E M B R A C I N G CHANGE

Serving Boomers, Seniors & Caregivers in Wilmot, Wellesley & Woolwich Township

VOL 5 ISSUE 7 MARCH 2023

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Feature Business of the Month



Community resource guide to help you and your loved ones age in place!

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Elaine Bechthold, founder of Money Measures talks about her unique approach to developing spending plans for seniors. See the full story on page 8

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome Spring ...

As we welcome the first day of spring on March 20th we will soon start to notice the tiny buds forming on the trees and warmer weather coming - bringing with it new life and joy! Spring is such a wonderful season for so many reasons. We get to enjoy warmer weather, more sunshine, birds and animals begin to emerge, flowers begin to bloom, leaves begin to grow, and you can finally open your windows again and let the fresh spring air inside!

In March we recognize Fraud

Prevention month. With fraud on the rise and cybercrime booming, criminals and technology are becoming sophisticated. Both individuals and businesses are at risk. Criminals are focused on trying to obtain your personal information, access your devices and assume your identity. How can you protect yourself from cyberthieves? Be sure to check out the article by our local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Mary Friesen on page 17.

Life Hack Tip ~ Find the End of the Tape Roll

Masking tape, packing tape, duct tape or just regular sticky tape all see frequent use when it comes to DIY projects, with nearly infinite uses around the house and garden.

However, one thing that can really slow you down and cause major frustration is when you can't find the end of a roll of tape. It's often difficult to locate the tape end with

your fignernail, especially when the tape is clear.

Instead of wasting time searching for the tape end, simply try this trick. All you need to do is place a paperclip on the roll of tape just after where you are about to make the cut. Then smooth the tape down against the roll. When you want to use the tape again, this trick makes it easy to find the end of the roll!



Wishing you all a bright and beautiful Spring!







Flashback Photo

A Notable Family and a Horse from St. Clements

Provided by: Nancy Maitland, Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society

The Meyer family has played an integral role in the history of Wellesley Township since the first pioneer siblings – Magdalena, Jacob, Catherina and George - arrived in St. Clements in 1831. Jacob S. Meyer (1855-1927), the son of George Meyer and Eva Marie Stroh was involved in business and governance of the early township.

Jacob was a farmer, worked as a tax collector and served on Wellesley Township Council. He was also the manager of the Wellesley Clydesdale Horse Breeders' Association. He organized the annual horse show in Wellesley and showed his own Clydesdales which were imported from Scotland.

One of the many notable horses in the township was Redgauntlet, a Clydesdale stallion owned and raised by Jacob Meyer. As Jacob travelled to farms throughout the area to stud his horses, he often timed his travels to coincide with his tax collection duties. According to family lore, he carried a large revolver with him at tax time due to the large sums of money he had collected.

In 1900, Jacob's wife's sister Anna (Affholder)

Koebel (1862-1942) painted a picture of Redgauntlet. She had entered the convent at a young age where she received training in religion and art, but she left the convent when she was called home to care for her dying father, Ignatius Affholder (1832-1884). Anna later married Henry Koebel in 1885 and they had nine children.

Anna is known to have done several other paintings and occasionally worked for St. Clements cabinet maker, George Rosenblatt who designed altars for churches in the region and beyond. She did all the gilt work on the altars Rosenblatt created.

In 2012 Jacob's grandson Ralph Meyer and his daughter Maryann Gavin, donated Anna's original painting to Schneider Haus National Historic Site in Kitchener for preservation and display. It is an excellent example of Ontario folk art. In 2015 Mr. Meyer presented a fine art print of the painting to the township along with this photo of Jacob and Redgauntlet. After being displayed in the township office, it was transferred to the WTHHS in 2018.

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FEATURE BUSINESS OF THE MONTH: BAYSHORE HOME HEALTH





As media reports often remind us, Canada's population is aging – already, seniors outnumber children in this country, and seniors are also the fastest-growing demographic. These facts are often accompanied by hand-wringing over how much it will cost taxpayers to support seniors' health care and pensions in the decades to come. Seniors do have high health-care and social-service needs, but what's often lost in the conversation is how much seniors contribute to society. For instance, did you know that 1.5 million of Canada's nearly eight million caregivers are 65 or older? Here's a snapshot of how older adults give back to society and make our world a better place:

Caregiving

Nearly a quarter of people aged 65 or older provide help or care to family members and friends with a long-term health condition, a disability or problems related to aging, according to Statistics Canada. More than a quarter of senior caregivers say their health as suffered as a result of their caregiving responsibilities.

