

Shepherd's Care Newsletter

FALL 2007



Shepherd's Care Foundation

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Shepherd's Care Barrhead Celebrates Grand Opening

Less than a year in operation and Shepherd's Care Barrhead is already very much a part of the community. Nearly all 43 studio apartments in the assisted-living facility, which opened January 15, are occupied.

"The staff here are incredible and the community has really embraced us," says Site Supervisor Bunny Donohue.

On June 13, SCF's new facility marked its grand opening. SCF Board Member Gary Taitinger, pastor at Millwoods Pentecostal Assembly, pronounced a special blessing at the ceremony, which was attended by dignitaries and supporters from Barrhead, Edmonton, and beyond.

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, later said that Barrhead welcomes SCF and appreciates the foundation's commitment to the area's seniors. SCF has worked with the Government of Alberta and the Aspen Health Authority to provide high-quality accommodation for many people, Kowalski said.



Located next to the Keir Continuing Care Centre, Shepherd's Care Barrhead offers housekeeping and meals, social and recreational therapy, and health care. Pastor David Findlay and members of the congregation at nearby Bethel Pentecostal, one of SCF's founding churches, are involved with pastoral care, church services, and visitations.

Minister of Seniors and Community Supports Greg Melchin said the province is proud to have been a partner in building the facility.

CONTINUED...

What's New

Welcome To New Board Member

The SCF is proud to welcome Bernie Sandrowski to the Board of Directors. Bernie has been an active Foundation member since 2001 and has been a member of the Southside Pentecostal Assembly for over 35 years. Bernie is married to Lois and they have two children, Kayleen and Reiner. Welcome Bernie.

Thanks Vincent

The SCF extends our appreciation to retiring Board Member, Vincent Worrell. Vince was a dedicated member of the Board for over 10 years and will continue to serve SCF as a Foundation member. Vince's wife, Judy, is a member of the Shepherd's Caring Friends. Thank you Vince.

Congratulations

The SCF extends congratulations to Alfred Kalke, Chairman, and Kurt Feigel, Vice Chairman who are the co-recipients of the Christian Health Association of Alberta (CHAA) annual recognition award for leadership in the work of Christian Health Care in Alberta. Al and Kurt have been an integral part of SCF for over 40 years. Congratulations Al and Kurt!

Barrhead Opening CONTINUED...

"Together we are helping seniors remain in their communities, close to their friends, families, and support networks," said Minister Melchin.

Mayor Brian Schulz called it "a huge day for Barrhead whenever you can bring an organization as well respected as Shepherd's Care."

"It is always enlightening to deal with a Christian organization where you know their word is good and their actions follow up on it."

In talking with some of the residents, everything has been good, Mayor Schulz said. "I've yet to hear a negative word."



Getting to Know the Board: Erwin Tonn

Erwin Tonn's involvement with Shepherd's Care Foundation began over 25 years ago. A member of Southside Pentecostal Assembly, he was asked to be one of SCF's 50 members at large. He agreed—he always liked being involved in the community and thought that "sitting up for seniors" was a good cause.

Later he was one of 28 members who signed personal guarantees to build Millwoods Manor.

In 1984 he was asked to join the board—and so began a journey of service he has found so rewarding he is happy to continue to this day.

Straight off he was nominated to be secretary, where he was eager to apply his professional skills as a certified management accountant to point the foundation's finances in the right direction.

"Things turned around; we've been doing great," Tonn says. He's quick to add that he didn't do it alone, but with the support of many people working together.

"Financially the Lord has really blessed us."

Pulling the manor out of the red was certainly satisfying. So was participating in SCF's growth in services. He remembers signing to buy the land for Shepherd's Care Kensington and

has fond memories of working with "so many visionaries"—people like founding president Herb Haut and early board members, including Kurt Feigel, Al Kalke, Gordon Rattai, and Julius Ekert.

