

April 2022



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Resident of the Month: Ericka & Mike Andrassy

Written by: Sophia Reimer

Ericka was born in Steyr, a small town in Austria and Mike was born in Sighisoara, Romania in 1926. Ericka's family moved to Canada when she was four years old. Her father had been to Canada and liked it and her grandmother already lived here, so had encouraged them to move as well. They came across by boat and lived in Hamilton first before moving to Toronto. Mike lived his first three and a half years in Romania and then came to Canada in 1930 with his mother and two sisters; his father had come to Canada first and then arranged for them to follow.

Mike and Ericka both attended York Memorial Collegiate High School. They both participated in the choir and performed in three operettas, which is how they met. Mike had the leading male role and Ericka was the second leading lady in a comedy role. Mike asked the girl who was the leading female role to a school dance but her father refused. Mike decided to ask Ericka because they got along well. They went to the dance together and had a lovely time, both of them being good dancers. They began dating after that. They were part of a teen club called the Stardust Club which became the most popular teen club in all of Toronto. They organized all sorts of activities, events and sports teams, skiing trips, etc. This was all during World War II when there was nothing else going on.

After high school, Mike went to the University of Toronto for engineering. He played basketball and football and was very social but didn't do much school work and thus failed his first year. In the meantime, Ericka worked at the YMCA in the community. She got Mike involved as a volunteer and soon after he was offered a job and paid tuition at the University of Toronto in exchange for 40 hours a week of work at the YMCA. He enrolled in a general arts program and graduated. He planned to be a YMCA professional, but he needed certain courses to do that. Ericka and Mike got married in 1949 and then moved to Chicago for school the following year. They both enrolled at the University of Chicago. Ericka studied religion, ethics and drama as well as working part-time as the assistant editor of the school newspaper and at the local YMCA working nights answering the phones.

After they both finished school, they moved back to Toronto. They returned to the North Western YMCA, where they had previously worked. The board invited Mike to be executive director, a position he held for the next three years. Ericka worked for a company filling in at different jobs for two-week stints. She was a stenographer in business type, so many of her jobs involved transcribing. She got to experience many different positions, such as typing out wills and working for Canada Packers typing out ingredients.

About that time they bought their first house and adopted their two children, John and Lynn. The family decided to move to the Ottawa Valley. Mike worked for the federal government in the citizen branch and commuted into the city while Ericka raised their children in their home in Almonte. Mike worked on community development projects across the country until he retired in the 1980s. After the kids moved out, Ericka got a job at the Almonte Hospital as a Physio Therapy Aide and ran exercise classes until she also retired a few years later.

They owned a house on Union Street and a cottage on White Lake but decided to sell both and buy a piece of land from Marie Dunn on Wolfe Grove Road. They built a house and lived there for 20 years. Their grandchildren visited a lot and they were very involved in the community. As they got older they decided to move back into town and lived there for a few years. They watched Orchard View being built from the ground up and when the townhomes opened they moved in. Ericka had a stroke and she moved into the Orchard View building from the hospital.

Mike and Ericka had many interesting stories to tell me from their lives, which would take me pages and pages to tell. They lived full lives and had many interesting experiences. Mike told me he was a TV show host for four years on a seniors' show and even did some modeling for seniors' homes. Ericka was a fantastic cook and hosted many wonderful dinners and parties. We are glad they are part of our OVM family.



Keep on Smiling



We've been enjoying our mystery drives around the community as an opportunity to get outside and see some sights





Employee of the Month - Kaitlyn Lepage

Congratulations to Kaitlyn for being nominated as April's employee of the month! Kaitlyn wears multiple hats at OVM. She works in recreation and on the front desk but supports many other departments and helps out wherever she is needed. Kaitlyn is liked by residents and staff alike. She is hard working, takes initiative and is enthusiastic.

Testimonial - Clara Lorrain

Five years ago, my daughter and I came to check out Almonte and we discovered Orchard View. We went in and spotted a resident working on a jigsaw puzzle. Joanna was very friendly and offered to give us a tour. Before leaving, I had an appointment to see Julie the next morning. I signed on with the condition I could bring my dog Betsy to live with me. Five years later we are still happily settled in. We're lucky to still have most of the original staff working here. A year ago I had an operation and many staff stepped in and took care of Betsy for as long as I needed. Now spring is coming and I'll be puttering in my gardens and Betsy will be out enjoying seeing all her friends. All this to say I am a happy camper here at Orchard View.

Laugh out Loud with Orchard View

It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser

I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few.

Kids in the backseat cause accidents, accidents in the back seat cause kids.

It's hard to make a comeback, when you haven't been anywhere.

The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them at my knees!

When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone want to play chess?

Open Activities

- ~ Bistro ~ Puzzle Tables
- ~ Wellness Centre Bike and Walking Bars
- ~ Joe on the Piano ~ Adult Colouring
- ~ Social Distanced Bingo with Joanna and Friends
- ~ 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

EASTER WORD SEARCH



S B M A L R E T S A E C
G N E T A L O C O H C A
H O T C R O S S B U N S
X C H I C K E N S I R I
G S L I D O F F A D Z T
N T S S T E K S A B H S
I N G G E R E T S A E U
R U E Y V R A B B I T N
P H D U C K L I N G S D
S J E L L Y B E A N S A
V H Y A C I N T H F V Y
C A N D Y T E N N O B Q

BASKET
BONNET
EASTER EGG
HOT CROSS BUNS
CANDY
HYACINTH

IRIS
CHICKEN
CHOCOLATE
JELLYBEANS
DAFFODILS
LAMBS

RABBIT
DYE
DUCKLINGS
SPRING
EASTER
SUNDAY

JoJo's Did You Know

- ~ Milk, cream, cottage cheese and similar products should be stored in their original containers.
- ~ Milk should be kept in the area of the refrigerator nearest the freezer. The colder temperature helps maintain max freshness.
- ~ Hot vinegar will usually loosen sticky surfaces such as decals and price labels
- ~ Rid your hands of onion and garlic smells by washing your hands in baking soda and water. It also will remove odors from your cutting board.

**Orchard View by the Mississippi
invites you to:**



Sunday, April 17th, 11:00 am and 12:30 pm seatings

**\$35 FOR ADULTS, \$17.50 FOR
CHILDREN**

**Please book your spot at reception to
have lunch with your loved ones**