From the CEO's desk

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The Pavilion Foundation Stone- A Rock With A Story

How does one get excited about a rock? Fair question—I might have asked myself that very question, if this particular rock hadn't been part of The Pavilion's story from the very beginning. (Note Original story **Issue #224, October 28th, 2024**)

> ***"Not every foundation stone holds up a building. Some hold the story of how it began.."***
>
> ***Daryl Dolynny AVENS President/CEO***

On August 21, 2020, at 3:15 p.m., AVENS and Nahanni signed the contract to build The Pavilion right on "**the rock**." That day, it became more than a stone: it marked the start of a shared commitment to create a new home and gathering place for our residents and community.

But **the rock's** future wasn't always so certain. Just six days later, heavy machinery was clearing the area moving all the blast rock. With thousands of stones in motion, ours was almost lost—or repurposed for landscaping. I moved it with my skid steer to a safer spot, where it waited for the next four years.



(Clockwise from the L to R) The original signing of Pavilion contract between AVENS (Daryl Dolynny) and Nahanni (Kenny Ruptash) on August 21st, 2020 at 3:15PM on "the rock". The rock's temporary resting place for the next 4 years, when I had to move it with my skidsteer on August 27th, 2020, as they were removing blast rock in the area. It was almost lost forever

Eventually, with help from Darwin at Arctic Farmer, **the rock** found its permanent home at the entrance to The Pavilion when we opened our doors. And last week, we finally added a dedication plaque so its story can be remembered and shared for years to come.

I'll admit I'm a bit nostalgic about it. Maybe history will look back and wonder what the big deal was. But I remember how easily this small piece of our story could have disappeared amid

the construction. Today, it stands as a testament to the teamwork, perseverance and vision that brought The Pavilion to life.



Thank you to Darwin at Arctic Farmer for placing "the rock" in its permanent and final resting place (October of 2024) preserving its unique story and journey



Today, the rock can now tell its story for many years to come

So the next time you pass by, take a moment to check out this little piece of history - **the rock**—and its plaque. It may not say very much, but its lifelong journey—from a foundation stone at the start of The Pavilion to a lasting landmark on our campus—speaks volumes to all who call AVENS home!

… and now you know its story!

"Which Arm, Please?"

Flu season has arrived, and once again, Public Health brought the needles—and plenty of smiles—to AVENS Barb Bromley Administration.



Some of our AVENS Staff getting their annual flu shot after the Aven Manor and Cottage residents had theirs

This past week, we were delighted to welcome our partners in health to our campus for a flu clinic for residents and staff. The Public Health nurses and support staff were wonderful: sharing laughs, offering reassurance and making everyone feel at ease. We're fortunate to have such caring health professionals in the North who love what they do—and it shows.

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Vaccination is an important way to help protect against serious illness from flu and COVID-19. In long-term care, that protection matters not only for residents, who may be more vulnerable to complications, but also for the staff who care for them every day. Staying up to date can help reduce the risk of severe illness and help protect the people around us.



(L to R) AVENS President/CEO Daryl Dolynny thinking he was getting the last laugh, apparently not? Public Health RN, Marisa Mcarthur, taking care of business

A big thank-you to the NTHSSA Public Health team for making the clinic such a welcoming experience, and to everyone who took part. Turns out, rolling up your sleeve can be a pretty powerful way to protect your fellow AVENS colleague and resident! It's now your turn Yellowknife, get your flu shot!

(For the official record- No CEO was harmed in the production of these photos. This was staged) 😊

Yellownife Community Foundation Supports AVENS

The Yellowknife Community Foundation has been a meaningful part of my life for many years. I had the privilege of serving on its board and as chair for many years. Today, I'm grateful to connect with the Foundation in a different way—as AVENS celebrates several generous grants supporting our residents and community.



AVENS Chief Nursing Officer, Frances Marshall, accepts cheques from YCF Grant Donors (Photo credit YCF)

The first was a **$4,000 grant from the Albert and Hilya Hall Seniors Enhancement Fund**. This one is especially meaningful: my former colleague Tom Hall presented the award. The grant will help AVENS bring *Let's Dance*

programming to our residents in partnership with the local **Bella Dance** group.

AVENS also received a **$3,000 grant from the Eva Henderson Memorial Fund**. This support will help us enhance end-of-life care and provide additional support to AVENS families.







Shout out to all our AVENS staff in attendance (Photo credit YCF)

And, in a roundabout way, AVENS is connected to the **Barb Bromley Fund for Seniors and Elders**, which was awarded to the Cycling Without Age Yellowknife chapter. I'll share more in a future newsletter about AVENS' involvement in this wonderful initiative, so stay tuned.

We are deeply grateful to the Yellowknife Community Foundation for its support of AVENS and the wider community. I also want to thank the AVENS staff who attended, spoke on our behalf, and represented our organization with such professionalism and pride!

Community Corner



