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## Resident of the Month: John and Dorothy Day

Written by: Brent Connelly

*“My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was sixty. She's ninety-seven now, and we don't know where the hell she is.”—Ellen DeGeneres, American television personality*

One of the joys of living in a retirement centre such as OVM is the opportunity to meet and get to know many of the residents, who come from a variety of backgrounds and bring with them a plethora of different life experiences and interests. One of the purposes of this brief profile, therefore, is to introduce the more recently arrived residents to their new neighbours, known to some as the *OrchardViewippies*. I will take this opportunity to acknowledge a well-known and popular *ippie*, Margaret Duncan, who is a cousin of John Day and who played a huge role in introducing John and his wife, Dorothy, to the quaint charm of Almonte and the benefits of joining the ranks of the *OrchardViewippies* . . .

John and Dorothy (Dot) Day are a delightful, fun-loving couple, who frequently can be spotted on the OVM campus or about town walking briskly with their Nordic walking sticks. They are retired schoolteachers from Belleville, who have wisely made an OVM townhouse their new home after moving here from a Millfall condo in Almonte in November 2018. Besides walking, both play golf occasionally, and John likes to curl. He is also a Mason and a member of the Naismith chapter of the Men's Shed, while Dot likes to play bridge.

John, an only child, was born in Guelph Township and attended a school adjacent to the Ontario Agriculture College (OAC) campus, so he and his friends were able to watch college sporting events and make use of some of its facilities such as the swimming pool; they also used the college grounds to practice their golf swings. His first summer job was working in the OAC experimental wheat plots.

Deep sadness arrived at an early age for John when, just before his thirteenth birthday, he lost both of his parents. His dad died of a heart attack, while his mother passed away from cancer. He lived with his aunt and uncle for two years and subsequently stayed with a wonderful neighbour family who had a son John's age. He also spent one summer, while attending high school, working at the Macdonald College campus of McGill University in Sainte-Anne-de Bellevue, Quebec, where he resided with a cousin and her husband, who was a professor at the college.

John had always aspired to be a science teacher but due to the meagre salaries that were being offered to graduate teachers at that time, he instead enrolled in an agriculture program at Macdonald College and later found employment with BA Oil, marketing industrial lubricants, first in Toronto and then in Belleville. In 1967, he left BA Oil and went to work for Stewart Warner Canada, where he was involved with centralized lubrication systems.

John asserts that the highlight of this time was finding the “love of his life,” a lovely young lady from Montreal, Dorothy (Dot) Harding, whom he had met on a fan bus en route to a football game at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec. Dorothy was born in Winnipeg, and at the age of six, she and her family, which included her younger brother, Ed, moved to Montreal and St. Lambert when her father was transferred by his employer, CNR. After she completed high school in St. Lambert, Dorothy enrolled in teachers' college at McGill's Macdonald College campus. She remembers that she and John had discovered that they were both in the same calculus class . . .

Dot taught at the St. Lambert Elementary School, the same school she attended as a student just a few years before. During the FLQ crisis, her school received a bomb threat and they had to evacuate the children, but she remained in the classroom as the officials searched the school—they even searched inside the piano in her classroom!

John and Dorothy were married in 1963, and after living in Toronto for a year and a half, they moved to Belleville where they spent most of their married life and where their two children were born and raised: Steve, born in 1965, and Katherine, born in 1968. Dorothy became a stay-at-home mom during this time, returning to the classroom as a supply teacher when her own children started school. Steve is now a geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). He and his wife, Maria, an engineer also employed by the federal government, and their two children, Marco, twelve, and Clara, eleven, now reside in Ottawa. Katherine is now a vice president with the Fossil Group. She and her husband, Randy Wiele, a director with KPMG, and their seventeen-year-old daughter Emma, a busy high school senior, live in Dallas, Texas.



John began his teaching career upon completing teacher training in 1969, and thirty years later, in 1999, John and Dot retired. Now it was time for John and Dot to have a little fun, and so they sold their house in Belleville and moved into their cottage, which John had built in the 1960s, near the community of Gunter, about 40 kilometres south of Bancroft, Ontario. John and Dot have travelled extensively throughout their marriage, both pre- and post-retirement. The couple spent seventeen winters in South Texas and have travelled through forty-four states. They have visited thirty countries and Canada's ten provinces, as well as Yukon. They have ridden on elephants, climbed the Great Wall in Asia, and played Charles Darwin in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. To celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary, John and Dot took a river cruise on the Rhine, Main, and Danube Rivers. They have also cruised the Baltic Sea and through France, toured Italy and Switzerland, and were in Portugal when COVID-19 chased them home three weeks before their planned departure.

