Copernicus completes major renovation to resident social areas, and reception.

Several months ago, Copernicus undertook a major renovation to its reception area, lounge, and resident service areas, such as Aggies, physiotherapy clinic, and hair salon. Security was also enhanced by relocation of the reception desk. At the same time, the chapel was renovated and the outside front patio beside the chapel received a new tile floor and patio furniture.

This involved many hours of meetings between the interior designer, the construction company, the Board’s Property Management Committee, Tracy Kamino and Robert Marcinkiewicz. An official opening of the new area is planned for early in the new year. Below are some pictures of what the new spaces look like.

Copernicus Founders’ Wall

New lobby on entering Copernicus

New entrance to Aggies

New 103-inch TV donated by Bay-Bloor Radio.

New Fireplace Lounge

Shopping in the new Aggies

New coffee shop

Copernicus Lodge is eternally grateful to all of its supporters and donors for their generous contributions over the years. Your donations allowed us to create a modern living space for our residents. Along with the large TV, we have installed TV’s in all resident home areas in long-term care so that our residents who cannot come down to the lounge can watch and participate in daily masses and activities conducted in the lounge and chapel.

THANK YOU TO ALL INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING COPERNICUS LODGE
Pet Therapy in Action at Copernicus

An excerpt from a letter from a family member:

“It was the last time that I recall my mother responding in a lively and positive way and I am so glad that I took the opportunity to take the photo. During her last few months of life, there were very few days that she appeared to be aware of her surroundings including those of us who might have been around her. Even on days that she managed to get out of bed, she showed little interest and strength to engage in any way.

On this particular day, I assisted her in the dining room where she ate very little and then she immediately asked to be taken back to her room. I convinced her to stay in her wheel-chair for a while as it was a bright sunny day. I wheeled her over to the window and opened it so she could experience some fresh air and the warmth of the sun. She sat there in silence until this little visitor arrived at her door.

I could not believe the response that I received when I asked her if she would like to see the dog. “There’s a dog here? Where? “Turn me around so I can see it”. This was the most animated conversation that I had had with her in weeks.

As you can see in the photo, she bent forward to touch her and Mia (the dog) placed her paws on my mother’s lap. And for a moment there was such contentment. My mother conversed with the dog, asking about her name, her age and concluded by telling her that she was a very pretty dog while she stroked her head and rubbed her ears.

This was my last memory of an interaction with my mother. Moments later after Mia left, my mother asked to be placed in bed and to the best of my recollection remained there until she passed away on May 19th. Thankfully, I was able to capture the moment. My Mom with the “little angel” with four paws and a big smile that gave us a lasting memory.

As you can imagine, I cannot say enough about the visiting animals program that you have at Copernicus. Our pets are such a special part of our lives and they bring out the best in us, no matter how old we are.” .......John Solarski

Occupational Therapy (OT) Students Make a Difference

For two months this summer, Aimee Norton and Terilyn Miranda, OT students from the University of Toronto, have been working with our long-term care residents on strategies to help them maintain their independence. OT’s are health-care professionals who help people manage the every-day activities that are important to them, including caring for themselves and participating in leisure activities.

They have also done two in-services for staff about assistive devices for feeding, and seating and positioning; topics which are important for allowing residents to be as independent as possible during meal times. In addition, they developed an assessment tool for monitoring dressing and hygiene abilities.

This has been a unique placement because the OT students are supervised on a day to day basis by a dietitian, thus providing a true multi-disciplinary approach to resident care. Copernicus Lodge is their final experience before becoming full-time OT’s, and we wish them well in all their future endeavours.

Polish Festival

Copernicus participated again in the Roncesvalles Polish Festival. There was a stage with entertainment in front of Copernicus which allowed easy access by our residents and families. The Auxiliary and the Lodge sold crafts and an expanded food menu consisting of bigos, kotlety, perogi and kielbasa.
**Pastoral Care Changes**

Fr. Sławomir Trzasko OMI, the Chaplain at Copernicus Lodge for the last two years, received a new assignment as the Chaplain of Kopernik Lodge and Associate Pastor of St. Casimir’s Parish in Vancouver. As of September 1, 2014, the pastoral ministry at Copernicus Lodge was assigned to the Oblate community at St. Casimir’s Parish in Toronto. Fr. Jacek Nosowicz, OMI who is the Pastor, is assigning priests to provide ministry.

