

January 2023

HAPPY
new year

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www.orchardviewmississippi.ca –



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Resident of the Month: Garry Holmes

Written by: Nancy

Garry was born in Renfrew, Ontario and lived on a farm on the Flat Road between Dacre and Mount St. Patrick. His father passed of tuberculosis in 1941 at the young age of 35, Garry a child of 5 years old at the time. There were two other children, a brother aged 4 and a sister aged 3 making for a very busy household for a now widowed wife. Garry remembers images of his father as he transitioned back and forth between hospital and home before his eventual passing – in those days you had to pay out of pocket for hospital and physician care. An aunt, a nurse in New York sent money home to help pay the bills. Garry's mother was now surviving on a small widow's pension; neighbors were kind and along with the occasional sale of some livestock, they managed.

5 months or so after his father's passing, Garry spoke of his brother and he setting the barn on fire. Again, with the good grace of the community, the barn was rebuilt before winter. He remembers his mother being allowed to run a bill at the local grocery store, a common occurrence back in those days until the cheque came in. Garry remembers the 2 mile walk to school in Dacre in those days; a one-room school with 30-40 students, Grades 1 through 8.

His mother remarried in 1945 to his father's first cousin (same surname); this fellow had served six years in WWII. Garry attended his Grade 9 year at the school in Eganville. Again, he would walk to Dacre and then catch the bus to Eganville. In 1949, the family moved to Renfrew where Garry finished Grade 10 at Renfrew Collegiate, but then dropped out at age 15. Working at various small jobs at first, he then went on to work at Haley Industries, then moved on to the A&P Store where he spent the next 5 years. It was during this time he started dating Joan Robertson. With thoughts of marriage and becoming a family man, he decided to apply to the Ontario Provincial Police and was accepted, his first posting to Cornwall in April 1959. Joan and Garry were married 6 months later, a bit of a shock for her moving from the Pickering area to Cornwall in April 1959. In December 1960 the couple was blessed with the arrival of twin boys, (John and Paul) and then the arrival of yet another son (Daril) in 1967.

In late 1971, he received his first promotion to Corporal and was transferred to Rockland where he served for the next 8 years. Promoted to Sergeant in 1980, he was assigned as Detachment Commander at the station in Manotick, in charge of approximately 20 people. In 1988, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and transferred to Peterborough DHQ as District Traffic Sergeant. His final transfer with the OPP was to Kanata in charge of the District Telecommunications Radio System.

On November 30, 1992, Garry retired. At the time the family was living in Nepean, but they had their eye on a piece of property on Lake Madawaska above the hydro dam, at Arnprior. However, tragedy struck – Joan died suddenly of a viral pneumonia on New Years Eve, 1992. The plans to move to the Arnprior area - cancelled.

Always fond of the Ottawa Valley, Garry bought a home in Almonte in 1995. It was around that time that he met and started seeing Helen. She had lost her husband to cancer in 1993. Eventually, they decided to elope to Hawaii and were married in November 1996 – included was a 7-day cruise of the Islands. Helen joined the family, bringing along two children (Debbie and Stephen) and grandchildren of her own. Unfortunately, her son Stephen passed away from cancer 4 years ago.



Garry and Helen enjoyed many good years travelling – 8 cruises in total and many winters in Florida and Texas. The summer months were spent at Helen’s family cottage on the Ottawa River at Castleford. However, the last few years saw them both encountering some health issues. So, in 2021 they moved into Orchard View but it was still a bumpy road. Helen on dialysis, enduring a minor stroke and passed away in January 2022.

Garry has spent the last few months adjusting to life without Helen. His own health issues seem to have stabilized. He tries to keep busy with the various activities offered. He speaks most kindly of the way he and others are treated by Orchard View Staff.

Garry has 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. They lost Matthew (Daril’s son) to leukemia 4 years ago – he was only 15.

I look forward each morning shift I work at reception to having a brief chat and smile with Garry & others picking up their morning paper at the reception desk.