Child care

Canada has 7.5 million grandparents, the highest number ever. They have fewer grandchildren than in generations past, but their relationships with grandkids are longer and richer. Some grandparents share a household with their children and grandchildren. In "skip-generation" households, grandparents are the primary caregivers for grandkids, with no middle generation – in 2016, over 30,000 children lived only with grandparents.

Volunteering

Prior to the pandemic, older adults who volunteered contributed the most hours per person, on average. Among other benefits, local volunteerism helps communities build resilience and manage risk in a crisis. Seniors get a lot out of volunteering, too, including community engagement, life-long learning, and better physical and mental health.

Sharing knowledge

Seniors have a wealth of knowledge and lived experience, making them valuable mentors and teachers. After retiring from full-time work, many older adults continue to contribute through volunteering on committees and boards, providing consulting services or mentoring younger people. These activities can also give retirees a sense of purpose as they navigate life after work.

Charitable donations

Seniors are a generous bunch – per person, they give more money to charities than other age groups. Seniors contribute financially in other ways, too, supporting children or grandchildren either by sharing their homes or providing funds. And, of course, let's not forget the vast sums of taxes that seniors have paid over their lifetime, contributing to society at large.

Bayshore Home Health offers a wide range of home care services to help Canadians live independently for as long as possible.

226.215.3152 kwprivate@bayshore.ca

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Can you Please Tell Us More About Myo-Functional Therapy?

Kelly Durst, IRDH Owner and Hygenist: Health First Dental Hygiene



For most of us, Myo-Functional Therapy is a relatively new concept. We often go to the dental office thinking of teeth cleanings and fillings. But what about the actual function and mobility of your face and its muscles? Did you know there are solutions to your TMJ issues, eating and swallowing trouble, snoring and mild sleep apnea? Myo-functional therapy can be the answer.

Myo-functional therapy is a set of personalized, highly effective physical therapy exercises used to treat oro-facial disorders (OMDs). These disorders can include:

- ✓ Jaw pain
- ✓ Chronic face and neck pain
- ✓ Mouth breathing (nasal breathing is best for overall mouth and body health)
- ✓ Orthodontic concerns / crowded teeth
- ✓ Oral fixation habits (pen chewing, nail biting, thumb / digit sucking)
- ✓ Snoring and mild sleep apnea
- ✓ Clenching and grinding teeth
- ✓ Chewing and swallowing difficulties
- ✓ Tongue-ties

When OMDs are left untreated, they can lead to the improper function of the face and airway. We may experience headaches, neck pain and jaw pain that can be difficult to get under control. We may also find that we snore or have sleep apnea as well as speech, eating and swallowing issues.

The goal of myo-functional therapy is to rehabilitate the oral and facial muscles. Ideally, we start as early as we notice the disorder(s), but it is never too late. Would you let that bum shoulder go untreated and concede to using a sling - No! You would visit your local physiotherapist, who would have you back up and running with a sound shoulder. Let your face and airway be no different! There are solutions to OMDs through a series of progressive exercises and massage techniques. We can see improvements or the elimination of snoring / mild apnea, TMJ issues, speech challenges and eating and swallowing dysfunctions.

When visiting a myo-functional therapist, your appointment will first consist of a thorough exam, often with accompanying pictures so you can thoroughly understand what your practitioner is seeing. Based on the assessment data, a personalized regime will be put in place. You can expect a treatment plan that is around eight weeks in length, with the exercises getting increasingly more difficult. Your practitioner is with you every step of the way, working towards the goal of minimizing or eliminating your OMD.

Do you have a question or concern about your oral health? Reach out to Kelly @ 519-897-7341 or kelly@myhealthymouth.ca.



COVER STORY



Financial Peace: Develop Your Own Personal Spending Plan

WRITTEN BY: SCOTT DUNSTALL

We recently sat down with Elaine Bechthold who had Communitech in Kitchener develop the Money Measures budgeting app 1.0. Version 2.0 is the centre of a suite of solutions she offers that are designed to help folks create a customized Personal Spending Plan. It's very unique and quite different from any other "budgeting" tool that is available in the marketplace. Because the solution is customizable it can be tailored to meet the needs of specific demographics including the seniors that live in our communities. How? Let's find out.

Embracing Change: Your approach is completely different from traditional budgeting methods. Can you explain the features that make it different?

