

TO THE WONDERFUL STAFF OF CARLETON-KIRK LODGE

Words simply cannot express the gratitude and love that the Harrison family feels towards everyone who works at the Lodge. For the past seven years you have worked to make a home for our Dad (Clarence), surrounding him with loving, compassionate, excellent care. Whenever we brought Dad back to the Lodge after an outing, he would come thru the door, give a contented sigh and say "Ah! Home Sweet Home".

The nursing staff have treated Dad as if he was their own beloved Father, with quite a few of them even calling him Papa. In trying to think of who to name, we discovered that it is impossible to pick special people out of the nursing staff, as every one of them "nurses from the heart"!! Sitting with Dad during his last few days really opened our eyes to the challenges the nurses face every shift.

The nursing staff are not the only stars at Carleton-Kirk Lodge, Karen and Mike in the Recreation department do an amazing job of keeping the residents spirits up with some very, zany, interesting and innovative activities. Dad so enjoyed taking part in all the activities and was very excited to be crowned "King of the Lodge" this year and was very proud of his title "Champion Watermelon Seed Spitter", which he won this past June. Dad loved Karen and Mike very much!!

Chrissy in the Physio department kept Dad as mobile as possible, for as long as was possible, and also undertook to look after the handling and maintenance of his hearing aids. This was sometimes a daunting task as Dad complained about them a lot and liked to leave them out!

She also went above and beyond, helping Dad to get strong enough to have a dance with his date at last year's prom. It was a very special moment!

The rest of the Lodge staff from Maintenance, to Dietary, Cleaning staff, and Front Office staff, took care of Dad's needs with unfailing good humour for over seven years and he loved you all!

During Dad's final days, practically everyone who works at the Lodge came in to say goodbye to him, (some even interrupting their vacation) with most leaving in tears. This really showed us how much he was loved. Rest assured, he loved you all so very much!! Dad was a staunch defender of his caregivers as I am sure you all know. He always felt that you were overworked and underpaid!! Nobody dared to say a word against his girls!!!

In closing, let me say when I need nursing home care, I will be going to Carleton-Kirk Lodge, where they serve their residents "from their hearts"!!

Thank you all, thank you

Sharon Russell

(on behalf of the Harrison family)