

Orchard View
BY THE MISSISSIPPI
ALMONTE

The Monthly Review

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Resident of the Month: Ken Peskett

Some may be familiar with “Harry the Hat,” the judge on the 1990s TV series *Night Court*. So, now the Orchard View by the Mississippi (OVM) family has its own “Hat Man” in our midst—namely, Kenneth “the Hat” Peskett. A well-known local and provincial curler, Ken was a key figure in the construction and eventual operation of the Huntley Curling Club in Carp, and his loving wife, Jackie, who also had a passion for the game, curled and worked tirelessly by his side. And when their two sons, Dan and Ray, came of age, they were thrilled to be able to join their mom and dad at the rink. Kenneth “the Hat” was readily recognizable by the trademark Stetson hat that he regularly wore around the curling rinks, with its unique adornment of various club pins and bonspiel paraphernalia.



Ken describes how he and a few of his team members were curling on the Rideau Canal ice surface (presumably as part of some Winter Carnival activities) when they met up with some Scottish curlers. Over a pint or four, the group started chatting. One thing led to another, and a rather fluid framework agreement for the first-ever Canadian / Scottish Curling Exchange Bonspiels was born.

Ken and Jackie became heavily involved in planning and playing in reciprocal tournaments in both countries. Ken speaks fondly of time spent with Lord Elgin and Lady Victoria, when, in 1990 and 1998, they helped host Lord Elgin’s teams in the Ottawa area. Ken recalls that, on a flight home from Scotland a few days after the horror of 9/11, passengers were subject to increased security. In 2009, the executive of the Huntley Curling Club posted a very nice tribute to Ken and Jackie on the internet. Just Google *Ken Peskett Curler*, and you will find a photo of the happy couple followed by some historical narrative and accolades.

There is more to Ken “the Hat” Peskett than a “take-out” or a “draw to the button.” Ken was born in Ottawa and lived there except for a three-year stint in Maxville, Ontario, where his parents operated a bakery. He remembers, as a twelve-year-old boy, delivering bread with his dad throughout the village and beyond with a horse and wagon; occasionally, depending on how good he had been during the week, he was allowed to take the horse and wagon, by himself, for a brief spin around town on a girl-chasing tour.

He attended Fisher High School in Ottawa, and unlike most of his friends, he knew exactly what he wanted to do as a lifelong career before he entered the last year of high school. Ken aspired to be a cartographer (a maker and producer of maps) with a focus on hydrographic (waterway) mapping. After high school, he took a diploma course in cartography at Algonquin College in Ottawa and, upon graduation, joined the federal government’s Canadian Hydrographic Service Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which was located on Booth Street in Ottawa. Ken worked out of this office for thirty-five years. His son Ray suggests with tongue in cheek,

Dad was an outstanding fisherman, with some of the locals around Ashby Lake referring to him as the “fish whisperer.” He not only had a professional interest in the “beneath the surface” profile and depth of waterways for work purposes, he also wanted to know where the big fish hung out for his own purposes. Our parents, my brother, and I would spend every minute we could at the family cottage, which was on an island on Ashby Lake in the Denbigh area. Mom just loved the cottage,

and they bought it the first time she saw it.

In 1980, while the Pesketts were away, their home on a section of Howie Road (later to be renamed Peskett Road) burned to the ground, and they lost everything. It turned out to be another example of country folk responding to help out one of their own. First, a friend offered them a house to live in for a couple of months, and others, including several friends from the curling club, rallied around to build them a new home, which was ready for the family's return within roughly six months.

Sadly, Jackie passed away in 2015 after a tough eighteen-month struggle with cancer. During the time she was sick at home, Ken cared for the love of his life while doing the cooking and basic housekeeping. When I first asked Ken what brought him to OVM, his reply was, "The meals brought me here—I don't think I could have batched my way through another one of those Kraft Dinner disasters from hell."

A footnote to the ladies of the Orchard View Bistro: If you happen to be in the Bistro on a Tuesday morning during the time "Boogie Woogie" Joe Princiotta (the creator, owner, and spirit of OVM) is tickling the ivories and you feel a dance coming on, then look no further than to the man with the hat. He'll glide you on a trip around the world like Fred and Ginger and "waltz you across Texas" until the clock strikes midnight and your chariot turns into a pumpkin.

Written by: Brent Connelly

25 Days of Christmas

December 1. Lighting Ceremony and OVM Chorus Performance

December 2. Making Centre Pieces

December 3. Hot Chocolate Social by the fireplace

December 4. Holiday Treats from Around the World

December 5. Christmas Scavenger Hunt

December 6. Egnog Happy Hour

December 7. Christmas Village—Open House

December 8. The Nutcracker Ballet

December 9. Wesley Clover Lights Drive

December 10. Winter Wonderland Wine and Cheese Family Night

December 11. Pakenham Ukulele Performance & Marie D. Ornament Display

December 12. Making Christmas Fascinators

December 13. Peppermint Bailey Drinks with the OVM Chorus Performance

December 14. Christmas Carols' Spectacular

December 15. Who is Most Like Santa?

