

Between Us... BRIEFLY

*Newsletter for Residents, their Family and Friends, Staff and
Volunteers of the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre*

Volume 16-22 October 24, 2013

Seniors Village - Another major step forward!

Although there are still some finishing touches to add, tenants are quickly moving into their new homes in our second apartment building, which is adjacent to the Perley Centre. Occupancy is currently at 50% in Building A and 85% in Building B. Overall occupancy by former Canadian Forces personnel is 46% as compared to 54% by seniors from the community.

We now have a waiting list for studio and two-bedroom apartments. The only remaining vacancies are for one bedroom apartments.

Assisted Living Services (ALS) are being extended to these new tenants in need. ALS as you know is already provided to seniors in need, who choose to live at home, supported by a variety of on-site programs like the Adult Day program, Guest House, and convalescent care beds.

Our new main entrance is now open which leads to the expanded area for health-oriented services that is also a

key component to building our Seniors Village. Family Physio is scheduled to be operational in November with other services to follow in December.

This *Broadening of the Spectrum of Care*, anchored by our core long-term care programs, makes our Seniors Village a unique hub for seniors in the community.

We congratulate all those who have been very busy getting the new apartments ready, the services up and running, and welcoming the new tenants. An open house for employees and volunteers is being planned as soon as staff can catch their breaths.

The overall capital cost of the project is \$44 million. This major commitment by Perley Rideau was necessary to remain relevant to the changing needs of the community and for us to be sustainable over the long term.

The Foundation through its *Building Choices, Enriching Lives* capital campaign is working hard to raise \$5 million to help defray the capital costs.

Two new videos highlighting the need for donations are now available on our

website. The first is from Daniel Clapin, Managing Director of the Foundation and the second one is from Grete Hale, Honorary Co-chair of the Capital Campaign. To view these videos, or for more information about the Seniors Village, visit:
www.perleyrideau.ca/seniorsvillage.

Internal Communication - Focus Group sessions are underway!!

As covered in last month's BUB, Sylvie Moncion has started meeting with employees and volunteers in small Focus Groups of 10 persons. So far, seven sessions have taken place and Sylvie's states that "I have enjoyed meeting all of you who joined in the sessions, and I am very pleased by the level of individual participation."

"I will be following up with the balance of Focus Group sessions, collecting examples of internal communications to complete an overall mapping, and then looking at best practices within Perley Rideau and with several outside organizations."

"Thank you all for your cooperation. I will keep you posted."

Guest Suite Available for Rent

A one-bedroom furnished apartment in Building B is available to tenants looking for a convenient place to have friends and family to stay, when they visit overnight, and to the families of the residents of the Long-Term Care home. The unit can be booked by calling 613-526-7170 ext. 2006 or 2011. Cost is \$75.00 per night.

Family and Friends Council

The mission of the Family and Friends Council (FFC) is to improve the quality of life for all residents by promoting an atmosphere of compassionate care and support among family members, friends, volunteers, and staff. Participation is open to a family member of a resident or former resident of The Perley Rideau Veterans' Health Centre or a person of importance to a resident who is committed to acting as an advocate.

The FFC monthly meeting of October 10, 2013, had in attendance, among others, Akos Hoffer, new CEO of the Health Centre, Ross Quane, Chief Financial Officer, and Carolyn Andrews, Chief of Resident Care (LTC). They gave a very informative talk on the Board Budget and Business Planning Calendar.

The FFC's Annual General Meeting will be held on November 14 with guest speaker Ms. Chantale Leclerc of the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). The essential function of the Ottawa LHIN is to plan, integrate, and fund local health services in the region. Dr. Wilbert Keon, Chair of the LHIN Board, will also attend. The following positions are open for election at the AGM: One Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Communications Director.

Inquiries about the FFC can be directed to David Doherty at 613-825-6548 or Ray Bailey at 613 741 0282; or by e-mail to familycouncil.prvhc@gmail.com. The FFC encourages family members to participate in the Council Executive Committee, to attend the AGM and learn more about the Perley Rideau and its role in the care of their loved ones.

The Champlain Region of Family Councils Network is hosting a Fall Conference on Saturday, October 26, 2013, which will have presentations on “Palliative and End of Life Care” and “The Human Experience of Living in Long-Term Care”.