Felician Sister Teresa, who was one of our Pastoral Caregivers, resigned her position effective August 30, 2014. The Felician Sisters did not have another Polish-speaking sister to send us at this time. To fill this gap, we contracted pastoral care-giving services with the “Missionary Sisters of Christ the King for Polonia”.

Sister Bogusia Trus is the sister assigned to our home. This is her first time in Canada. Previously, Sister lived and worked in Chicago for the past 25 years in various assignments including three years at a nursing home. Currently Sister will be residing in Mississauga where she shares a home with four other Sisters who work in various roles in the community. For those of you who have already had the opportunity to meet Sister Bogusia, I’m sure you found her to be very friendly and approachable. She has a positive attitude, great sense of humor and is very happy and excited to be working with us here. Welcome Sister.

**Mandatory Fire Drill and Building Inspection - new legislation in 2014.**

Copernicus recently completed a mandatory building inspection and fire drill as dictated by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Ontario (OFMEM). The purpose of the drill was to simulate a night shift evacuation of one unit of residents and determine if there is sufficient staff to respond and evacuate residents from a fire safety zone or floor. We PASSED and were complimented by the fire department for being so organized. The designated staff participating in the drill received Safety Awards for their accomplishment.

**Copernicus Annual Picnic**

The 3rd Annual Copernicus Lodge Picnic was held last July at Paderewski Park. Unfortunately, we were not blessed with nice weather even though Bishop Uszczycki and Fr. Marion Gil conducted our Polka Mass.

Although turnout was less than last year because of the inclement weather, the picnic was a success and volunteers, residents, staff, and families had a fun-filled day. The dance floor and the stage were protected by a large roof that had been constructed by the Park.

The event was a financial success. Funds raised significantly exceeded previous years.

Welcome back to Ewa Kaminska, our Pastoral Care Coordinator, who has returned to Copernicus after a lengthy medical absence.

**Geriatric and Mental Health Outreach Team (GMHOT)**

Copernicus Lodge has signed a contract with the GMHOT Team at the St. Joseph’s Health Centre. Dr. Nynkowsi had previously provided psycho-geriatric assessments for our residents. However, due to demands of his private practice, he had to resign from his relationship with Copernicus.

The GMHOT Team is a LHIN's funded service and provides our home with a psychiatric nurse who visits our home weekly for a full day and a psycho-geriatrician who spends eight hours every month to support staff, residents, families and attending physicians with education, care planning, and consulting services. This relationship has proven beneficial in helping to reduce responsive behaviours among our residents.
To celebrate Copernicus Lodge’s 35th Anniversary, Copernicus Lodge Foundation formally launched its 2014 Spring Appeal during the week of April 28, 2014. Immediate donor recognition was provided by means of donor names posted in a flower garden located in the main link, visible to everyone until nature could take its course and the actual bulbs were planted at the donor event in the fall.

Over 200 donors attended our special thank you “Plant a Bulb Event” on September 24, 2014 in which more than 1600 bulbs were planted in the front flower garden of Copernicus Lodge. Entertainment was provided by Teresa Klimuszko and soft ice cream was served by an outside ice cream truck vendor.

Our special thanks to all the donors for supporting our Spring Appeal which raised over $18,000.00. We look forward to seeing the garden bloom in the spring.

Each November, the Copernicus Lodge Foundation mails a Christmas card and letter to our donors in an appeal for much needed funds. In 2013, our Christmas Appeal raised over $170,000 and we are hoping to surpass that number this year. Your donation will fund projects around Copernicus Lodge that aim to improve residents’ quality of life.

In 2013, the Foundation funded a number of capital projects including the renovation of the lounge, as well as providing funds for the purchase of specialized equipment to enhance resident care. Without the support of our donors, such projects would simply not happen. Please keep an eye out for our Christmas mailing and please give generously.

Copernicus Lodge is looking for experienced and passionate volunteers to serve as Directors who:

- Have a background in marketing, education, public policy, legal, accounting/finance, human resources, business, community leadership, social work, or health areas.
- Are willing to commit time for board meetings, committee meetings, planning sessions, and special events.

An information package can be obtained by contacting Tracy Kamino, Chief Executive Officer, at tracyk@copernicuslodge.com, or 416-536-7122 ext 238.

Please consider joining our team!

THE COPERNICAN
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