

GES Bulletin

1 December 2022

Season's Greetings!

Despite the wintry scenes outside, it is still surprising that December is already here! 2022 has just flown by. It has certainly been another year of change and the welcome return to more normal routines has been most welcomed and needed! We are still very diligent with protocols as COVID, influenza and RSV are all circulating in the community, but we are also more confident in living with this reality and moving forward.

We are very pleased to invite family and friends back to join in some Festive Cheer! As masks are still required in the common areas, we will unfortunately not be able to share in refreshments during the events but there will be goodies to take back to the resident's suite or room. We are looking forward to gathering for some singing and socialising.



Many thanks once again to Jeannie Paynter for donating her amazing talents in creating the whimsical window art.

Please join us for:

Festive Cheer and Family/Friends Sing Along

Greenwoods

Tuesday 13 December at 1.30pm

Braehaven

Thursday 15 December at 1.30pm

To assist us with the planning, if you are attending, please RSVP to Erica at: 250 537 5520 or erica.innes@greenwoodseldercare.org.

Moving Forward

As we look towards 2023(!), there are a number of initiatives planned, guided by GES' value of 'Home': *Home recognizing the deep value of creating a sense of 'home' for residents and families.*

We were fortunate to complete the ambitious Hallway Refurbishment Project this past year and the project report is attached to this bulletin. Initiatives in 2023 will focus on how we

deliver our care and services from supporting team members, developing our care model, and involving residents and families to a greater degree.

A recent CBC report by Adrienne Arsenault on a Long-term care home in Toronto resonated with many of us with their focus on home. Here is the link to the report: <https://fb.watch/h2bRk2lCCj/>. Although there are differences between us and the home in Toronto, there are similarities, and we have a shared vision. The CBC report references care hours per day and the Toronto home is funded for 4 hours per day. In BC we are funded for 3.36 hours and we have been achieving those hours, however; the team is often working extended hours and overtime to do so. Reducing occupancy over the past several months at Greenwoods has also been essential in maintaining the staff to resident ratios.

Although recruitment of staff continues to be challenging there are some very positive developments. We are excited to be engaged in the Health Care Access Program This provincially funded program provides students with a combination of on-site and classroom training as they progress from working as Health Care Support Workers (HCSW) to fully qualified Health Care Aides (HCA). Two students are nearing the completion of their studies and will be returning to work at Greenwoods as HCAs in December. A second intake for the program is now underway with six funded positions and so far, four new team members have joined as HCSWs. In addition, Greenwoods is sponsoring two Health Care Aides to 'ladder-up' by pursuing nursing education. We look forward to welcoming Karen Powers back in her new role as a Licensed Practical Nurse early in the new year .

Developing and Supporting Resident and Family Councils

Input from residents' and families is essential in guiding and informing the work of GES both at Braehaven and Greenwoods. In the autumn, the provincial government announced changes to the Assisted Living and Residential Care Regulations to emphasise the importance of such councils and mandate the support and development of functioning groups.

We will be launching a project to revitalise and expand our councils in the new year. More information will be coming in January.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Team at Greenwoods and Braehaven I would like to wish all of you a very joyful holiday season. Thank you for your words of support and warm wishes over this past year.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warmest regards
Aletha

Aletha Humphreys
Executive Director

Greenwoods Long Term Care Hallway Refurbishment Project Final Report

The residents, visitors, and team at Greenwoods Long Term Care (LTC) are enjoying the results of an ambitious hallway refurbishment project, initiated in April 2021 and completed in October 2022. The \$140,000 cost of the work was funded by the community through generous donations to the Greenwoods Foundation.



Fresh paint, new railings, wall decor

Greenwoods is their home, and the hallway refurbishment project has contributed greatly to enhancing the atmosphere of home, whilst also improving safety through upgrading of handrails and installation of materials that improve infection prevention and control.

Home renovations are always challenging and even more so during a pandemic and within a residence where safety and comfort of the residents is paramount.

