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Noric House celebrates four decades of great care in Vernon

VERNON – Residents and staff at Noric House long-term care home are celebrating the facility’s 40th anniversary this week, recognizing four decades of quality care in the community.

It’s the kind of care that prompts Jennifer Hartley to report that her grandfather, a current Noric House resident, “is the best he has ever been and he just loves it there.”

Located in Vernon, Noric House embodies a person-centered philosophy designed to support the choices and dignity of frail individuals with complex needs by providing the best quality of life possible, and respectful end-of-life care.

“Places like Noric House continue to hold an important place in the continuum of care for older adults,” says Health Minister Adrian Dix. “Congratulations to the staff and physicians who have made Noric house a home for thousands of people over the years.”

“Long-term care provides a safe, comfortable and home-like environment for people to live with dignity. Our thanks to the staff, physicians, administrators, auxiliary members and volunteers at Noric House as they mark four decades of compassionate care,” says Interior Health Board Chair Doug Cochrane.

The story of Noric House began Aug. 20, 1974. The community formed a board to oversee the construction and operations of an intermediate care home that would meet the needs of those unable to independently care for themselves. As a result of a community contest, the name NORIC (North Okanagan Regional Intermediate Care) came to life. Noric House was constructed on four acres of land, which was originally occupied by a sheep farm at the top of Mission Hill. On Oct. 28, 1978, Noric House officially opened and became home to 88 residents.

In 2004, the care home underwent some key renovations, creating four communities with separate kitchens, dining and lounge areas. The first floor was remodeled to provide a bistro, living room, wellness centre, snoezelen room (sensory stimulation) and a hair salon.

Currently, Noric House has 85 private bedrooms, each with its own ensuite bathroom and ceiling track lift. Outside areas include peaceful gardens, gazebos and pathways for individuals to enjoy.

“The technologies and methods for providing care may have changed over the past four decades but the underlining focus of putting the residents first has remained the same,” says Noric House manager Victor Skrinnikoff. “I am thankful for our amazing care team here. They work hard and truly make a difference in the everyday lives of everyone living at Noric House.”

To mark the 40th anniversary, a festive day of live music and food was organized for the enjoyment of residents, staff and guests by Noric’s recreational therapist, Nicole Lacroix.

Learn more about Interior Health’s long-term care services at www.interiorhealth.ca.

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