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## Celebrating Social Innovation At A National Level

This week, we're taking one more opportunity to recognize our dedicated Volunteer Board of Directors, who recently received a national volunteer award for their remarkable social innovation. We're thrilled to have formally presented the award certificate during their final meeting before our AGM in September.

***"...The Government of Canada is proud to recognize and celebrate your exceptional contribution to your community and your fellow Canadians..."***

***The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.***

As many of you know, our Board has played a crucial role in addressing the urgent need for affordable housing for seniors in Yellowknife. Their leadership has been instrumental in launching the AVENS Pavilion project, which

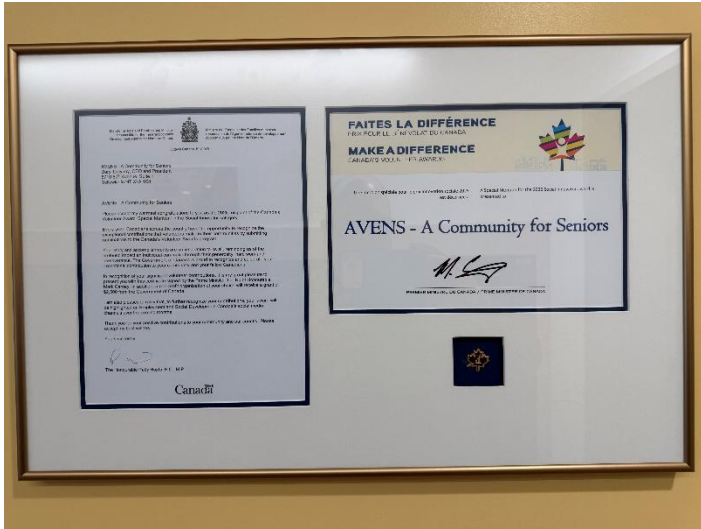
encompasses over 100,000 square feet of housing specifically designed for our seniors. This initiative reflects their commitment to ensuring that our elders live with dignity and respect in safe and supportive environments.



(Top photo) Girls only! (Bottom photo L to R) Daryl Dolynny, AVENS President/CEO, Colleen Wellborn, AVENS Board Chair, Lynda Koe, Matthew Spence, Debbie DeLancey and Lani Cooke; Board Members

The Board engaged extensively with seniors, families, and healthcare providers to ensure the Pavilion meets the diverse needs of our community. Their collaborative efforts with local

and territorial governments, non-profits, and community groups have created a strong support network that enriches the lives of our residents. Through various social programs and activities, the Pavilion has become a hub of inclusiveness and engagement.



**Our framed National Volunteer Award proudly displayed in our Aven Pavilion Eggenberger Administration**

The impact of this project has been profound. By providing affordable housing, the Board has improved the quality of life for seniors, reduced isolation, and fostered meaningful social connections. Residents benefit from aging-in-place options, wellness programs, and numerous social activities.

## Making a Difference

Additionally, many previous board members who helped initiate this journey will be recognized in next season's annual report. Their contributions have laid the foundation for the success we celebrate today.

Let's take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our Volunteer Board of Directors for their incredible commitment and hard work in making AVENS a welcoming community for all.

## Operation Rub-A-Dub-Tub

This week, I'm excited to share a unique tale of our newest addition to the greenhouse—a remarkable **cast iron tub** that has quite a story to tell. So buckle up folks, because we're about to take a trip down memory lane!

### A Blast from the Past

Over 30 years ago, back when I was a young pharmacist operating the Shoppers Drug Mart here in Yellowknife, I found myself attending gift shows in Calgary and Toronto. At one of those early shows in Calgary, around 1993, I stumbled upon a small booth run by a spirited young entrepreneur named Ralph Fox from Toronto. He had a few trendy items, but it looked like business was a bit slow for him. Feeling a bit sympathetic, I decided to buy one of everything he had.

To my surprise, everything sold like hotcakes! From that moment on, Ralph and I formed a friendship, and I continued to support his ventures and crazy trendy items for many years to follow.

### The Tub Enters the Scene

Fast forward to one particular year when Ralph was showcasing his bath bombs in a stunning old-fashioned cast iron tub. I was in love, what a cool idea! Naturally, I said, "I'll buy the bath bombs," but with one little twist: the tub had to come to Yellowknife. Ralph was hesitant at first, but after realizing it was cheaper to ship it to me than back to Toronto, he agreed.