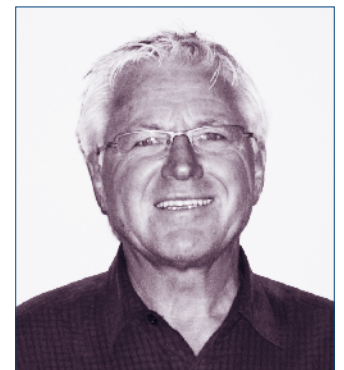
Later he got to see the foundation's principle of "aging in place" up close, when his parents, who brought him to Alberta from Germany at age seven, lived in the manor and the auxiliary hospital.

About eight years ago he switched roles to treasurer. Last year he gave that up but remains an active board member on two standing committees—audit and finance, and nominating—where his efforts are much appreciated.

"Erwin works hard on various committees and has done an exceptional job in all of his roles. SCF is especially grateful that, in Erwin's leadership on the nominating committee, he has ensured succession by recruiting exceptional foundation members who will one day let their name stand for the board," says SCF President John Pray.

Now semi-retired, Tonn runs a rental property company and does income tax returns for relatives. He enjoys travelling with his wife, Ruth, and spending time with his two sons and their families. A keen sportsman, he plays golf and hockey and has his sights set on attending the Masters Golf Tournament in Atlanta next year.

Last year he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest freestanding peak in the world and a fitting destination for the adventurous board member. His wife's ancestor, Johann Rebmann, a missionary from Germany, saw the now-famed mountain and reported back to Germany on it, sparking his interest in climbing the rugged peak.



Bless This House

- May this place ever reflect the celebration of human life.
- May its halls always evince compassion for others.
- May its theme be the strong helping the weak.
- May the efforts for quality of life here reflect our hope of life hereafter.
- May this place stand as a thanksgiving for Alberta's abundance.
- May the service here reflect our love for a God who cares about people.
- May our work be done with the strength that God provides.
- May this home be a blessed place, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

– Blessing from the Barrhead Cottages Grand Opening

Long-Time Shepherd's Care Employee Retires

When Hildegard Krinke took up her receptionist duties with Shepherd's Care Foundation in 1983, the foundation had one facility under its wing.

"Millwoods Shepherd's Care (head office) and the manor were just finishing completion," says Hildegard, in a recent interview.

"They were in the midst of admitting 10 people a day." Since then SCF has grown to include seven facilities.

Over the years Hildegard has seen expansion on other fronts, with the foundation now offering a full range of services to meet various care needs for seniors.

"We've grown in staff numbers and we've widened our focus."

Seven years ago she was on hand for another milestone, when John Pray took

over as president. "He really stepped up to the plate," bringing his vision to continue SCF's mission, she says.

Much of her time with SCF was in accounts payable and receivables. After a six-month stint in payroll, which was not to her liking, she "went back to the duties I came from, and that's where I stayed."

As the foundation grew, the increasing workload called for another staff member. Hildegard then concentrated on accounts payable. Later, handling the donations account—depositing and acknowledging donations and issuing tax receipts—was added to her duties.

She had no idea she'd be at SCF so long when she joined after her previous job at a construction branch office ended in the early '80s downturn. Today there's more movement in the workforce and

people move from job to job. But then, she points out, she's one to stay on at things—she's lived in the same house for years, for instance, and has called Edmonton home since coming from Poland with her family at age five.

Retirement will see her catching up on projects at home and in her garden, and spending time with Senno, her husband of 44 years; daughter Lana; son Robert; and her four grandchildren. Come January, her daughter returns to work three days a week and "then I'll be looking after three little boys (four-year-old twins and a one-year-old).

"You need to pray for me," she says with a laugh.

She says she'll miss her co-workers a lot: "As I said at my retirement tea (July 27), it's the people. Shepherd's Care is fortunate to have such good people."

Shepherd's Gardens Drawing Lots of Interest

Three-quarters sold without any formal advertising: clearly the word is out about Shepherd's Gardens and all it has to offer. Construction is now underway on the new building, which will include 120 condominiums and 45 assisted-living suites.

Completion is expected sometime between February and April 2009.

