



Valley Manor

Matters

The Newsletter of Valley Manor · Barry's Bay, ON · October 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO - Trisha Sammon

Fall, the time of the year where the trees show us just how good it is to let things go. The colours are so beautiful and vibrant and that adds such enjoyment to my drive to work every day.

There have been many exciting changes here at the Manor since our last spring newsletter and I am always eager to share them with you via the newsletter portal.

Four of our most senior staff are retiring this year. The most recent one being Mary Blank, who is now replaced by our new Activities Director, Lisa Yantha whom you will read about in this newsletter.

Rachel Stamplicoski, Sylvia Rumleskie and Nancy Cybulski have and are all retiring before the end of the year. All of these ladies were dedicated and loyal employees to Valley Manor and their presence and wisdom will be missed by many. We wish them health and happiness in all of their new chapters and thank them for their work at Valley Manor over the years.

The Catch the Ace fundraiser has proven to be a very successful project by the Foundation for the redevelopment of our home. As we embark on the third lottery for the 2019 year, we want to thank everybody for the tremendous support to this fundraiser and appreciate your participation. Tickets will be on sale at the front desk now every day for the lottery.

I am including a mini information session on the redevelopment of Valley Manor which includes all of the frequently asked questions that the Board and myself receive daily as we continue along the redevelopment path. I hope that this is helpful to you.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank all of the residents, families and staff for their patience during our dining room transition. As we know change is always difficult, however we have made it through the most difficult part of the process and now we are just fine-tuning with the staff to ensure the safety and comfort of everyone is at the forefront. The Board of Directors has been very instrumental and supportive of the change that needed to happen in the dining room. It is very apparent that we are outgrowing our building and we have to take necessary steps to change and adapt to the increasing acuity of care in our home. Please do not ever hesitate to come and speak to me directly if you have any questions.

Until next time....



VALLEY MANOR REDEVELOPMENT FUN FACTS

INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW!



- With 140 staff, Valley Manor is the **largest employer** in the Madawaska Valley and injects over \$6 million into the local and surrounding economy every year.
- If Valley Manor doesn't redevelop by 2025, the MOHLTC will close the home affecting those **140 families** currently employed there, not to mention the 90 families with loved ones in Valley Manor's care.
- Should the Home be closed, the Ministry will **take those existing bed licenses away** from Valley Manor and likely the County of Renfrew.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why don't you put a children's daycare in the building?

Valley Manor's Executive team initiated discussion with the County's daycare executives to look at this as an option. It was a very educational process whereby Valley Manor learned that the local daycares are a better fit partnered with local schools from a partnership perspective rather than a Long Term Care facility. It just makes better sense.

6 additional licenses are not enough? How come our community can't get 120 LTC licenses?

The MOHLTC takes into account the entire catchment area, the community population and the historical data and current waiting lists in order to make an informed decision about the number of bed licenses that are approved for all new long term care homes. Currently 96 beds are what we are only approved for based on the information noted. We are happy with the additional 6 licenses based on the small catchment area and low population.

Why are other homes redevelopment projects going faster? They are putting up their buildings this summer I hear?

Other local redevelopment projects are moving along at the same pace as Valley Manor's. For example, Valley Manor and the Arnprior Grove LTC are building the same 96 bed LTC facility and have been facing many similar challenges during this process. The CEO of Valley Manor and the Arnprior Grove both sit on the provincial Capital Development Advisory Group with Advantage Ontario as advocates for rural and small community long term care and have been working closely together on their projects. To date, no announcements have been made about any new long term care developments in the County being built in the summer.

How is this project funded?

The primary sources of project funding will be:

- Existing Equity
- MOHLTC One-Time Planning Grant
- Community Fundraising – St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation
- Per Diem Funding from the MOHLTC
- Construction Loan from Infrastructure Ontario
- Sale of Current Valley Manor building

What will happen to the current Valley Manor?

Valley Manor is currently up for sale by Colliers International and Valley Manor is currently in the process of receiving and reviewing offers. This is a very important piece to achieve in order to move forward with final stages of redevelopment.

Will there be enough parking at the new Valley Manor?

There are currently 80-110 additional parking spaces planned at the new Valley Manor. The final Class A Drawings will confirm the final total, however 80 parking spaces is above average.

Will you charge for parking? The hospital does!

