

The SOCIETY Scoop

Greetings from President and CEO, Abby Katz Starr

As the weather turns cooler and the leaves begin to change, Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on all that we have to celebrate at Unionville Home Society.

It has been a season of momentum across our campus. From the addition of our new lottery vending machine to the incredible response to our first LTC Engagement Day, these new opportunities to connect remind us what happens when the UHS community comes together. We were also honoured to receive a letter from Premier Doug Ford recognizing the impact of our work.

While many accomplishments are visible, there is also a great deal happening behind the scenes as we plan for UHS's future. Our Board has resumed its work with a strong focus on advancing our strategic plan, expanding our campus and identifying new opportunities for growth and partnership. We are hopeful that approval for our application to increase the number of residents we can serve will be received and look forward to sharing more about the exciting possibilities ahead.

We are equally eager to confirm next steps with York Region for the future of the Unionville Community Centre for Seniors. Moving into our own dedicated space will allow us to expand our programming and strengthen our ability to serve older adults throughout the community.

Our fundraising efforts are also evolving. Our newly established Fundraising Committee is exploring innovative ways to diversify funding and deepen our community connections, including showcasing resident artwork and expanding our Holiday Campaign.

We are pleased as well to have received funding through AdvantAge Ontario and Healthcare Excellence Canada for Nursing Home Without

Walls. Building on our previous waitlist project, this initiative will help connect people in the community with resources they need to maintain an engaged and safe home environment.

Other possible grant opportunities are underway, including recently approved support for a new pollinator garden at Union Villa. What excites me most is that behind every project, partnership and new opportunity is the same purpose: Enhancing the Experience of Aging, One Person at a Time.

I am grateful to our staff, volunteers, Board, families, partners and community for the commitment and support that make this work possible. There is much to look forward to, and I am excited to see these plans take shape.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and a happy, healthy fall season.

– Abby Katz Starr



MPP Pang joins UHS President and CEO at UHS's LTC Day.

Greetings from UHS Board Chair, Philip Enright

Although the Autumn daylight hours are getting shorter, the level of anticipation and activity is accelerating at our campus of care.

As I settle into my second and final year as Chair of the UHS Board, I look with excitement towards the prospects of growth and success that are on the UHS horizon. The economic landscape that surrounds our society will make our journey challenging. It will require diligence, smart decisions and patience. All not-for-profit organizations are similarly challenged. Long-term care homes do not get a free pass.

What sets Unionville Home Society apart?

First and foremost, we have a superb care staff supplemented by a strong volunteer and resident family base. The quality-of-care UHS staff extend to our residents is second to none and remains our mission priority. I can do no better than to quote the conclusions of the CARF assessors in their Report of our LTC home when they assessed our operation after 2 days of on-site examination in May:

“Staff members across disciplines demonstrate compassion, professionalism and dedication to persons served and families...Leadership is engaged, forward thinking and committed to maintaining a culture that prioritizes the dignity, safety, wellness and quality of life of the persons served.”



We also have a strong strategic plan, a skilled senior leadership team led by our President and CEO, Abby Katz Starr and an engaged, committed volunteer Board of Directors. We will be leaning on that strategic plan and leveraging all our skills and efforts in the months ahead to ensure that that culture of superlative care recognized by the CARF accreditation continues to thrive.

– Philip Enright



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A Resident Profile: Meet Harvey

Harvey was born in Parry Sound in November of 1945.

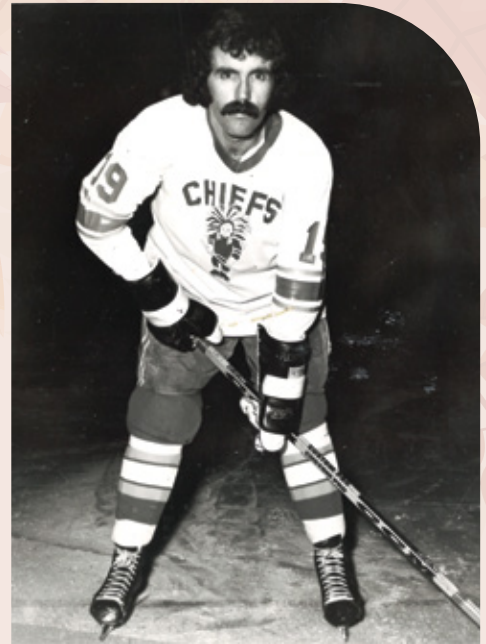
The sixth of seven children, his active childhood was primarily spent on Georgian Bay, either diving off the rocks into the water or gliding along the ice, which sparked his lifelong passion for hockey. “He played from the time he was five ‘til the time he was seventy-five!” his wife Verna explains. He even played with Bobby Orr, also a Parry Sound native and a couple years his junior. Harvey proudly shows off his collection of Boston Bruins memorabilia, his favourite team.

