

The SOCIETY Scoop

Greetings from our President and CEO, Abby Katz Starr

As we embrace the vibrant energy of summer, I'm pleased to share some updates and reflections from across our campus.

Last month, we successfully hosted the Annual General Meetings for our three corporations, Unionville Home Society, Unionville Home Society Foundation, and Wyndham Gardens Apartments of Unionville. These meetings not only provide a formal opportunity for our Boards and senior leadership to report on performance with transparency and accountability, but also allow us to pause, reflect, and celebrate the accomplishments of the past year as we move forward with renewed purpose and vision.

We've also been hard at work shaping the future of our organization through the development of our next Strategic Plan, set to launch in Fall 2025. This plan will provide a clear and focused direction, ensuring we continue to meet the evolving needs of our community with compassion, innovation, and excellence.

In alignment with our commitment to resident-focused and emotion-based care, our staff continue to engage in specialized training initiatives, including DementiAbility and Virtual Reality programming. These efforts are central to fully implementing our care model and enhancing quality of life for those we serve.

June was a particularly exciting time as we celebrated Seniors Month with a variety of events across Unionville Home Society. It was heartwarming to see so many residents, families, community members, and staff come together in celebration. Another highlight



A sunny moment with our CEO, a resident, and their family.

was the Unionville Home Society Foundation's Unionville Charity Golf Classic, where generous sponsors and golfers rallied to raise vital funds in support of Union Villa Long-Term Care home.

Looking ahead, we recognize the growing importance of ensuring our physical spaces are not only welcoming and accessible, but also resilient in the face of changing climate conditions. In the coming months, we'll be launching new fundraising efforts focused on enhancing and adapting our physical environment—from improving cooling and ventilation systems to creating more sustainable and comfortable spaces for residents and families to enjoy year-round.

As always, I want to sincerely thank our clients, their families, staff, volunteers, and community partners. Together, we are dreaming bigger and redefining what it means to age with dignity, joy, and purpose.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer!



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My Life: A Resident Profile

Meet Paul Guillemain

Paul was born on June 26, 1942 in Montreal, Quebec, and was the youngest of two siblings.

His father actively served in the RCAF, so the family moved many times. Like many “army brats,” he experienced a strong sense of community on those bases. In 1959, the Guillemain family settled in Toronto in the Yonge and Sheppard area. As soon as he could, Paul followed in his father’s footsteps and enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces, serving Canada on peacekeeping missions throughout Europe for four years. Wanting to stay grounded for the first time in his life, he left the CAF but continued his service as a member of the Toronto Police Force for 29 years.

During his time as a young police officer, Paul married and in 1968, welcomed the first of four beautiful children. A fifth child sadly died. The family bought a cottage in the Kawarthas where they all got to enjoy the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, and met with friends and colleagues to decompress, and hone his skills as an outdoorsman.

Paul encouraged his children to find their own joy in recreation, and they participated in many different sports and social clubs. He encouraged his children, and especially his daughters, to be independent and self-sufficient. “He was our rock,” she says. “He was a serious man, but he also had a great sense of humour. He always encouraged us to give to the needy and care for those who might be suffering.”

Paul served in many different roles throughout his time at TPS. He was an undercover officer, a uniformed motorcycle cop, and also served as the head of Toronto Police Concert Security at the Canadian National Exhibition. In this capacity, Paul provided protection for the Beatles when they visited Toronto in the 1960s!



Paul received the Governor General’s Medal for Police Exemplary Service in 1985. He retired as a Detective in 1992 and started his own paralegal business.

Eventually, all four of Paul’s children were married and he enjoyed being “Grandpa” to his eight grandchildren. In the summers, his grandchildren were fortunate to spend much time at Grandpa’s cottage, enjoying the outdoors just as his own children had done many years before.

Paul was eventually diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Disease, and the family did what they could for him until more help was needed. Paul initially spent some time in a retirement home, then was moved to Union Villa for specialty care. His daughter says that this was the best decision they ever made on Paul’s behalf, and they feel that he is blessed to reside there. The severity of Paul’s Alzheimer’s has now rendered him nonverbal and wheelchair bound, but when the family visits he still lights up with a familiar twinkle in his eye. This year, Paul was one of only five recipients in Markham-Unionville to receive the King Charles III Coronation Medal, in honour of his many years of service to his community. His family is so very proud of him.

Celebrating Seniors' Month at Unionville Home Society

June was truly a month to remember as we proudly celebrated Seniors Month 2025 on our campus, guided by Ontario's inspiring theme: "Fit, Active and Healthy Seniors."

The month's festivities included vibrant entertainment and engaging activities, with a standout moment being the *Shining Stars Showcase*, where staff and residents shared their talents, from musical performances to dance. The energy and creativity on display highlighted the joy of self-expression.

