

COMMUNITY —

Local long-term care chains approve of new ministry website

By Lee Griffi

Both Caressant Care and peopleCare are giving an early thumbs-up as the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has created a new website for those considering placing a loved one into a long-term care home.

As part of its plan to fix long-term care, the Ontario government has launched the 'Long-Term Care Homefinder,' a site and search tool to provide prospective residents and their families with a one-stop-shop to find and compare long-term care homes across the province, along with other resources to help people make an informed choice when considering long-term care.

Caressant Care owns and operates 15 long-term care homes in Ontario, including the Maples Home for Seniors, and the company's Marketing Manager, Stuart Oakley, says so far, so good. "It appears to be a useful tool to help people navigate the often-complicated process of finding a home for a loved one. We are certainly supportive of the website."

Sheena Campbell is the Vice President of Communications and Engagement at peopleCare, who owns and operates eight long-term care homes, including one in Tavistock, and she says they are on board with the new site. "peopleCare appreciates the government's ongoing efforts to strengthen transparency and accountability across the LTC sector in a variety of ways, such as the new LTC Homefinder site. When seniors and their families are looking at their LTC options, what they are really doing is choosing their new home."

Each long-term care home in the province has a profile page with information about waitlists,

staff vaccination rates, amenities, inspection reports, contact information and more. The new site also provides information that can help people decide if long-term care is the best option for them and, if so, how to choose a home, apply, and move in.

Oakley says all that data is out there, but the new site allows for easy access to critical data. "This information has always been publicly available. Now it is available in one location, so it is a fair approach to navigating LTC and the options available."

Campbell echoes the Caressant Care response, saying the convenience will help the decision-making process. "From a quality-of-life perspective, the more information they have at their fingertips to help them learn about what the experience of living in that home is like, the better. And as a one-stop-shop, if the LTC Homefinder site makes it easier for seniors to navigate the system and make informed decisions, that's also a good thing."

Future phases of the website and search tool will include more information on each home's profile pages as well as other new features based on public feedback. When all the information is in place, the long-term care Homefinder site will be a resource for Ontarians looking for information about the province's long-term care system.

Oakley says his only concern is a member of the public posing inappropriate information. "The only concern really would be if people were to post private information about a resident or a staff member." He adds that publicly posting reviews is nothing new to the sector. "We have Google reviews, social media comments on

posts and tweets. If information is not inflammatory or breaches confidentiality,

we would have nothing to fear if a review was not favourable. We view every negative or critical comment as an opportunity for us to do better. We would have to see how this would be managed going forward to be able to respond more specifically on the type of feedback the government would consider allowing. It is early days yet."

While Campbell didn't address the question of concerns when it comes to public feedback, she did say peopleCare is excited about the government's plans to move ahead with a sector-wide long-term care resident and family experience survey. "We regularly survey our residents and families already to learn more about the areas in which they think we're doing a great job and opportunities to improve when we don't meet expectations. Standardized experience surveys will help all long-term care operators understand what's really important to residents and their families and what meaningful actions they can take to improve." Historically, homes came up with their own surveys. This is the first time each home will use the same survey to collect data.

"Our government has a plan to fix long-term care, and a key part of that plan is strengthening accountability, enforcement, and transparency in the long-term care system," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-Term Care. "Our new Homefinder website brings together all the information families need to make informed decisions about long-term care so they can choose a home that will best meet the needs of their loved ones."

The Old Gazettes

Slowly but surely, I'm reading through the past pages of the Tavistock Gazette (est. 1895). Within this weekly column I'd like to share with you some of my findings.

February 8, 2012 Edition (10 years ago)

Members of the Perth County OPP responded to a collision in the hamlet of Hampton at 4:51 p.m. on Monday, February 6 that left 11 people dead. Investigation has revealed that a 15-seater passenger van with 13 persons inside was westbound on Line 47 when it was struck in the intersection by a straight truck travelling southbound on Perth Road 107. Ten occupants inside the van were pronounced dead at the scene along with the driver of the truck.

Drivers beware! The new light sequence at Tavistock's 5 corners has been changed. The new light sequence will allow traffic to flow from one of the four directions at a time without hindrance from oncoming traffic. There is also an on-call pedestrian cycle.