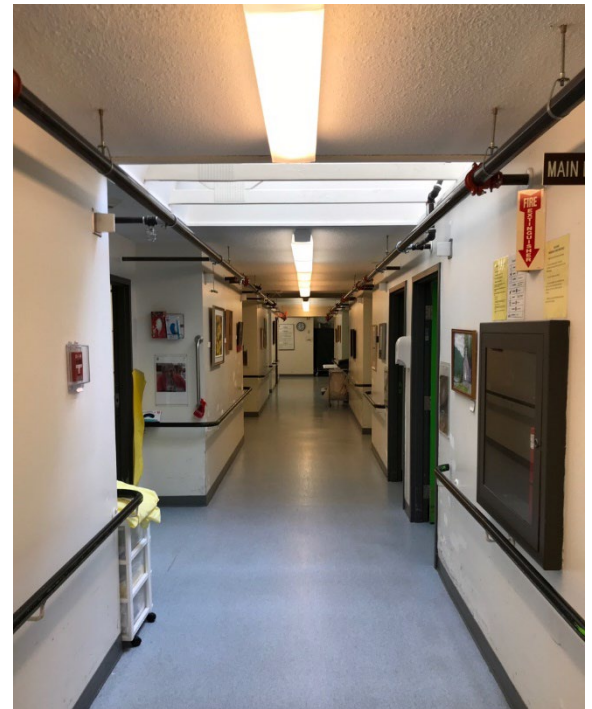
The project team and contractors worked closely with the Greenwoods staff to ensure that health and safety plans were in place to guide the work and that there was minimal impact to the delivery of care and services.

A guiding principle for GES is to support local suppliers and businesses as much as possible, especially with community

The Greenwoods Eldercare Society's (GES) work is guided by a number of values, the primary one being 'Home':

Home: *recognizing the deep value of creating a sense of 'home' for residents and families.*

Greenwoods LTC is home to 50 residents, many who live at Greenwoods for several years and many who are unable to leave the residence.



The before

funded projects. Great thanks to project manager Frank Heuther who went above and beyond to keep the project on track and to jump in with his carpentry and general contractor skills when other providers were not available. Appreciation also to Deb and team from Deb's Painting, Windsor Plywood, Moaut's Home Hardware and Shane from Pacific Paint Centre.

The project's objectives were to:

- a) To promote a sense of home by removing the institutional features of the Greenwoods LTC care areas.
- b) To provide a welcoming, comfortable environment that promotes dignity and person directed care through the use of appropriate signage and décor
- c) To improve safety by replacing the outdated handrails.
- d) To bring the hallways into compliance with the Residential Care Regulations and sustain a good state of repair through the installation of wall protectors and care-industry standard materials.



Welcome Home

Residents, their family and friends, and the team were all involved in design choices and selection of materials. Early on in the process, Dr. Habib Chaudhury, Chair of Simon Fraser University's Department of Gerontology very generously offered his time and expertise. One of Dr. Chaudhury's recommendations was to consider True Door decals. True Doors is a company in the Netherlands with a mission to transform impersonal hallways into neighborhoods with homes. The unique doors assist people to recognise and find their room, increase privacy and a sense of safety and stimulates reminiscence and social interactions. The doors certainly have added colour, beauty and interest to Greenwoods.

There is a sense of pride in the accomplishment of such a major project during such uncertain times

Feedback from the residents and visitors has been overwhelmingly positive. The previously black sprinkler pipes blend into the ceiling with the fresh white paint. The handrails are pleasing to the touch and a safe distance from the wall, and more dignified décor now featured.

The residents enjoyed selecting the decals for their room. One gentleman on returning to his room after the decal had been applied, paused for a moment, smiled and asked *'Is this my place?'* When he entered and saw his belongings, he remarked *'Welcome to my home.'*

The team is looking forward to initiating future projects towards recognizing the vision of Greenwoods and welcome ideas and suggestions.