This is currently being reviewed. Together with the hospital and the municipality, a final decision that is fair to all health care facilities, the staff and community will be ironed out.

Why is this project taking so long?

Building a new Long Term Care facility is an intense and rigorous process that involves in depth due-diligence, investigation, financial accountability, environmental accountability and community accountability. Several feasibility studies and numerous approvals from all levels of government and lending authorities need to occur prior to receiving the final seal of approval from the Ministry of Health. The project progresses over a series of several steps and key dates. Below is an example of some of the accountabilities to the aforementioned stakeholders:

- Acquisition of site
- Zoning
- Severance
- Request for Minister to approve Site (if applicable)
- Preliminary Plans Submission
- Submission of Operational Plan
- Working Drawings Submission
- Public Tender
- Invitation to Tender
- Deadline for Bids
- Submission of Bids to Minister for Approval
- Construction Start Date
- Construction Schedule
- Submit proposed Occupancy Plan to Ministry for comments three months and two weeks prior to expected Total Completion (refers to Total Completion of Phase 1 only, where applicable), and
- Submit Occupancy Plan (revised where recommended by Ministry) for Minister review, six weeks prior to expected Total Completion (refers to Total Completion of Phase 1 only, where applicable)
- Notify Minister 30 days prior to expected Total Completion

Valley Manor is 70% through the rigorous process.

Why don't you build extra space for local businesses and healthcare partners to lease from you?

Valley Manor originally included additional leasable space in the original plans and only received one firm commitment to this incentive over a 2 year period. Valley Manor is not in the financial position to build leasable space without firm commitments from community partners, therefore the leasable space must be minimized in the next Class B estimate to only include the committed partner at this time.

How come you won't build a tunnel between the hospital and Valley Manor? It makes so much sense.

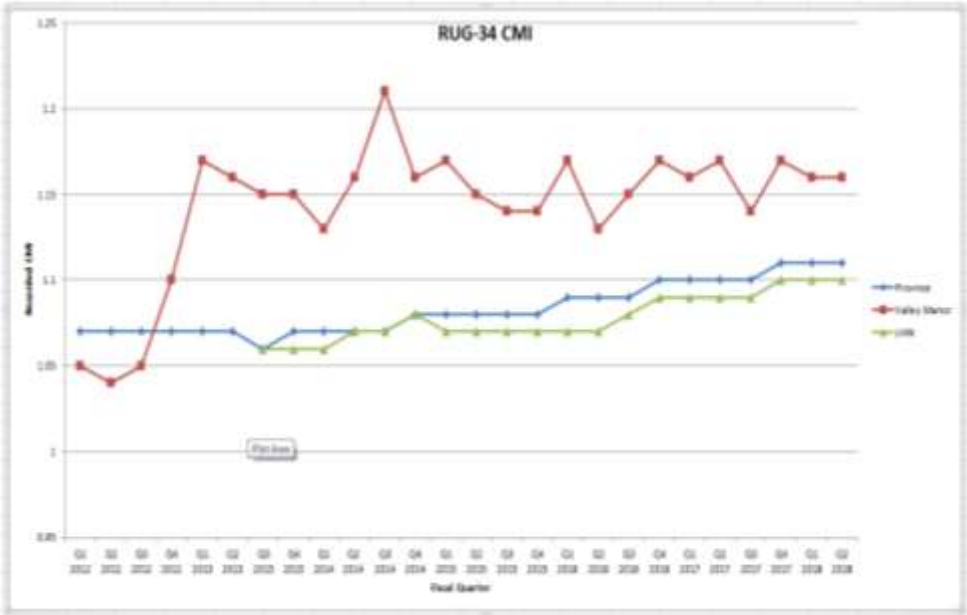
Valley Manor and Hobin Architects did investigate this idea early in the planning and determined that the water table cannot accommodate a tunnel. We are currently investigating a covered pathway between all buildings; however, it will include shared partnerships on the planning.

Why can't "Frank" from down the road get the contract to demolish the building? It will save you so much money.

As much as Valley Manor would like to follow this request, there are strict regulations with the MOHLTC, the Ministry of Labour and the environment that permit us from advancing with these types of commitments. We must comply with all legislation from the governing bodies; particularly the demolition of the former Sherwood school property.

CMI – Case Mix Index - UPDATE

Valley Manor’s CMI remains consistently higher than that of the province and LHIN. Our most recent CMI as determined by Point Click Care, is 1.16 as of August 31, 2019.



