

Orchard View
BY THE MISSISSIPPI
ALMONTE

The Monthly Review

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219 Paterson Street

Almonte, Ontario. K0A 1A0

613-963-5000

www.orchardviewmississippi.ca –



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Resident of the Month: Dorothy Finner Written by: Brent Connelly

A bee is never as busy as it seems; it's only that it can't buzz any slower.

—Kin Hubbard, American cartoonist and journalist

Much has been said and written about one of our own, Dorothy Finner, who has been a popular resident of Orchard View by the Mississippi since her arrival in 2017. Prior to that she was a well-known community leader, volunteer, and municipal politician in Almonte, in addition to being a very fine mother of six children. Today, in her ninety-seventh year, she remains as “busy as a bunch of bees” swarming in a field of clover as she volunteers her time to look after the OVM tuck shop along with other pastoral care activities.

Dorothy was born in Windsor, Ontario, on October 1, 1923, and raised as an only child by loving French Canadian parents who were both brought up on nearby farms. Her parents spoke mainly English at home, but at the same time, as a little girl Dorothy was quick to learn the French language.

At eleven years of age, Dorothy moved with her family to Chatham, and then on to Ottawa in 1939. Dorothy took a government secretarial course and soon met her husband to be, Gerry, while they both were working for her father, who managed an amusement company. Gerry joined the RCAF in 1941 where he trained as a pilot. The happy couple married in 1943. Her husband was born in Almonte, so they decided to return in 1952 to raise their family in that community. Dorothy finds strength in her family and is very proud of their six children, with the Finner family (2020) now increased to include fourteen grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

With a young family to raise, Dorothy didn't have the time for sports or hobbies, but she was interested in lending her support to her church and to her community, a role her husband strongly supported and encouraged her to pursue. This was the beginning of a lengthy, dedicated, and very accomplished career in community service, which eventually led her to the start of a political career as an elected town councillor for two back-to-back three-year terms. She also volunteered at her children's school, St. Mary's in Almonte. After a couple of years as a volunteer at St. Mary's, she was hired as a secretary, a job that she enjoyed immensely. She was also called upon to help out at her place of worship, the Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church.

In addition, Dorothy served terms on the Almonte Hospital Board, the United Way Board, and the Library Board, and after completing six years as a councilor, Dorothy served as Almonte's first—and so far, only—female mayor for three consecutive terms (1988–1997). She also became the first mayor of Almonte to work full time. In 1998, following the amalgamation of Almonte, Ramsey, and Pakenham into the broader community of Mississippi Mills, Christa Lowry became the first female mayor of Mississippi Mills in 2018.

“Her Worship” is very humble about her accomplishments and downplays her involvement in the many projects undertaken by council, always giving credit to the members of the team with whom she had worked. Her ability to get people to work together toward a common goal was particularly evident in a major wastewater rehabilitation project, which was so essential in the establishment of residential growth.

She brought subsidized housing to Almonte to become a part of the Almonte Community Development Corporation and later the Mills Community Support Corporation. The mayor and her council also sought and received substantial financial assistance from the provincial government as well as grants from the federal government for the support of group homes, a senior's apartment building, and various infrastructure improvements. And the list of the council's accomplishments during Dorothy's tenure as mayor goes on and on, to include a total refurbishment of the upper floor concert area in the town hall, thus creating excellent acoustics that provide a perfect auditorium venue for musical ensembles and other light performances. For a number of years, the CBC commonly used the facility to record and air live series, thus placing the community in a prominent place on the cultural map of Ontario.



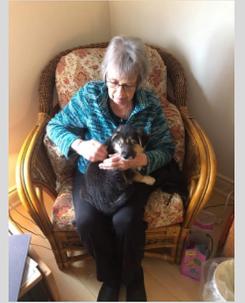
More than four decades ago, Dorothy displayed her determination to succeed when, as a middle-aged woman, she entered the field of municipal politics for the first time. It was a man's world then, but I'm sure it didn't take her long to establish that she wasn't there to bring date squares to council meetings or to preside over the coffee pot. No siree, she was there with the very serious intention of serving all the residents of Almonte and to make a difference in her community—and that is exactly what she did. I can think of a similar American politician, educator, and author, Shirley Chisholm, who sums up that “tenacity of spirit” the best for me: *“If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.”*

Over the years, Dorothy found time to travel and enjoyed tours of Israel and Ireland with friends in 1952 and 1993, respectively. She also has wonderful memories of holidays with friends and family in Mexico, Florida, Arizona, and Las Vegas, as well as a family birthday gift of a trip from Ottawa to British Columbia on a Via Rail scenic dome train.

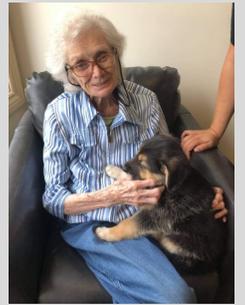
Sadly, Dorothy's husband Gerry passed away in 1979. After his death, she resigned from council but returned in 1985. It means a lot to her that her children live close by and visit often. They were instrumental in bringing her to Orchard View for a trial stay. After that, she made it her new home and she recalls feeling rested and relaxed. It was the beginning of a new phase in her life, and many of the people she has met here have since become her good friends. She feels that Orchard View is a true gift to the community.

