

COPING WITH COVID-19

Nursing & Retirement Homes

NURSING/RETIREMENT HOMES COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

March 31, 2020

*A Message from
our Family to Yours...*

Dear peopleCare families,

With the world at a standstill due to the pandemic, it's an understatement to say this is a strange and challenging time for us all. Perhaps the toughest part is that, in order to support one another, we must remain physically apart.

While visitor restrictions to protect residents and staff are necessary to keep everyone safe, we know that for our families, having to stay away from our Homes is heartbreaking. For your loved one, you are that extra set of loving hands, eyes and ears every day – a true caregiving partner with our teams.

We want you to know that we are committed to doing all that we can to protect your loved one and keep COVID-19 out of our Homes including: Stepping up our already rigorous infection control practices across our Homes and vigilantly monitoring the health of residents daily, with particular attention for signs of respiratory illness

or fever.

Ensuring our Home leadership teams can stay completely focused on resident safety and care by supporting them with decision-making, contingency planning and having accurate and updated information throughout this rapidly evolving situation.

Working tirelessly to secure the necessary supplies and personal protective equipment to keep residents and staff safe in the event of an outbreak.

Our promise to you during this stressful situation is the same as it is every single day – to treat your loved one the way we would want a member of our own family to be treated. To do everything in our power to keep them healthy, safe and feeling cherished. To provide the best possible care and comfort should they become ill. And to honour and support the meaningful role that you play in their quality of life and well-being, even if you can't be hands-on for the time being.

In the coming weeks, our teams will continue



March 31st was Rock 'n' Roll Day at peopleCare, Tavistock. Staff members dressed for the occasion are from the left: Receptionist Rachel Scott, Director of Care Alena Volkova, Office Manager Kim Knott, Assistant Director of Care Sheri Gallivan and Executive Director Deb Wetlaufer.

to keep you informed and offer creative solutions to help you stay connected. Thank you for the trust and confidence you've placed in peopleCare. Your loved one is in skilled, compassionate and dedicated hands, and their safety remains our top priority.

*Sincerely, Brent and
Heather Gingerich
peopleCare*

WE NEED PPE ... CAN YOU HELP?

During this pandemic, as at all times, peopleCare's top priority remains the well-being of our residents, staff and communities. I'm reaching out today as we exhaust all efforts to secure the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect our frontline health care workers as they provide care to our vulnerable

residents. With respect, our simple ask is this: do you have PPE supplies such as masks, gowns and thermometers you would consider donating to peopleCare Homes?

Masks in particular, as well as gowns, infrared thermometers and hand sanitizer are urgently needed to help our teams to prevent and reduce the spread of the virus, and minimize the impact on both residents and staff,

should an outbreak occur in one of our Homes.

Across Ontario, we are seeing a rise in COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care homes, and serious situations made that much worse when the appropriate PPE is not available. Please take a moment to consider if you can help us keep our seniors safe, and our staff healthy so they can continue to do their important work of care.

TAVISTOCK GAZETTE NOW ONLINE ONLY

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Tavistock Gazette will not be publishing a print edition. The necessary need for social and physical distancing and the cancellation of all events and gatherings has caused a significant decrease in local news as well as advertising revenue. This makes it impossible to meet the financial requirements for us to be able to pay both the printing and mailing costs. We hope that when we resume publishing, we will be able to provide our printed edition for you once again. **All print subscribers who don't have internet access will have their expiry date extended.**

In the meantime, we will publish a colour-enhanced, online version of the Gazette at www.tavistock.on.ca. **FREE** to all.

This digital version will also include our regular back page business directory for residents to access when they need essential services. Many businesses have been forced to close due to government restrictions, or simply because there is no business at all. Please, always call or email them for information.

To our current business customers, if you require printed business material, call or email us with your orders.

Once again, during this time, our newspaper will be available online only. If you know of a subscriber who doesn't have internet access, making a phone call to connect and share any of our news items would be greatly appreciated.

Again, due to the mandate of physical distancing and the obligation to stay at home, if you have news, stories or photos to share, or have ideas for us to report, please contact us.

The Editor and his wife



ONLINE GAZETTE

With the restrictions of COVID-19 and the Tavistock Gazette newspaper no longer printing a paper edition, The Maples Home for Seniors has made a printed copy of the online paper available so their residents can continue to enjoy the weekly Tavistock news in hand. Pictured above is Activity Assistant Madelynnne Sullivan and resident Fannie Mae Schwartzentruber with the April 1st edition of The Gazette.