Thank you, Garry for sharing your story with me and taking such an interest in what we are doing here with the resident profiles in the Monthly Reviews. Your story is now entered into our Archives for all to get to know the tall, quiet man named Garry Holmes, we meet in the halls each day – always with a “hello, how are you?”.

Keep on Smiling



At the end of the day, we have had some fun and games!





Employee of the Month - Christina Bantseev

Congratulations to Christina for being January's Employee of the Month. Christine works in the Recreation Department, mainly on the 3rd Floor and the Residents absolutely adore her. Christina is a great addition to the Rec team, she is cool, calm and collected, she's a whiz when it comes to crafts and loves to spend quality time with the Residents. Thank you Christina for all your hard work and dedication to the OVM Family.

Testimonial - Charlotte Stephen

If you are looking for a retirement home that can really come to feel like home, Orchard View is that kind of place. I came here 18 months ago and was greeted by friendly staff and residents alike and was surprised at how quickly I felt at home. There are lots of activities to keep one occupied and always someone to have a chat with if you feel like talking. The staff treats us like grandparents and are always willing to lend a hand (or an ear) if you need it.

Laugh out Loud with Orchard View

What is a New Year's resolution?
Something that goes in one year
and out the other.

What do snowmen like to do on
New Year's Eve?
Chill out.

What did the little champagne
bottle call his father?
Pop!

What do farmers give their wives
at midnight on New Year's Eve?
Hogs and kisses.

What do you tell someone you didn't
see on New Year's Eve?
I haven't seen you for a year.

Why is partying in Times Square
overrated? The organizers drop
the ball every year!

Open Activities

- ~ Bistro ~ Puzzle Tables
- ~ Joe on Piano ever Wednesday
- ~ 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)
- ~ Library
- ~ Tuck Shop ~ Scrabble
- ~ Church Services / Rosary Prayers
- ~ Fitness classes on Main & 3rd with Almonte Physio
- ~ Door to Door Mind Work Games
- ~ Bistro Activities
- ~ Musical Entertainment

JoJo's Did You Know

Did you know "strengths" is the longest word in the English language with one vowel? According to the Guinness Book of World Records, "strengths" is the longest word in the English language with one vowel. The word contains nine letters, eight of them being consonants.

Did you know an astronaut was allergic to the moon?

Seems like someone had a tre-moon-dous allergy problem! During the Apollo 17 mission, astronaut Harrison Schmitt found out that he had a severe reaction to moon dust.

Did you know 40 percent of human jobs could be replaced by AI in the future?

In about 20 years, Artificial intelligence expert Kai-Fu Lee said that 40 percent of human jobs could be replaced by equally capable robots.

Volunteers are always appreciated...

Do you enjoy giving back to the community? Do you want to feel invested in the lives of others? Do you enjoy making a difference in the lives of Seniors?

Become a volunteer at Orchard View by the Mississippi! Whether you enjoy arts and crafts, trivia, knitting, musical entertainment or walking we have a place for you!

Contact Michael Rowland at ovmrecreation@ovlc.com OR 613-963-5000

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 26th Staff Appreciation Celebration**
- **January ~ Coffee Break Fundraising for the Alzheimer's Society**
- **February 9th Euchre Tournament for Heart and Stroke Foundation**
- **March ~ St. Paddy's Day Open House**

Please RSVP with Julie at ovmmarketing@ovlc.com or 613-963-5000



Orchard View by the Mississippi

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT



Enjoy an
afternoon of
cards &
companionship.
Bring a friend
or come alone.

IN SUPPORT
OF



HEART &
STROKE
FOUNDATION

\$20.00 for Lunch and Cards
\$10.00 for Cards

Lunch is at 12:30 p.m
Cards at 1:00 p.m

PLEASE SIGN UP AT RECEPTION
OVMRECEPTION@OVLIC.COM
613-963-5000

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY
9TH
2023