In 2000, a sugar maple tree was planted at the Mississippi Mills administration building in honour of past mayors and reeves of that community. It has been said by some that to plant a tree is to plant the seeds of *hope* and *faith* for the future: *hope* that we can overcome such terror as COVID-19 and other hardships and learn from these experiences; and *faith* that we can all live together in a spirit of respect, fairness, good humour, and hard work. And that, my friends, is the kind of spirit that emanates from Dorothy Finner. God bless you, Dorothy!

Keep on



The Summer of Puppies!



Smiling



Strawberry Social & Ice Cream Bar



Employee of the Month - Robert Campbell

Congratulations to Robert for being September's employee of the month. Robert works in our nursing department. He is kind and reliable by nature. He is always there to help when asked, extra shifts, extra help, you call and he will be there. Robert puts the residents first, he enjoys making them happy and making sure they are comfortable and cared for. We thank Robert for his dedication to making OVM a better place and one so many call home. Congratulations again to Robert and keep up the great work!

Testimonial - Kurstin Robertson ~ Staff Member at OVM

When I walk in the front door of Orchard View it's a warm welcoming environment. Looking around at all the smiling faces and happiness of the residents makes me realize how lucky I am to go to work everyday. The wisdom you get from them, listening to their stories, making a difference in their lives, realizing you can still have a full active life despite being older. Seeing the seniors live a full and active life makes me unafraid of growing old, in fact i look forward to sharing experiences from here when I am older.

Laugh out Loud at Orchard View

Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00
p.m. is the new midnight.

It's the start of a brand new day, and
I'm off like a herd of turtles.

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

When I say, "The other day," I could
be referring to any time between
yesterday and 15 years ago.

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes
the seat next to you, just
stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring
the money?"

When you ask me what I am doing today, and
I say "nothing," it does not mean
I am free. It means I am doing nothing.

Trivia Time!

1. What is the painting "la Gioconda" more commonly known as?
2. Where would you find the more ancient forest?
3. Which city was Ludwig Van Beethoven born?
4. Who invented Penicillin?
5. Which Country invented tea?
6. Which is the only vowel not on the top line of your standard keyboard?
7. Who starts first in Chess?
8. Pure water has a pH level around?
9. Which castle is on the island of Anglesey?
10. What did the crocodile swallow in Peter Pan?

1. The Mona Lisa 2. Daintree Forest north of Cairns Aus-
tralia 3. Berlin 4. Fleming 5. China 6. A 7. White 8. Seven
9. Beaumaris 10. An alarm clock

Open Activities

- ~ Outdoor Patios - Gardens (should you have one)
- ~ Bistro ~ Puzzle Tables
- ~ Wellness Centre Bike and Walking Bars
- ~ Joe on the Piano
- ~ Open Art with Audrey

- ~ Massage Chairs (Wellness Centre)
- ~ Docking Station for phone calls or Video Calls on the computer
- ~ Library ~ Tuck Shop
- ~ Church Services / Rosary Prayer
- ~ OVM Chorus Practice

Musical Entertainment

With the recent COVID -19 we will not be having any outside entertainment at this time.

Joe will be playing twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays



Is the mail in?

As the days go on, many residents look forward to receiving mail. A letter, magazine, picture, postcard, (no bills). If you wish to send or drop off mail for the residents, either general or for a specific resident, we know they would be thrilled!

Resident Art Show

In late summer we will be having a resident Art Show. As Audrey starts her "Open Art with Audrey" sessions come late August. We have many painters—carvers ect. This will enable the residents to show off a piece of theirs others may not have known about.

COVID—19 UPDATE from OVM

As it stands now, residents are now able to leave the home for visits, shopping etc. We do ask anyone who does take a family member away from OVM to be extra cautious at this time, please wear your masks and have clean areas to sit.

We now have been on several bike rides as we take the Care Bridge Trio Bike out in the streets!

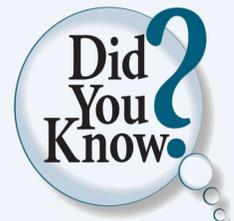
A big thank you to the staff at Independent for opening early for the residents to go shopping on their own.

Our picnic trips continue on Mondays and we look forward to picking up some take out meals in the weeks and months ahead!

JoJo's Did You Know?

It doesn't matter what you look like, it doesn't matter if you are tall or short, or fat or thin, ugly or beautiful or handsome, or if you are white, black or yellow.

What matters is the size of your heart and the strength of your character.



ALMONTE GENERAL HOSPITAL RUN FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

Saturday September 12th 10:00am



In years past we have cheered on the runners, given them water and froze our toes off. This year is different. This year it will be us walking. Have your family member pledge and we will walk our building block.

<https://almontehospitalfoundation.com/our-events/runforwomenshealth/>