Activities

Submitted by Mary Blank, Activities Director

Activity Staff Changes! It’s time for a grand change - just like in the square dance call! Mary Blank is retired after her time on the Valley Manor Dance Floor after 41+ years. Not only are her boots worn out but it’s time to dance to a new tune! Welcome Lisa Yantha as our new lead and caller! Lisa joined us in August and has spent the month training alongside Mary, getting her feet wet and tappin’ along with residents. Lisa is joining us with over 10 years experience in LTC in activities and is very qualified in the many requirements set forth by The Ministry of Health and Long term Care regulations and guidelines. Welcome Lisa!

We invite you to attend our Family Council information meetings. Please consider joining the Council to support your family member and residents in our new home. The next upcoming meeting will take place on Tuesday November 5, 2019 at 7:00 in the Assembly Room. We welcome Trisha Sammon and Eleanor Ryan who will be our guest speakers for the evening.

“ What’s Coming up?”

Fall Colour Drives, “NEW” Council Slider Bingo, Special Bingo’s, Individual Programs & Active Games, “Hallowe’en Howl”, Hallowe’en Handouts, Silvert’s Clothing Sale, Remembrance Day Service, Hunter’s Ball, Christmas Photo Day, Christmas Shopping Mall, Resident’s Penny Auction Sale, Residents Christmas Party & Raffle, Santa’s Deliveries, and MANY Musical Performances. **Check us out for the monthly calendars on-line on our website.**



**Maxie at our
“Nickel & A Pickle Bingo!”**

“Time for a Grand Change.....”



Lisa Yantha - *“This is Me”!* ~ I was born and raised in the small town of Perth, Ontario. I was very lucky growing up to have 3 wonderful grandparents I spent a lot of time with. This is where my love for being with seniors began. I was that granddaughter who would go on my school breaks and stay with them for weeks at a time. I decided in High School to do a Co-op placement at Perth Community Care. After that placement, it was confirmed that Activities in Long-Term Care would be in my future. I continued my journey at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario where I received a diploma in Recreation and Leisure Services. After graduation I took some time to travel before starting in, “The Real World.”

I back-packed for two months in beautiful New Zealand. When I arrived home it wasn’t long before I got my first Activity Aide position at Longworth, Long Term Care in London (maternity leave position). Being close to my family, I found being far away from home a challenge. A job opportunity came up at Hillel Lodge Long Term Care in Ottawa, and I was grateful to accept the position there as Activity Assistant.

I worked there full-time for 8 wonderful years before my first son, Wyatt was born. It was then I moved to Barry’s Bay. I had the understanding that I would try it out for a year with a possibility of moving back closer to the city so I could continue working at the job that I loved. My husband, Trevor Yantha, who was born and raised in the “Bay” had different plans for me. Five and a half years and two children later (Wyatt & Kai), I am still here! I have been a stay-at-home mom for the past 3 years. During this time I had the chance to see what a great community this is, especially in regards to raising our children. As I look ahead I know we are here to stay!

I was very lucky to have been able to be at home with my children, but there was a part of me that really missed my job. I was going back to Ottawa on occasion to volunteer at Hillel Lodge. It was then , I thought , “We always needed volunteers at Hillel, maybe the Manor would like me to volunteer there?” In 2017, I started to volunteer with my two boys. We would visit the residents, play ball and sing songs with them. The residents loved it and my boys still ask me when they get to go visit the “Grandma’s and the Grandpa’s.” I would volunteer myself for larger events and bingos.

When Mary’s position was posted , I immediately thought that this would be my dream job. I was also a little intimidated applying for this position. I had confidence in myself but from being a volunteer at the Manor ,I also got to know Mary and how great she is! I knew right away if I got this position I would have “BIG shoes to fill.” When I received the phone call that I did get the Activity Director position I couldn’t have been happier. I am very excited for this new beginning in my life. Life is good! Some people are replaceable- Mary Blank is not one of them. She will never be forgotten at the Manor. Her demeanor, her singing voice, jokes, and her personality, were a great asset to the Manor and she will be truly missed by all. I was lucky enough to have been trained by the “best” and have had her as my mentor for the last month.

I will do everything I can to make sure the residents’ needs are being met, and that we will continue their active lifestyle here at the Manor. I look forward to meeting all of you!
