

The SOCIETY Scoop

Greetings from President and CEO, Abby Katz Starr

Spring Forward with UHS!

Spring is here, bringing renewal and reflection on those who make a difference in our organization every day. At Unionville Home Society (UHS), we are deeply grateful for the donors and volunteers whose unwavering support helps us grow and thrive, making a profound impact on the lives of our seniors.

We are excited to kick off the season with two major fundraising events: Garden by the Greens on April 24 and the Unionville Charity Golf Classic on July 8. These events are more than just fundraisers—they are a testament to the power of community. While Ministry funding covers essential care, our Foundation's fundraising efforts provide enhancements that enrich the lives of our residents—ranging from horticultural programs and recreational activities to specialized nursing equipment. Every dollar raised directly benefits those who call Union Villa home.

April also marks Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 27–May 3), celebrating the remarkable individuals who dedicate their time and passion to our mission. This year's theme, *Volunteers Make Waves*, perfectly captures the impact they have in shaping a brighter, more compassionate future for our seniors. Their dedication fuels our success, and we look forward to honoring them throughout the week.

To our donors, your financial support ensures that we can continue providing exceptional care and meaningful programs. To our volunteers, your commitment is the



heartbeat of our organization, and we simply couldn't do this without you.

I look forward to sharing insights into UHS' strategic plans in the next Scoop in July. Until then, enjoy the changing season, whether you find yourself in the garden or on the golf course. Thank you for being part of our journey to enhance the lives of our seniors.



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with Us**



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UCCS March Break Expo

A Celebration of Active Community Connections

March Break isn't just for the young! From March 10 to 14, the Unionville Community Centre for Seniors (UCCS), in partnership with Housing York, hosted the vibrant Seniors March Break Expo at the Unionville Commons seniors housing building. Close to 200 seniors came together to enjoy an exciting lineup of activities, fostering connections and creating new memories.

The week featured a range of engaging programs, including fitness favorites like Zumba, Gentle Exercise, and Line Dancing, as well as social gatherings like the Brunch Club and Spring Luncheon. Participants also benefited from a complimentary hearing clinic provided by Archer Hearing and gained insights from community agencies, CHATS (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors) and Carefirst.

The festivities concluded on a high note with the Friday Friendship Café, where a lively pop-up BINGO game brought smiles and camaraderie, capping off a week filled with new experiences and friendships.

This memorable event was made possible thanks to the incredible efforts of 16 dedicated volunteers, who contributed nearly 150 hours of their time to ensure its success. The UCCS Seniors March Break Expo serves as a wonderful reminder of the importance of staying active, connected, and engaged at every stage of life.

The UCCS, a seniors' active living centre (SALC), is committed to offering a wide array of programs and services to help older adults thrive. Currently, we operate programs at two satellite locations in the heart of Unionville at Central United Church and Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Become a UCCS member today!

Call (437) 431-2831 or email uccs@uhs.on.ca to learn more.



My Life, My Journey. A Union Villa Resident Profile

Meet Bruce Gardiner

Bruce was born on May 6, 1931 in St. Andrews, Scotland. Bruce worked on the family farm from when he was a young boy. Scotland was not extensively targeted by Axis bombings, but the war was never far away. A bomb landed in a relative's house but thankfully didn't explode, and when Bruce was 12 he was on a train to London to meet his cousin when the train was overturned by a nearby bombing.

When the war ended, Bruce was 14. A lifelong Scout, he was one of 28,000 lucky boys to attend the first postwar Scout's Jamboree where he met the King of Norway. Later, he attended the Agricultural College of Edinburgh, and while at a local dance he laid eyes on his future wife Isabella for the first time. A day or two later a friend of hers called saying that Bruce wanted to go out with her. She said, "Well if he wants to go out with me he can call me himself!" Bruce did, and they started dating. They were both outgoing, enjoying dancing, swimming and playing tennis.

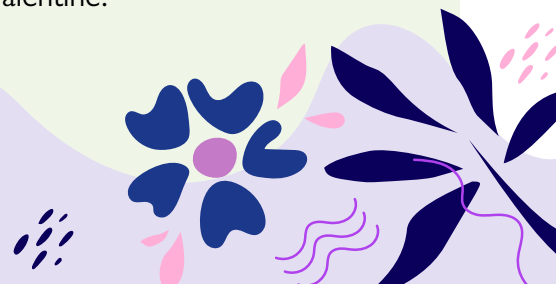
One day they were out for a walk and ended up at a beautiful old Presbyterian Church on a hill surrounded by grass and flowers, featuring an old Druid well. They went inside the church to pay respects and without planning, they took each other's hands and knelt at the altar. Isabella says, "we both just knew this was it."

After graduating, it was very hard to get a job or go to University because all the servicemen had returned from the war. Bruce applied for a job with the colonial service to one of the Commonwealth countries. On the 6th of May, he sailed for Halifax. He took the train to Toronto and attended a job interview at a dairy farm that same day. His luggage had been lost, so he started his first day driving the tractor in his best blue suit.



Bruce and Isabella wrote each daily until they were reunited 6 months later in Toronto. They were married at 23 years old. Bruce hit the pavement asking if anyone had a job for a young Scotsman. He landed a job and was eventually sent to London, Ontario. Isabella loved the city and remembers tobogganing down the local hills in the wintertime. Bruce was involved in the community as a Scout leader. Bruce eventually became a manager and travelled to many countries, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Haiti, Greece, Holland, and more.

"It was a good life," says Isabella. They had two children, a boy and a girl. They were able to travel back to Scotland many times on vacation. Eventually their children married, and they now have two grandchildren. In retirement, they stayed sporty, enjoying skiing and sailing. When Bruce turned 90, they moved to Wyndham Gardens, and eventually after an unfortunate accident, Bruce moved to Union Villa. Isabella visits nearly every day, and they are still each other's favourite Valentine.



Save the Date - 2025 Fundraising Events

Unionville Home Society
Foundation presents



THURSDAY APRIL 24, 2025

Angus Glen Golf Club

**GROWING
COMMUNITY**

Join us in our efforts to enhance Union Villa's sensory garden & support residents' horticultural therapy.

SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Registration & Spring Shopping in our Marketplace
12 noon Floral Demonstration, followed by Lunch and our Special Guest Speaker Mark Cullen

TICKETS

Early bird (until April 4): \$90
Regular (after April 4): \$110

FEATURING

Kate Seaver



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Mark Cullen is Canada's favorite gardening expert and best-selling author, having written 24 books. Mark will be sharing his passion for Canada's most popular outdoor leisure activity and the impact of gardening on our lives and the greater community.

Unionville Home Society
Foundation presents



2025
UNIONVILLE
CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

ANGUS GLEN GOLF CLUB SOUTH COURSE

7:00 am Registration | **8:00 am** Shotgun start

TICKETS

Per golfer... \$300
Early bird foursome (until June 20)... \$1,100
Foursome (after June 20)... \$1,200

Includes: 18 Holes of golf with cart, Continental breakfast, Lunch, Passport of activities

In support of Union Villa Long Term Care



For more information on participation, sponsorship, or making a donation, please contact the Foundation office at (905) 477-2822 ext. 4270 or by email at mdimson@uhs.on.ca. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

**portion of ticket fees may be eligible for a tax receipt, subject to CRA guidelines*