Elain Bechthold: I call it Habit Based Spending. When the money is expected to be coming in and going out is what matters with my approach. Using a habits-based approach, the Money Measure software shows what will be happening in real-time every day, including the impact on the bank balance. Really, with my approach you're not looking back and micromanaging where you're spend has been but rather, we help you create a blueprint or road map for spending money now and in the future in a way that will help you achieve your goals - with as little disruption as possible to your spending habits.

Our method lets you identify green, yellow and red-light moments coming up on the horizon. These are times when you can consider paying down debt, exercise caution or be proactive in preventing problems. Too many red-light moments (preventing problems) may mean a permanent change in spending habits, but it's a last resort.

EC: Some of the factors impacting seniors in our community are rising inflation against fixed incomes. How does the app configure to meet that environment?

EB: During periods of inflation, it's especially important for people on fixed incomes to have a budget for needs-based spending, including budgeting for seasonal fluctuations (heat, hydro etc.). It's a buffer against red light moments. Conversely, budgeting based on historical averages is one of the underlying causes of redlight moments ...forcing the use of short term dangerous solutions like accumulating credit card debt or borrowing against your home.

This use of real time, forward looking spending and the app flexibility allows customers to adapt to upcoming price increases when they are announced. Simply change the amounts for specific expenses (food, gasoline, home heating). The app does the rest.

EC: You have discussed how caregivers can benefit from using the app. Can you give us

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some examples or features that could help their management of the seniors they care for?

EB: Managing our own finances can be a challenge. Managing someone else's finances can be even more challenging, especially if your loved one is in need of paid in-home services or is transitioning from independent living to a retirement or long-term care residence. The Money Measure App allows a customer to create up to 10 files - a file can be created for your loved one's current situation (including factoring in paid in-home care) and other files can be created to explore budgeting options for making a move from one residence to another.

It's about personal dignity. Finances play a major role in where our loved ones will live and the care they will receive. You'll know you have done the best you can by maximizing the resources of the person in your care.

EC: Can you give any specific examples or case studies (without identifying names) where your solution has improved the life of a senior?

EB: Sure, it's generally accepted that staying in your own home as long as possible improves your well being, sense of independence while protecting your assets. My client lived in her own home and lived on a fixed income. When the time came to pay for in-home services the Money Measures approach was leveraged to make that happen while allowing my client to stay in her home. This allowed her to delay the cost of living in a retirement or long term care residence. Generally speaking, only long term care homes in Ontario offer rates geared to income for residents with low income. Retirement communities do not.

EC: Talk to me about the simplicity of the app. What devices can it be run on? Do you have to have any special computer or financial skills to interact with the app?

EB: The app is a web browser app. It's accessible anywhere there is WIFI. The best user experience

is on a laptop or desktop computer, but any mobile device can be used.

As mentioned previously, it's the customer's spending based on habits that is entered in the app. No particular financial skills are needed. The software does the calculations.

Many budgeting apps must be connected to a bank account in order to tap into historical financial information. This is not the case with the Money Measures software. It's a standalone app that uses current and relevant information. Your life is about tomorrow and beyond - so is our app.

EC: Do you offer any kind of training/support, either in groups or personally?

EB: Yes. During the pandemic I learned how to do walkthroughs and offer instruction virtually. In a virtual setting, it's easy to accommodate groups. A virtual walkthrough can be booked on my website for individuals and groups. Walkthroughs are free. At time of booking, indicate the number of people attending. Groups of more than 20 people are not easily manageable in a virtual setting.

Questions are expected and welcome. It's like learning to ride a bike. The first and most critical step is learning how to use it.

Additionally, one on ones can be arranged to discuss customized budgets either in person or virtually. Getting answers to questions about how to enter and use the information is free whether you are a subscriber or not. It's part of the customer service experience.

EC: And finally, how do you obtain the app and is there a cost associated with it?

EB: I think trialling the app is a good start You can do so at www.moneymeasuresinc.com and sign up for a 30 day trial period. From there, you can join for less than 30 cents per day, even less with an annual subscription.

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New Programs at Woolwich Community Health Centre

Wellesley Rocks!