February 5, 1997 Edition (25 years ago)

Tavistock and District Figure Skating Club's Four Star Precision Team earned gold medals and a first-place trophy on Sunday evening in the Strathroy Future Stars of Tomorrow competition. Members of the team include Shannon Roth, Deb Iacobellis, Janelle Witzel, Jen Currah, Melanie Matthews, Lesli Gladding, Amanda Rozendal, Carolyn Quehl and Lind-

say Schlegel. Team manager is Phyllis Wilhelm and coach is Lori Thomson.

The first draw is over for the senior youth curlers and Team 4 are the first champions of the high school division. Team 4 consists of skip Scott Shewfelt, vice Dan Klein, second Janelle Witzel and lead Kris Matthews.

Retiring after more than twenty-three years of driving bus for the Oxford County Board of Education, Reta Schumm was honoured by parents, staff and students of Tavistock Public School at an assembly on Thursday, January 30th. Mrs. Schumm accepted a gift from Parent Council and thanked everyone for their cooperation and support over the years. "I love the kids" she said, and I only "wish I had made a scrapbook" so she could look at all their faces. Mrs. Schumm drove bus from October 1973 until November 1, 1996. She then spared for a Bright driver for about a month before calling it quits.

February 9, 1972 Edition (50 years ago)

The Tavistock Council held a special meeting last Tuesday night to hear petitions both for and against the establishment of a Liquor Control Board of Ontario "package store" in the village. The Council passed a resolution to defer action until all interested parties in the community have been heard.

Mark Finlay, 13, of RR 2 Tavistock and a student at the Hickson Public School, recent-

ly placed first in a class of 10 students from Grades 6, 7 and 8 competing at Oliver Stephens Public School in Woodstock in the Oxford County Oral Communications (public speaking) Festival.

Valentine Day Gifts such as Cups and Saucers, Gift Glassware, Boxed Chocolates, Jewellery and Purses are for sale at Tavistock 5c to \$1.00 Store, "The Store On The V".

February 16, 1922 Edition (100 years ago)

The local manufacturing industries of the village have been very fortunate as have their numerous employees in having steady work so far. Of the four main manufacturing establishments of the village, only one has closed down, that one being the flax mill, which completed the season's operations a few weeks ago. The flour mill and knitting mill are still running full staff and full time. Messrs. Zimmerman Bros. box factory has been running steadily with the exception of a few days devoted to repairs but we understand a partial number of their employees were laid off last week owing to scarcity of orders.

The first annual meeting of the Tavistock Cheese and Butter Co., Limited, was held on Wednesday afternoon, February 8th, in Library Hall, when a large number of shareholders and patrons were present. A. H. Goring, president of the company, presided over the meeting.

WORSHIP WITH US!

GRACE UNITED CHURCH

116 Woodstock St Tavistock
Office: 519-655-2151 - Rev. Gail Fricker
www.graceunitedtavistock.com
graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com
Online worship available on our website
www.graceunitedtavistock.com

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEBASTOPOL-TAVISTOCK
Rev. Richard P. Brown / 519-655-2372
No in-person services until February 20th at 10am.
(COVID-19 protocols in place)
Dial In Service Recording:
1-833-620-1256
www.trinitytavistock.com

TAVISTOCK MENNONITE

Pastor Jim Brown
131 Wettlaufer St., Tavistock 655-2581
Join us online or in person at 9:45AM on Sunday mornings.
All health & safety protocols are followed.
JRSS is online at 11:15am. Please contact the church office for details.

TAVISTOCK BIBLE CHAPEL

(corner William & Oxford Streets)
www.tavistockbc.org

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN LCC

Church Phone 519-276-0701
Wellington Street, Tavistock
stpaulstavistock@gmail.com
Pastor Rev. Michael Mayer
Service is at 2pm

EAST ZORRA MENNONITE

677044 16th Line Road, East Zorra
Pastors Ray Martin & Lloyd Oakey, Interim Pastor / www.ezmennonite.ca
Service audio recordings available at:
<https://ezmennonite.ca/worship/>

TAVISTOCK MISSIONARY

77 Mogk St., Box 220, Tavistock NOB 2R0
Pastor Hugh Rutledge 655-3611
Email: office@tavistock.church
www.tavistock.church

CASSEL MENNONITE

696556 17th Line Road, East Zorra
Pastor Wanda Roth Amstutz
519-462-2251 • casselmc@netflash.net
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ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN

RR 1, Tavistock, Ont. NOB 2R0
(Maplewood Sideroad and the 16th Line)
Interim Pastor Patricia Jackson