One of their most notable trips was in 2000, when they took a week-long train ride on the Mexican Copper Canyon Railroad. The travel trailer that they were pulling was loaded onto a flatbed railroad car, along with fifteen other RVs, for a very slow (30-kph) day-time-only trip from Chihuahua City, Mexico, down to Los Mochis, a track distance of 520 kilometres over elevations ranging from 8,300 feet to 10 feet above sea level. The train travelled through eighty-seven tunnels and over thirty-six bridges. (The RV train trip has since been discontinued.) However, it was a wonderful trip for Dot and John, but it was not without incident. Before they loaded the trailer onto the train, they had a flat tire on the trailer. That little setback was easily fixed, as they carried a spare. But to find a replacement tire in Mexico for the trip back to their winter home in Mission, Texas, wasn't going to be easy, as every time a tire vendor or automotive outfit was asked if they stocked the tire, John and Dot received the same response: *"Lo siento, nunca habia visto un neumático así"* (which means, "Sorry, I've never seen a tire like that"). The story does have a happy ending, though, because on the way back home, as they drove through Nogales, Arizona, Dot spotted a roadside sign advertising a tire sale. John reacted instantly and ran into the store; he came out a few minutes later sporting a bigger-than-life smile and rolling a brand-new spare tire for their trailer.

"You aren't going to believe this, Dot," he said, as he waved the sales slip for her to see. "This tire was made in Mexico!"

Good for you, Dot and John! I hope the Trumper hears about this—he needs something else to think about these days, besides himself.

# Keep on Smiling





## Employee of the Month - Ashley Varsava

Congratulations to Ashley on being December's employee of the month! Ashley has been one of our many Nurses for close to two years now. Many of you may know Ashley for her bubbly personality and fast-pace walking. Ashley always, always, tries to be the ray of sunshine in a residents day. Beyond her cheery personality, the staff love working with Ashley; she is dedicated and kind. Ashley has a great sense of humour and is always looking to better the residents' lives medically, physically and socially. Congratulations, Ashley, and keep up the great work!

## Testimonial - Iona Rowe

Living at Orchard View is a wonderful experience.

I am always kept occupied and happy with all the enjoyable functions, including musical entertainment and delicious meals that I love.

The most enjoyable of all is the wonderful staff who treat us all with kindness and respect.

## Laugh out Loud at Orchard View

### Perfect Christmas jokes for around the dinner table!

 <p>Q: Where do snowmen go dancing?</p> <p>A: A snowball!</p>	<p>What do you call Santa Claus when he doesn't move?</p> <p>Santa Pause</p> 	<p>What did the cow get for Christmas?</p> <p>A COWculator!</p> 	 <p>Q: What does Santa use to measure?</p> <p>A: Santimeters!</p>
 <p>Q: What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas Tree?</p> <p>A: A pineapple!</p>	<p>Why is it always cold at Christmas?</p> <p>Because it's Decemberrrrrrrr!</p> 	<p>What do elves learn in school?</p> <p>The elf-abet.</p> 	 <p>Q: What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?</p> <p>A: Cookie sheets!</p>
 <p>Q: What do road crews use at the North Pole?</p> <p>A: Snow cones!</p>	<p>What's Santa's favorite candy?</p> <p>Jolly Ranchers!</p> 	<p>What did the Gingerbread Man put on his bed?</p> <p>A cookie sheet!</p> 	 <p>Q: Where does a snowman keep his money?</p> <p>A: In a snowbank!</p>
 <p>Q: What do you call Santa when he stops moving?</p> <p>A: Santa Pause</p>	<p>What's red and white, red and white, red and white?</p> <p>Santa Claus rolling down a hill.</p> 	<p>What do you call a snowman in the summer?</p> <p>A puddle!</p> 	 <p>Q: What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?</p> <p>A: You get tinselitus!</p>
 <p>Q: What should you give your parents at Christmas?</p> <p>A: A list of what you want.</p>	<p>printable by <a href="http://themotherhuddle.com">themotherhuddle.com</a></p>	<p>Q: What does an elf study in school?</p> <p>A: The elfabet</p>	 <p>Q: What goes oh, oh, oh?</p> <p>A: Santa Claus walking backward!</p>
 <p>Q: What kind of bug hates Christmas?</p> <p>A: A thumbug!</p>	<p>Template by <a href="http://KindOverMatter.com">KindOverMatter.com</a></p>		

## Open Activities

- ~ Bistro ~ Puzzle Tables
- ~ Wellness Centre Bike and Walking Bars
- ~ Joe on the Piano
- ~ Adult Colouring
- ~ Social Distanced Bingo with
- ~ Massage Chairs (Wellness Centre/ 3rd Floor Lounge)
- ~ Docking Station for phone calls or Video Calls on the computer
- ~ Library ~ Tuck Shop
- ~ Church Services / Rosary Prayer
- ~ Fitness classes on Main, 3rd and 4th Floor from Almonte Physio
- ~ Door to Door Mind Work Games
- ~ Bistro Activities
- ~ Jumbo Bowling
- ~ Scrabble
- LOTS MORE!

