



Trillium Villa Family Council February 2014 Newsletter

BRENDA MARSHALL 519-336-6006 (CHAIR)
519-490-0200

DIANE PASSINGHAM 519-344-9619 (CO-CHAIR)

Family Council holds regular scheduled meetings the 4th Wednesday of each month @ 6:30 p.m. in the home's library. Dates of our meetings are always posted on the Family Council bulletin board in "Skylight Hall". We are presently in need of new members. It is a great way to meet new friends and an even a better way to get to know the staff and residents of our home. Please watch the bulletin boards through out the home for council events and activities. Members can be identified by their nametags that are worn while they are in the home. Should you have any questions please feel free to stop us in the hall for a chat. Stay safe and we hope to meet with you in the near future!

Trillium Villa Family Council would like to take this opportunity to send our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the devastating fire in L'Isle-Verte, Quebec. Many of the residents living in the 52 unit Residence du Havre home perished in the January 23rd, 2014 fire. The loss of life from this disaster have left many of us wondering.....could this happen in our Long Term Care home? Is there a sprinkler system in our facility?

Once council heard of this unfortunate accident we had an emergency meeting via a telephone conference call. We decided that we needed to meet with the management of Trillium to discuss what procedures were in place should such a disaster take place in our home. A call was put in to Jen Allison, the Administrator of Trillium Villa the morning after the disaster. We asked to meet with her as soon as possible. We explained council's concerns and told her that we needed to reassure our residents and family members that our loved ones were indeed safe. Jen was already on top of things and had set her own plan in motion before I even talked with her. She was more than willing to meet with us. A date was set and plans were made to meet that very week. Jen had invited Tammy Nutt (Manager of Environmental Services) to our meeting as well. Tammy is a certified "Fire Safety For Care and Treatment Occupancies" who makes safety her number one priority within our home. We are very lucky to have Tammy employed in our facility with her vast amount of knowledge.

Council had a number of questions we wanted answers to. Some of those questions were the following:

- 1) Were our residents in a safe and well-protected home?
- 2) What procedures are put in place to protect our seniors?
- 3) Do we have a sprinkler system in our facility?
- 4) How will they work together to get everyone out of the facility safely?

Once we met, Jen and Tammy went over the home's procedures and guidelines. They showed me the documentation that was in regular use and explained the follow-up that needed to take place after each fire drill and incident. They discussed their yearly in house training that was mandatory by all personnel within the home. I was amazed at the number of procedures and regular maintenance schedules that took place within the home on a monthly, quarterly and yearly basis by both inhouse qualified personnel and outside organizations. Both Jen and Tammy reassured me that they do everything possible to keep our residents safe. Not only must these procedures be followed but they enable our residents to get out of the home quickly and safely should a fire occur.



Most of you may not know but Trillium Villa installed a new sprinkler system last year. Sprinkler systems are now mandated in all Ontario homes where seniors or disabled individuals are housed. Magnetic doors are presently in all sections of our home and will close automatically once the alarms have been sounded. I was thrilled to find out that 3 fire drills take place once a month (1 audible and 2 silent). Should a fire occur and the home needs to be evacuated all residents are identified once outside with identification wrist bands. Should for any reason a resident is not accounted for they can be easily identified by the unused wrist band. These bands are updated on a continuous basis. What a great idea!

By now most of you must have received a letter from Jen herself reassuring us that our loved ones are in good hands and that all of the Trillium staff are well trained in the case of any unforeseen event. I must say, after my meeting with Jen and Tammy I felt confident that my Mom would get the best possible care I could ask for should ever a disaster occur in our home.

If you have not had the time to look at your own fire plan for home Family Council and the staff at Trillium Villa urges you to please do so now! Don't forget as of January 1st it is now the law to have a carbon monoxide detector installed in your home.

Please keep yourself and your family members safe! Review your fire plan now!