One- and two-bedroom units ranging from 617-square-foot one-bedroom suites to 1,934-square-foot penthouse units (with roof-top gardens) are available. Hardwood flooring, ceramic and granite finishings, underground parking, and a well-appointed lobby are among the features in the upscale building, which will be fitted with security, cable, and satellite TV.

More significantly, the new structure is adjacent to Shepherd's Care

Foundation's Millwoods Care Centre and Millwoods Manor.

"It completes the Millwoods campus of care, based on the success of Kensington Village," says SCF President John Pray.

"People can buy at Shepherd's Gardens with peace of mind, knowing that if in the future they need meals or other services including health care, they can get them there."

The aging-in-place aspect is one reason Doris Wentland and her husband Gus bought at Shepherd's Gardens. Now in their late 70s, they want to downsize together and prepare for eventual changing needs.

No yard work and more security when they visit their daughter in Ontario are other draws, along with proximity to their son in Beaumont.



The Wentlands are familiar with SCF—Gus was chaplain at Millwoods Shepherd's Care and Doris was on the nursing staff. Moreover, Gus's parents lived in the manor and "were very happy there... with people in their own age group around."

Joyce McGhie calls Shepherd's Gardens "an ideal type of structure" for someone like herself, moving in alone, or for couples. The location is good—it's close to banks, stores, medical services, and her church, "plus I think it would be a very friendly environment."

Shepherd's Gardens CONTINUED...

The concrete construction addresses her safety concerns. She's also looking forward to having a view—the condo she's in now faces another building.

For Edith Litke, the time just felt right to leave her house, although she

expects it will take her awhile to adjust to condo living. However, her sister, Emma Gerke, just a few doors down, is also moving into Shepherd's Gardens.

Her reasons for buying there? The Christian atmosphere and access to

services, should she need them down the road.

The show suite is now open at 6608 – 28 Avenue. For more information, call Sherry Mailo (Century 21 A.L.L. Stars) at 916-6702, or the SCF main office at 463-9810.

Planned Giving... and What You Need To Know About It

Over the past year Shepherd's Care Foundation (SCF) hosted a series of seminars on wills and estate planning. The seminars, put on for SCF residents and their families, attracted almost 150 participants and raised many good questions. The seminar team included lawyer Marc Song; planned giving specialist Ray Marshall, CFRE; and SCF President John Pray, MBA.

The following is the first article in a series about wills and estates, including some of the most frequently asked questions that came up at the seminars.

LEGAL WILLS

What is a will?

A "will" is a written document that expresses instructions about what you want done with everything you own upon your death. To be considered a valid will, it must be in writing (preferably typed), signed, dated, and witnessed by two people.

What does it contain?

A proper will names your executor (the person who carries out the instructions

in the will and ensures the estate meets all government requirements), provides for guardians if you have minor or dependant children, identifies how your possessions are to be disposed of, and often describes your wishes for your funeral and burial.

What happens if I die without a will?

Unfortunately, many Canadians die without a will, or have a will that is woefully out of date. If you die without a will, the Province could become your legal administrator and distribute your assets according to a family-tree or pre-established formula. Your wishes may not be carried out.

Can others contest my will after my death?

Yes, any will can be contested, but it is generally a costly process. The best way to avoid this is to let your family know your wishes. To avoid legal challenges to your request to give money or property to a registered charity, consider setting up an annuity, charitable remainder trust, or life insurance.

Are there estate taxes in Canada?

No, there are no estate taxes in Canada. However, there could be significant taxes on your appreciated assets, real estate other than your principal residence, and securities and assets such as art work or jewellery. Proper estate planning with your financial and legal advisor can help you minimize taxes.

Can I change my will?

Yes, you can change your will at any time. Minor changes need not be expensive; alterations can be made through a "codicil," which is an amendment which changes or deletes an existing clause. SCF can provide you with a sample, but it may be best to consult your legal advisor.

Can leaving a gift to a charity reduce taxes?

The short answer is yes. A significant tax savings may be available, in some cases 25%. But, more importantly, leaving a gift to a charity such as SCF can leave a legacy of caring that can make a real difference in the lives of many.



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