For particulars respecting time and place please consult the event Flyer at:

<http://www.familycouncilmembers.net/sites/default/files/files/CRFCN%20Fall%20Conference.pdf>

Goodbye and thanks for the memories

By Merv Taylor

I still remember my first shift at the Perley (Aylmer Avenue in 1983) when I declared on my way home I would never work at this place. Now a short 30 years later I am leaving, what has been an enjoyable period in my life, with high expectations for the next. I have had great external opportunities come my way because I worked for the Perley and hope I have been able to contribute to the facilities reputation along the way. Working here and all that has resulted from it will look great on a resume if I need one.

At the old Perley, RVH, and here I have benefited from working with some great PSWs. I remember waltzing in the hall on third floor with Daphne on the night shift, and when Thelma and Dixy tried to get me to make my beds to their standards. They finally gave up and just made them for me.

I have been lucky to have worked at the Perley on Aylmer Avenue, the Rideau Veterans Home on Smyth, and to come to this facility with the first group to relocate. We have gone from RNAs brought in after the Ontario Hospital strike in 1982 (for

political reason) doing less than PSW do now, to RPNs and PSWs on the management team. Who could have guessed we would advance that far.

When I participated on a clinical Resident Care Team I was on R2S. The unit and its staff past and present hold a special place in my heart. Even after I was gone I was invited back for the Christmas dinner. Now it may for sure have been the special Punch I contributed. R2S has been a leading team in the facility. I might be a bit biased.

As a nurse I have always been dedicated to the residents I served. In my roles within the Union executive at the local, regional, and provincial levels my other hat was to serve the membership. In my opinion Bonnie is not only a wonderful RPN, but special President. In my current role my constituency is the staff who document in PCC and code MDS. This facility is so lucky to have been able to attract and keep a dedicated multidisciplinary team. I cannot even begin to site them by name or even department for fear of missing someone.

I have been lucky to sit on both sides of the labour relations table and have gained a unique perspective. We are lucky to have a dedicated team at the helm. Personally I have had a succession of “bosses” I consider to have been worthy of my respect. They taught me the best way to lead is by example and with a looser grip on the reigns. Let the people who do good work do it.

Finally it has been my good fortune to supervise a very special group of women for the past few years. The RPN RAI Focus team’s dedication to quality and accuracy in assessment of our residents has in no small way advanced the reputation of this facility, and quality of the plan of care. Other homes are envious of our team. I cannot praise the

team enough. Thank you for making my supervisory job so easy. I feel especially proud of the team's new leader. Melanie you have been an excellent right hand for me and the best choice to lead the team into the future.

Thank you for the departing gifts and sentiments expressed in cards, emails, and in person. I will miss you, as I move on.

Take our Kids to Work Day Wednesday, November 6

If you have a child who is in Grade 9 and who wishes to participate in the "Take Our Kids to Work Day" on Wednesday, November 6, please bring in your child's completed school permission form to Human Resources, and complete the Perley Rideau permission form by

Friday, November 1.

The students may be in a Special Organized Day from 08:30h to 1500 **OR** a Partially Organized Day (08:30 to 12:00) with Job Shadowing with the parent in the afternoon. Forms can be picked up in the HR department or the HR Information Centre (by main reception).

All students will meet in the classroom upstairs #2 at 8:30 a.m.

PARKING REMINDER

The rows closest to the new building are for visitors only as many of our visitors are seniors.

Staff can park in the rows behind, which are next to the road. Please see the Parking Map in your area of work. Parking areas coded as yellow are designated for visitors.

The Annual Employee Recognition Award will now be held on Thursday, November 7, 2013 in Lupton Hall at 1:30 p.m. Please join us.

Payroll Winners - \$100

October 10 Draw:

Tracy Abeysundera - Finance
Paulette Pryce - Rideau 1 North

Next draw: October 24, 2013

Between Us Briefly, Vol. 16-22

Editor: Sylvie Moncion

Contributors to this issue:

Jo-Anne Doherty (FCC), Cheryl Homuth,
Denise Lavoie, Sylvie Moncion, Merv Taylor, Elia Touesnard

Regular editions of BUBs are typically published monthly, subject to content availability. Articles primarily come from staff and are due mid-month, following which the BUB is issued in the third week of the month or soon thereafter. Articles can be emailed at Smoncion@prvhc.com Thank you for all your contributions.