December 16. Wooden Ornament Making

December 17. Deck the Halls

December 18. Christmas Stories with the Management Team

December 19. Christmas High Tea

December 20. Wheelchair and Walker Decorative Parade

December 21. How many "TOYS" can you find?

December 22. Christmas Picture Puzzle

December 23. Glow indoor light show at the EY Centre

December 24. - T'was the Night Before Christmas

December 25. Merry Christmas - A day of Presents!

Keep on Smiling



Remembrance Day Ceremony
with the Almonte Legion





Employee of the Month - Christopher Orr

Congratulations Christopher on being named December's Employee of the Month! Christopher is one of our Nursing Staff within our Memory Living Program. Christopher has an amazingly calm demeanor, very caring, considerate and attentive to all the Residents needs and care. Christopher is a joy to work with, very polite and approachable. Having Christopher as your Nurse or as a team member is a great addition to the OVM family. Congratulations once again, Christopher on all your hard work; keep on being you!

Testimonial - Paul Virgin

Dad, Jack Virgin, came home to Almonte and enjoyed his last year with his friends and family around him in a very special place, Orchard View. The staff here don't just perform their jobs, they enjoy what they do and that feeling is passed on to the residents. We look forward to moving in down the road. If any of our relatives are thinking of a retirement home, you won't find a better example of retirement living than here at OVM.

How To Avoid Scams When Shopping Online This Holiday Season

Evaluate an email's "basic hygiene." If you spot poor grammar, misspelled words or suspicious URLs, keep in mind that you could be reading a spear-phishing email, which is a scam that targets a specific individual or business.



Shop at established websites from brands you trust. "If a random website is offering an 80%-off deal on the toy of the season, there's a good chance they're just looking to take your credit card information," Kellermann says. Shoppers can also look for the https in a retailer's website, rather than http. "The 's' stands for secure and means all communications between your browser and the website are encrypted," he explains.

Avoid using public Wi-Fi when shopping online. When using public Wi-Fi, anyone with a computer acumen can view what you are browsing and steal your personal information

Use a credit card, rather than a debit card. It's always better to use a credit card when shopping online, since the money isn't taken directly out of a checking account like it would with a debit card.

Keep your electronic devices up to date. Make updates to all software on your computer, make sure you are using the latest version of your browser (Firefox is a great option) and make sure all of your online passwords are truly random and truly unique

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Special Activities / Events

25 Days of Christmas
 Christmas Village - Open House
 Family Wine and Cheese
 New Years Eve Bash

Musical Entertainment

December 10th
 Dave and Art
 December 20th Rick L.

Residents in Action

Chat with Pat
 Bingo with Joanna and Friends
 Open Art with Audrey
 OVM Chorus with Barbara
 Four Hand Euchre with Terry



Regular Activities

Mind

Game of Euchre & Bridge
 Puzzle Corner
 Bingo
 Memory Fitness

Body

Fitness Classes
 Walking Club
 Game of Pool
 Zumba

Soul

Movie Nights
 Orchard View Chorus
 Entertainment
 Religious Services
 Gardening
 Joe Princiotta



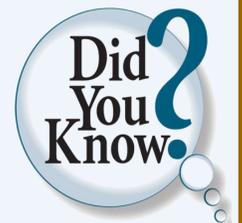
Amenities & Services

24-Hour Nursing Staff
 Chapel Services
 Wellness Centre—
 Physiotherapy
 Emergency Response
 System
 Foot Care Nurse
 Full Service Dining Room
 Hearing Aid Clinic
 Hair Salon and Esthetician
 Massage Therapist
 Library
 House Physician
 Snack and Beverage Bistro

Wheelchair
 Accessible Bus
 Pool & Shuffleboard
 Table
 Bus Trips and Shop-
 ping Trips
 Tuck Shop
 Outdoor Raised
 Flower Gardens
 Duck Pond, Atrium
 Pond and Donkey Pen
 with assorted
 additional animals

JoJo's Did You Know?

The image of Santa Claus flying his sleigh began in 1819 and was created by Washington Irving, the same author who dreamt up the headless horseman.



Between the 16th and 19th century, global temperatures were lower than normal. When Charles Dickens grew up during this period and experienced snow for the first 8 Christmas' of his life, the "White Christmas" experience influenced his writing.

In 1914 during WW1, there was a now famous tree in the trenches between the British and the German's. they exchanged gifts, across the neutral no man's land.

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BY THE MISSISSIPPI

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4TH ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Craft Bazaar

9:00am-3:00pm

**Visit with
Santa**

**Sleigh
Rides**

**Fun
Games**

**Food Bank
Collection of Non-
Perishable Foods**

SAT. DECEMBER 7TH 1:00-3:00PM

RSVP with Julie Munro at 613-963-5000 or ovmarketing@ovlc.com

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