In high school, Harvey moved to Tilsonberg to focus on hockey, traveling all over Ontario—including Etobicoke, where he played with Ken Drysden—before he moved to B.C. By his early twenties, Harvey was playing semi-pro for the Copper City Chiefs in New York state.

On a visit home to Parry Sound, Harvey reconnected with Verna, who was home for a break during her studies in Oakville. In 1978, they married and soon settled down in Markham to raise their son and daughter.

Verna worked as a librarian while Harvey worked at different warehouses, dealing with inventory such as children’s books, vinyl records, décor, and clothing. He continued to play hockey on adult leagues and coached both his son’s and daughter’s hockey teams (as well as their baseball teams).

More recently, Harvey learned about his father’s Métis heritage. “I am a proud member of the Métis nation,” he declares—specifically, the Georgian Bay Métis of Penetanguishene. Harvey’s family



discovered that their paternal ancestors moved from Drummond Island (now part of the U.S.) to the British army fort after the war of 1812. Harvey’s nephew Rob is now a senator for the Métis Nation of Ontario, and Harvey and his daughter Genna are registered citizens. Though Harvey has been unable to attend, he is immensely proud of his nephew and his daughter who are able to represent him and his family at the gatherings.

Between 2023 and 2025, Harvey experienced two strokes, which eventually led him to move to Union Villa in September 2025. Though it was hard to adapt, Verna visits every day, and Harvey now enjoys the activities. Some of his favourites include Bingo, boxing classes, art therapy, and balloon toss.

A visit to his room sees Harvey surrounded by family photos, lots of hockey jerseys and caps, and there’s a very high chance that there’s a sports game playing on the T.V. He shows off his Provincial Ontario Hockey Association Medal, which reads, “Parry Sound - Junior C Championship 1965-1966 – H. Willett.”

Verna and Harvey tease each other with a laugh, and Verna sums it up: “Mostly it’s been hockey, hockey, hockey!”

LTC Community Engagement Day Highlights

Celebrating Community at Unionville Home Society

Union Villa was pleased to welcome more than 100 attendees through our doors on September 18, 2026, in recognition of Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day, a province-wide initiative encouraging long-term care homes to open their doors and welcome their communities.

The day brought together residents and clients, families, staff, volunteers, partners, sector colleagues, and elected representatives for an opportunity to connect, engage, and celebrate the people and partnerships that contribute to a strong and vibrant long-term care community.

Guests had the opportunity to explore Union Villa, meet residents and staff, learn more about the programs and services available across our campus, and experience firsthand the many relationships and partnerships that enrich the lives of older adults.

Long-term care is about care, of course—but it is also about relationships, laughter, purpose, learning, and belonging. At Unionville Home Society, we strive to create a welcoming campus where older adults are valued, continue to grow and contribute, and are supported by a caring community.

Our sincere thanks go to EasyCare Transit, Staff Relief Healthcare, Compass Group-Marquise Hospitality, Medisystem Pharmacy and Advantage Ontario for their support and shared commitment to older adults.

Most importantly, the day was a celebration of the people at the heart of Union Villa. Thank you for your continued support and partnership—and, most importantly, for helping us create a connected and engaged Home for the people we serve.

We look forward to welcoming our community back for future visits, events, and celebrations across our campus.



“ I’m pleased to extend my best wishes to everyone attending Unionville Home Society’s Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day. What a great opportunity to celebrate the people, partnerships and sense of belonging that make long-term care communities so special. ”

— Premier Doug Ford



Recreation showcase of resident activities.



Staff demo the Budii interactive projection activity.



Resident crafts submitted to the Markham Fair.



Marquise Hospitality serves up tasty samples.

