing yourself first."

Janet Bryers wanted her mother's paintings to be enjoyed by the residents and staff for many years to come. These works of art have already made a positive difference.

Personal Packing Suggestions

When packing to come to the Villa here is a list of suggestions of “What not to Bring”! Due to Health and Safety regulations, there are NO hot water bottles, carpeting, mats, humidifiers, electrical heating pads or blankets, or water fountains permitted.



May Day Yard Sale



St. Joseph's Villa Spirit Committee will be hosting a MAY DAY Bake and Yard Sale in the Villa Auditorium. If you are doing some Spring cleaning, decluttering and want to dispose of some items you no longer want or desire, you are welcome to contribute them to the Yard Sale. Items can be left at Reception or contact a Spirit Committee member.



Car Show

Many thanks to those who have already contacted Michelle Miller in Therapeutic Recreation for our Show on Saturday, June 21. At this time, we have approximately 8 cars confirmed.



Last year's Car Show was greatly appreciated by our Residents and staff. We look forward to hearing from more owners soon. (RSVPs are appreciated, to ensure we have enough parking spaces blocked off for all cars.)

If you or someone you know with a classic car can attend, please call Michelle at ext 2287

Quality of Life Survey

St. Joseph's Villa in conjunction with the St. Joseph's Health System Research Network will be conducting the Quality of Life Survey for 2008 from April 14 to April 23. The majority of residents will be interviewed but in some cases family members will be asked to complete a survey that will be mailed to them.

It is necessary for us to hear from residents and families the things we do well, and the areas where we may need to improve as we work toward the Villa's primary goal of ensuring that residents are well cared for and comfortable. We thank you in advance for your time and cooperation in this process.

Hamilton Community News 2008 Readers' Choice Awards

Thank you to everyone who voted for St. Joseph's Villa in the category of "Best Long-Term Care Home" for the Hamilton Community News 2008 Readers' Choice Awards. The Villa was successful as being recipient of the "Diamond Award" (first place). We are fortunate to have the best staff to provide the best care for the Residents who make the Villa their home. Thank you again for your support.



'Distinctly Canadian' Gala Event

St. Joseph's Villa Foundation will host their 7th Annual Gala Event on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Liuna Station in Hamilton. This is the Foundation's major fundraising event of the year. Come and enjoy a spectacular evening of fine dining, unique auction items, exceptional entertainment by Canada's leading songwriter/composer, Ian Thomas, and a spectacular celebrity photo exhibition by one of Canada's most popular celebrity-event photographers, Brent Perniac. Last chance to purchase tickets through the Foundation office at (905) 627-9011 ext. 2293.