

Quality Palliative Care in Long-Term Care Alliance

Data Collection is Underway!!

Data collection has begun in Bethammi Nursing Home in Thunder Bay with the other three homes soon to follow. Ethics approvals were obtained at Lakehead University, McMaster University and St. Joseph's Care Group during the summer months. Bethammi staff has been very receptive and welcoming to research assistant Alesha Gaudet, who is responsible for onsite data collection, and Lakehead University graduate students: Lise Arseneau, April Corner, Jessica McAnulty, Benjamin Mireku and Leeza Speziale. They have been very busy getting surveys completed and facilitating focus groups. Like all beginning stages of research there are small hurdles that need to be overcome. We are currently learning about the culture of long-term care homes and building relationships. Our experience in Bethammi will facilitate the data collection in Hogarth Riverview Manor (Thunder Bay), Allendale Village (Milton) and Creek Way Village (Burlington). We are pleased with the data we have collected thus far and hope to have some preliminary findings to share early in the new year.

We believe that involvement by Personal Support Workers (PSWs) will be key to the success of this project. Therefore, one PSW in each LTC home will be chosen to be part of our team, acting as a liaison with his or her colleagues. PSWs at Bethammi and Hogarth-Riverview Manor were invited to submit an expression of interest in taking on this role. The process of selecting one for each home is now underway and we hope to welcome these new team members soon.

Bethammi Nursing Home Profile

Bethammi was built in 1979 and it is owned by St. Joseph's Care Group, a non-profit Catholic organization supported by a volunteer board of directors. The building is three floors of bustling activity as it houses many community businesses and agencies as well as providing specialized nursing care to 110 residents.

The residents have access to a coffee shop so they can enjoy snacks with their family and friends, and a convenience store to purchase a newspaper or this week's lotto ticket. Life enrichment keeps the residents busy with planned activities on a daily basis, and the spiritual care program conducts services in their onsite chapel.

One of the unique features of this home is the availability of a palliative care room which offers the residents and their families much needed privacy and space. Hospice volunteer services are also offered to residents if requested.

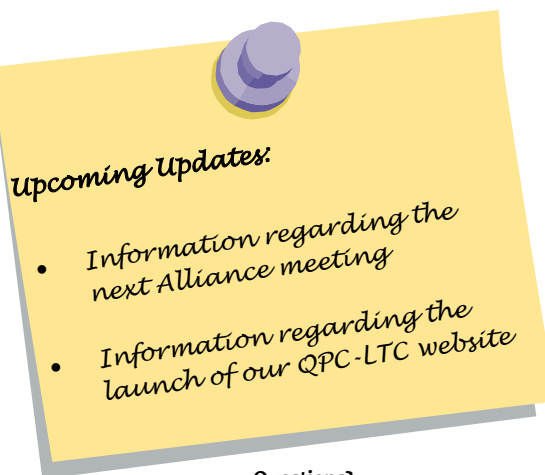
Bethammi was the site of the 2008 study conducted by Dr. Mary Lou Kelley and her team which examined the experience of people dying with dementia in long-term care. St. Joseph's Care Group has a long standing research relationship with CERAH and Dr. Kelley which has been invaluable to the CURA project.

QPC-LTC: Spreading the Word

Since receiving full support by the research ethics boards at both Lakehead University and St. Joseph's Care Group, the research team at CERAH has been actively working to engage and inform the staff at Bethammi Nursing Home, Hogarth Riverview Manor and the university community. Here is a list of the presentations given to date:

- Hogarth Riverview Manor (HRM) Family Council – Sept. 9
- Bethammi Family Council – Sept. 14
- HRM Caring Hearts Palliative Care Team – Sept. 14
- Bethammi RN staff meeting – Sept. 16
- HRM Resident Council – Sept. 16
- LU School of Social Work Agency Days – Sept. 17
- Bethammi PSW staff meeting – Sept. 23
- Thunder Bay LTC Administrators' meeting - Sept. 28
- Bethammi Resident Council – Sept. 28
- HRM RN staff meeting – Sept. 29
- LU Master of Social Work Research class – Oct. 8
- In Touch, SJCG Newsletter – October Issue

A special thank you to Wendy Kirkpatrick, Administrator, Resident Counsellor Dennis Morettin, residents and families of Grandview Lodge Home for the Aged (Thunder Bay) for helping us to pre-test some of our interviews this summer.



Questions?

Please forward questions or comments to:

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