Throughout the month, our technology workshops empowered participants to stay curious and connected. These sessions promoted lifelong learning, covered emerging digital tools, and encouraged greater comfort and confidence in using technology, reinforcing the idea that learning never has to stop, no matter your age.

Our Seniors Luncheon, one of the month's marquee events hosted by Unionville Home Society (UHS), welcomed 100+ seniors with special guests including UHS President & CEO Abby Katz Starr, Ontario's

Minister for Seniors and Accessibility Raymond Cho, Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Ward 3 Councillor Reid McAlpine. Each shared thoughtful reflections on aging, wellness, and the importance of community. We were also honoured by warm greetings from the offices of MP Michael Ma and MPP Billy Pang, adding to the spirit of appreciation and support that marked the occasion. Thank you to Stouffville Creek Retirement Residence for generously sponsoring the luncheon.

Each event throughout Seniors Month was a powerful testament to the vitality, wisdom, and spirit of the older adults in our care. At UHS, we remain committed to celebrating their contributions and uplifting their voices, not only in June, but every day of the year.



UHS staff and residents showcase their talents

Senior's Month Highlights



Cheers to Senior Month



Union Villa introduces a new fitness circuit for residents



Experiencing Virtual Reality



Seniors Month luncheon with Minister Raymond Cho and CEO Abby Katz Starr



Thank you to all our volunteers who made Seniors Month so great!



Mayor Frank Scarpitti, together with Stouffville Creek staff and UHS CEO Abby Katz Starr award raffle prize to lucky senior.



Arriving in style for the Golden Hour Gala at Union villa



Special Seniors Month Bingo

UNIONVILLE HOME SOCIETY FOUNDATION



GOLF FORE UNION VILLA

Raising Funds, Engaging our Community and Investing in Resident Care

On July 8, 2024, we teed off at Angus Glen Golf Club for the 9th Annual Unionville Charity Golf Classic in support of Union Villa Long-Term Care and what an extraordinary day it was! This year's event was more than a golf tournament; it was a vibrant celebration of compassion, connection, and community.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we raised over \$58,000 net — a remarkable achievement that will fuel innovative enhancements at Union Villa. These funds will be invested in elevating the dining experience for our most vulnerable residents—supporting independence, dignity, and better nutrition every day.

- **Adaptive Dining Tables:** Designed to meet a variety of mobility needs, ensuring comfort and inclusivity at mealtimes
- **Dementiability Plates:** Specialized, high-contrast dining ware that fosters independence and encourages healthier eating habits
- **Blixer Equipment:** A critical addition for our dietary team, allowing for the safe preparation of modified meals for residents with swallowing challenges

A special thanks to Danny Fantini and Larry Mariani, long time volunteers and visionary founders of this fundraising tournament whose unwavering commitment has championed our mission from the very beginning. To our dedicated Golf Committee Members and tireless volunteers, your work behind the scenes shaped this year's success. And to our sponsors and golfers, your support and enthusiasm helped us surpass our goals and brought to life the very spirit of community that Union Villa represents.

Together, we're shaping a more connected and inspired future of care. Thank you for being part of our future where we are dreaming bigger and Redefining Aging for generations to come.



Congratulations AWIN - the winning foursome



Heading to the Fairways



Mayor Frank Scarpitti with Co-Chairs



Post-golf networking



Enjoying espresso and sweets on the course

Thank you to our 2025 Sponsors

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2025 Golf Committee:

Danny Fantini & Larry Mariani, and committee members – Don Carvalho,
Lorraine Chipperfield, Paul Cousens, Glenn Crosby,
Valerie Fantini, Adele Mariani, Santo Natale,
Reid McAlpine - Ward 3 Councillor, City of Markham, Jan van Velzen

SAVE THE DATE

2025 UNION VILLA DINNER PARTY

Redefining Aging

Innovation, Dignity and the Future of Care

Thursday November 6, 2025

Angus Glen Golf Club | 6:00 pm Reception | 7:00pm Dinner

For information on sponsorship and tickets,
please contact: dinnerparty@uhs.on.ca or (905) 477-2822 ext 4270.

Charitable registration No. 87172 1900 RR000



Proceeds from the 2025 Union Villa Dinner Party will fund essential improvements to our home's infrastructure and help us invest in progressive technology that enhances our dementia-friendly model of care. These initiatives are part of our unwavering commitment to leading innovation in long-term care, while always putting first what matters most: the comfort, dignity, and joy of every resident who calls Union Villa their home.

For more information on tickets, corporate tables, sponsorship, or donating to our silent auction, please contact the Foundation at (905) 477-2822 ext 4270 or by email at dinnerparty@uhs.on.ca. We hope you can join us on November 6th!

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



Our Mission

Engaging our communities through a continuum of services that enhances the experience of aging.

Our Vision

A progressive community where older adults thrive, age well and live better.

Charitable Registration #87172 1940 RR0001