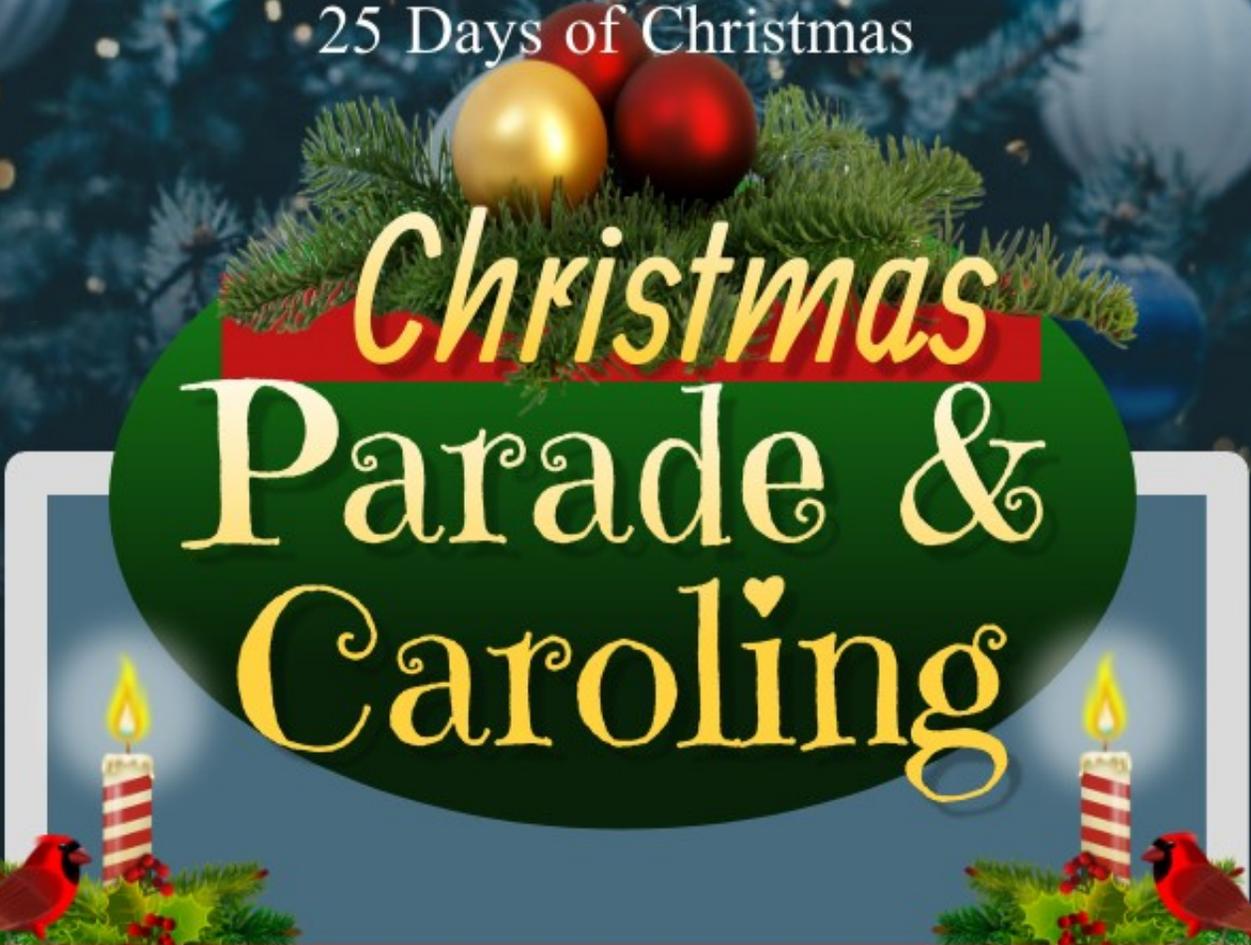
## 25 Days of Christmas At Orchard View



- Dec 1. Lighting Ceremony and OVM Chorus Performance
- Dec 2. Holiday Treats from Around the World
- Dec 3. Deck the Halls—Door to Door Visits
- Dec 4. Christmas Cocktails with Santa
- Dec 5. Outdoor Sleigh Rides & Family Caroling
- Dec 6. Almonte Santa Clause Parade through the streets
- Dec 7. Wesley Clover Lights Drive
- Dec 8. Hot Chocolate Social
- Dec 9. Candy Cane Lane
- Dec 10. Winter Wonderland Wine and Cheese for Residents and Staff
- Dec 11. Wear your Festive PJ's both Staff and Residents
- Dec 12. Resident Team Tree Decorating
- Dec 13. OVM Families Christmas Car Parade
- Dec 14. Wesley Clover Lights Drive
- Dec 15. Family Dinner over Zoom & Peppermint Bailey Drinks
- Dec 16. Making Peanut Butter Balls
- Dec 17. Cookie decorating with Karen & Family Dinner over Zoom
- Dec 18. Reindeer Games
- Dec 19. Christmas Trivia
- Dec Christmas Cake Bake OFF!
- Dec 21. Rumchata Floats
- Dec 22. Christmas High Tea
- Dec 23. Wheelchair and Walker Decorative Parade
- Dec 24. - Christmas Cocktail Party - 'Twas the Night Before Christmas
- Dec 25. Merry Christmas - A day of Presents!



Orchard View by the Mississippi invites the  
Community of Almonte to help us in our  
25 Days of Christmas



*Christmas*  
Parade &  
Caroling

Saturday

Dec 05

**Christmas Caroling  
on the lawn**



Sunday

Dec 13

**Christmas Car Parade  
around OVM**

Should you have any questions please email Michael at  
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