And so, around 1995, the tub made its way to Yellowknife. It became a staple in our store, showcasing bath bombs, soaps, bath scrunchies,

bath toys, even candy bars. No matter what we put in it, items flew off the shelves!



The “tub” located on AVENS Campus next to our greenhouse, waiting for a fresh coat of paint

## A Tub with a Second Life

After over a decade of service, the tub eventually found itself in the Shoppers Drug Mart basement, gathering dust. However, it wasn't forgotten! Because many people knew I had this tub, it made appearances at countless Caribou Carnivals, Raven Madd Daze, and other community events over the next 15 years. But recently, it was sitting in storage, and my wife, Cindy, who is the pharmacist/owner of Shoppers Drug Mart, suggested it might be time to say goodbye.

**Not on my watch!** That is when I contacted our greenhouse ambassador, Lindsey Dwojak, who's our Chief People Officer by day and greenhouse guru by night. She loved the idea of repurposing the tub for our greenhouse decor.

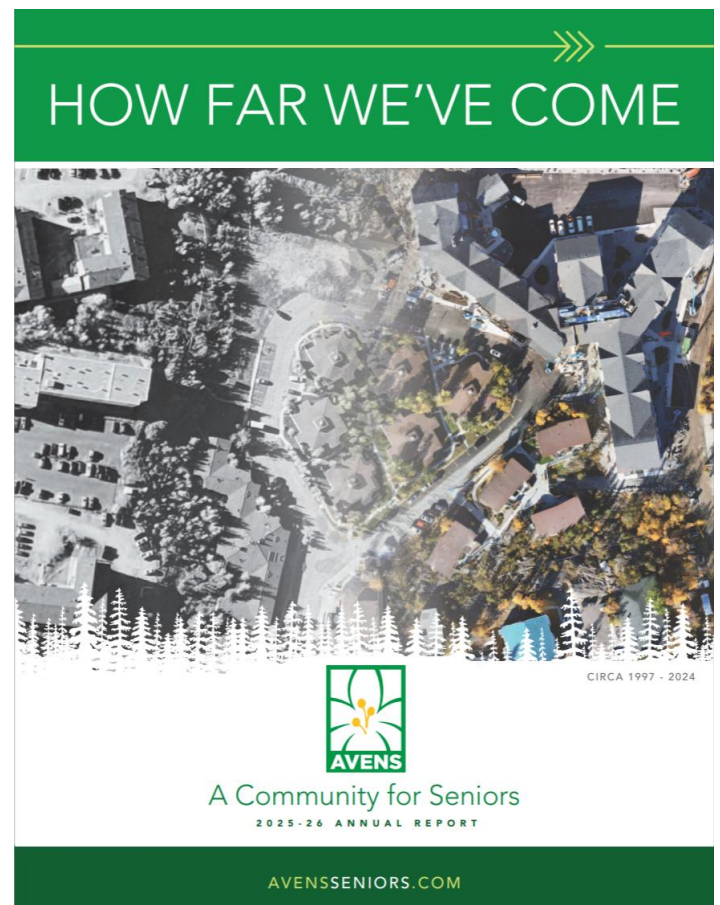
## The Legacy Continues

Here's the kicker: this tub originally came from a decommissioned hotel in downtown Toronto and was destined for the landfill before Ralph rescued it for his bath bomb displays. Now, at

**over 125 years old** (and probably the oldest thing on campus) and with over 30 years in Yellowknife, it's embarking on a new journey to support our greenhouse efforts.

Everything in life has a purpose, and every object has a story. Now you know...Operation Rub-a-Dub-Tub completed!

## Community Corner



Our annual report for the 2025-2026 year has been completed and it is now off to the printers.

Come and get your copy at our upcoming Annual General Meeting being held at the Aven Pavilion on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7 PM.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



You're invited to our upcoming Annual General Meeting to receive updates, ask questions, and interact with the team.

### Meeting Details

- 24 September, 2026
- Start 7:00pm
- Pavilion Dining Room
- [ea@avensseniors.com](mailto:ea@avensseniors.com)
- [www.avensseniors.com](http://www.avensseniors.com)



**Don't forget  
to mark your  
calendar!**