Volunteer profile: Meet Jenny Mak

"It's all about giving back"

If you've ever attended a gathering at UCCS or Wyndham Gardens, you are almost certain to see Jenny with her warm smile as she helps serve coffee or lead a fitness class. "I just enjoy it, that's it!" she says.

Jenny has been volunteering "for forever" since she came to Canada from Malaysia—where she trained as a Montessori teacher—almost forty years ago with her husband and three children. She worked in daycare, business, and her last job was as a property manager for twenty years before she retired. Throughout her career, she volunteered at her children's school, community centres with fitness classes, and religious centres with food bank programs—many of which she continues with today. "I thought it's natural, though," she explains. "Everyone does it."

Jenny specializes in strength training, in which she was certified by the City of Toronto years ago, and taught fitness classes at the YMCA in Markham. She is always taking courses to keep up her credentials for both her own knowledge and her teaching, including fall prevention courses. Often, she would help individuals in need, such as friends recovering after surgery. "Many are not able to go to the gym and have mobility issues—those are the people I love to share my passion with."

Though she has been retired for fourteen years, Jenny is more active than ever. She moved to Wyndham Gardens Apartments of Unionville two and a half years ago, and soon found herself teaching board games, a favourite hobby (particularly Rummikub). Those gatherings then evolved into stretching and strength training. She also began to attend the Unionville Community Centre for Seniors, and was eager to help when she was approached. Now she is teaching fitness classes for seniors with UCCS this fall.



Jenny loves to travel, and she worked in Israel for five years, a cherished opportunity to experience new places and cultures. Though she does not travel as much now, some favourite activities include line dancing, reading, bike riding, walking almost every day, and strength and weight training.

She continues to volunteer with food bank programs such as "Cram a Cruiser" where they gathered food donations to fill a police car, an annual event in front of Longo's in Thornhill. She also volunteers with "Out of the Cold" that serves food in different religious centres where she helps to prepare packed lunches for those in need throughout winter. "It's so rewarding to see people so generous."

It's impossible to accurately capture Jenny's contributions to and, most importantly, her heart for her community. "I really enjoy meeting people and helping people—that's my passion," she explains matter-of-factly. "I'm honoured to have the opportunity to serve. Maybe there are people who don't have the opportunity like me." She attributes her accomplishments to her family and her faith and insists, "I'm only behind the scenes, I'm not good under the spotlight." There are few more deserving of the spotlight, and our UHS community is all the richer for her generosity. Thank you, Jenny!



SAVE THE DATE!



UNIONVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR SENIORS (UCCS)

SENIORS ACTIVE LIVING FAIR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

UNIONVILLE COMMONS

4310 HIGHWAY 7, MARKHAM, ON L3R 6N2

UCCS is excited to welcome you to our annual Seniors' Active Living Fair, presented in collaboration with the Older Adults Centres Association of Ontario (OACAO) and the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA).

Join this fun and informative event to:

- Explore local programs, services, and resources for older adults
- Learn from engaging presentations and demonstrations
- Connect with community organizations and other older adults
- Take advantage of complimentary blood pressure checks
- Enjoy healthy snacks and refreshments

CELEBRATE ACTIVE LIVING & COMMUNITY!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

For further details, please reach out to us at:

Phone: (437) 431-2831 | Email: uccs@uhs.on.ca



Funding provided by:



2026 Union Villa Dinner Party: A Signature Fundraiser for Union Villa Residents

The Union Villa Dinner Party is more than an evening of celebration, it is our signature fundraising event and an opportunity for community leaders, businesses, and philanthropists to invest in the future of seniors' care. Together, we are redefining what aging can look like by creating a community where older adults are supported with compassion, innovation, and exceptional care.

Join fellow corporate and community leaders for an unforgettable event featuring exceptional dining, live entertainment, an exciting silent auction, inspiring stories of resident impact, and meaningful opportunities to make a lasting difference.

2026 UNION VILLA DINNER PARTY

Redefining Aging

From Vision to Impact

.....

Thursday November 6, 2026

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

.....

Tickets*: \$270 each until October 15th | \$300 as of October 16th





To purchase tickets or for more information on supporting our philanthropic initiatives, please contact the foundation office at (905) 477-2822 ext 4270.

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

Charitable Registration #87172 1940 RR0001

Our Mission

Enhancing the experience of aging, one person at a time.

Our Vision

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