Are you a musician looking for others to jam with, or maybe you already have a group you make music with but want to learn new repertoire or meet new people? Starting in mid-March, our music therapist, Amelia, will be hosting weekly jam sessions and rehearsals on Mondays in preparation to do a concert in Wellesley on Saturday May, 6th. Consistent attendance and May 6 availability for the concert is required. For more information, email Amelia at aballak@ wchc.on.ca

Ages: 13+

Facilitated by Amelia Ballak, Music therapist, WCHC

Contact for registration aballak@wchc.on.ca

Young at Heart (Adult Game Night)

Join us for an evening of fun! Different adult themed games every month, including, but not limited to BINGO, Euchre, and Chess. Opportunities for specialized guest presenters to teach about health topics based on the groups interest, and snacks included at every event. Location to be determined. 4th Thursday of every month March 23rd - Wellesley Community Centre April 27th – St. Clements Community Centre May 25th – Wellesley Community Centre June 22nd – Linwood Community Centre 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Please Call/Email to Register: Lauren Kells at lkells@wchc.on.ca or 519-656-9025 ext. 224 or Tariq Abdulhadi at tabdulhadi@wchc.on.ca

Never Too Old to Tap Your Toes

Through music we are able to actively participate and express our feelings and experiences. There is evidence that music therapy is holistic and empowering individuals towards healing and helps us improve our mental wellbeing.

Join our virtual music therapy group for seniors every Monday from 1-2 pm from February 27 - April 3. This group, run by music therapist, Amelia Ballak, offers a space for musical and social engagement for those 60+. Every Monday we will focus on musical engagement to support memory, movement, and brain health. Activities include movement to music, singing, song writing, and discussion. No musical experience required!

Date: March 6, 13, 27, April 3 2023 Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Facilitated by Amelia Ballak, Music Therapist. To register, contact Tariq at tabdulhadi@wchc.on.ca





DO YOU KNOW... **MARCH IS NUTRITION MONTH**

As we all know, homemade food is healthier, but cooking at home is a little challenging and takes much of your time. This cooking class will introduce some great recipes to help you save time for cooking and eating healthier, and also encourage you to try some new food and new recipes. Recipes and ingredients will be sent out prior to the class so that you can prepare beforehand. Each month, we will try a different theme (Meal for One, Eat without Meat, Eat Healthier with Low Carbs, Gluten-Free, and a Taste of Asia). Join our Virtual Cooking Classes

EAT WITHOUT MEAT MARCH 13, 2023 (2:00 - 3:00 PM)

Spring is getting closer to us. You may want to prepare yourself with a youthful spirit and body to welcome and embrace spring. A list of all the fruits and vegetables that are now in season as well as recipe ideas that will inspire you to eat fresh and seasonal throughout the month of March. The recipes this month will help you to wake up your body, promote your digestion and boost your immunity. Yay!

EAT HEALTHIER WITH LOW CARBS MEAL APRIL 10, 2023 (2:00 - 3:00 PM)

April is all about spring vegetables. Asparagus and artichokes are at their peak, snap peas, beans and young carrots with their fern-like tops begin to make an appearance. Spring garlic and spring onions, radishes, leeks and fennel are all.

Marked by longer days and the fields bursting into life, April is a great month for cooking with the new season's produce.

GLUTEN-FREE FOOD MAY 8, 2023 (2:00 - 3:00 PM)

Gluten-free: What does that mean? And what is a gluten-free diet? Who should eat a gluten-free diet? What to look for on food labels? Can you go gluten-free to lose weight? These questions are newer and a little confusing.

Come and join our class to have a discussion to get a better understanding.

These gluten-free recipes that we are going to introduce are shared by one of my closest friends who is a wonderful cook and has been doing gluten-free meals for years.

TASTE OF ASIA JUNE 5, 2023 (2:00 - 3:00 PM)

Asia is home to some of the best food in the world and a diverse range of cuisines. When we're craving Asian food, our first we thought is take-out because making Asian food at home has never been simple. Join us for an introduction of some simple and easy to follow Asian dishes.

Contact for registration: tabdulhadi@wchc.on.ca





Wacky Wordies #5

Each puzzle is a visual representation of a common word or phrase. Can you decipher them?



www.embracingchange.ca





Free printable courtesy of PrintitFree.net

WHERE TO GET YOUR FREE COPY

Copies will be available around the first Wednesday of every month at the following locations:

WILMOT TOWNSHIP:

- MeMe's Café New Hamburg (outside magazine stand)
- Sobeys New Hamburg (outside magazine stand)
- Hemmerich Hearing
- **Dolman Eyecare**
- Morningside Retirement Community
- Stonecroft New Hamburg
- Nithview Community
- **Foxboro Green** ٠
- **Community Care Concepts**
- **Town Square Pharmacy**
- **Cooks Pharmacy** ٠
- New Hamburg Thrift Centre
- **New Hamburg Legion**
- New Hamburg Office Pro
- No Frills New Hamburg ٠
- **Baden Village Pharmacy**
- **Rudy Held Performance Centre**
- Soles Journey New Hamburg
- Little Short Stop New Hamburg
- Heart & Home Creations NH



McDonalds (outside magazine stand)

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP:

- Schmidtsville Restaurant (outside magazine stand)
- Wellesley Township Community Health Centre

- Linwood Nurse Practitioner Office
- Pond View Retirement Village
- **Cooks Pharmacy Wellesley**
- Pym's Village Market
- In Season Home & Garden St Clements
- Len's Mill Store Hawkesville
- Food Town IFT St Clements (Outside Magazine Stand)

WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP:

- **Community Care Concepts**
- Martin's Guardian Pharmacy (outside magazine stand)
- **Kiwanis Transit**
- Woolwich Health Care Centre
- St Jacobs Place Retirement Place
- MCC Thrift & Gift Elmira •
- Living Waters Books & Toys Elmira
- Bonnie Lou's Cafe
- Hillcrest Home Baking
- Dollarama Elmira (outside magazine stand)
- Harvest Moon St. Jacob's

Solutions



Concentration Puzzle: Made in the shade

Wacky Wordies #5

- Up for grabs
- 2. Round trip
- 3. It's up to you
- Gettysburg Address 4.
- Eye doctor 5.
- 6. Change of heart
- 7. Tennis lesson
- Sentiment 8.
- Price break 9.
- 10. Drop in the bucket
- 11. Stacked deck
- 12. Block watch

The Importance of **Being Healthy**



Persisting a few days, I was laid flat by something painful in my lungs... feeling like a pulled ligament or infection. Even small exertions left me with coughing spasms. I could barely breathe without touching off another bout.

News reports tell of people being placed on roundthe-clock hospital ventilators, having to struggle alone in the absence of family due to pandemic protocols – hanging on... one measured breath after another... minute to minute... week after week. True warriors. Being a person blessed by good health, I've never known what it's like to be that sick.

Stuck staring at the ceiling, surrounded by people they don't know. Yet, thankful for small mercies: professional caring hands that may be the last patients ever hold. Illness affects everyone's family and their lifestyle from young to old. You're no longer able to help others – not when you're already running on empty.

One of our daughters asked me about our role in society. As a "raconteur", it includes my various musings as a storyteller. So, I see my role as simply reflecting back to others what I've learned – being the middleman – and often, the 'man in the mirror' interpreting what I see. But – at this confessional moment – I know times that I've missed the mark. Sadly, because of my 'me first' attitude, it's meant I've been distracted... not being there for others. "I ran so fast that time and youth at last ran out I never stopped to think what life was all about And every conversation I can now recall Concerned itself with me and nothing else at all" Yesterday When I Was Young by Charles Aznavour & Elton John <u>Watch on YouTube</u>

But, no matter our health situation, our age group, or anything else; we can still do something to help make a difference. Maybe something small, like helping a neighbour who's a care giver. They don't even need to know who did it. Also, local charitable groups would appreciate our talents towards some volunteer project... something that ties into our own passion. And, of course, helping out financially is always appreciated.

Plus, we can always be mindful of others in our prayers and reflections. Like my dad use to say, it's the thought that counts... something we can do before rising for the day.

"May the stars carry your sadness away, May the flowers fill your heart with beauty, May hope forever wipe away your tears, And, above all, may silence make you stronger."
– by Chief Dan George

The best thing? It's never too late to restart. Some "Boomer" friends of mine tell me that 70 yearsold is the new 50. Why not be grateful for what we have while appreciating what others endure?

There's always been anecdotal evidence associated with the good feelings we get when helping others. In addition, verifiable scientific studies – including a recent University of Pittsburgh report – show that our support to others activates a neural pathway in the brain that boosts our well-being.

Songwriter, John Lennon, was asked for the best lyrics he ever wrote. "That's easy", replied Lennon, "All you need is love."

That's the way I figure it – FP



'Music in Me' writer Fred Parry is a lover of people and a collector of stories, music, wisdom and grandchildren.

Find him at <u>www.fredparry.ca</u>



Protect financial accounts from "cyberthieves"

Cybercrime is booming and criminals and technology are becoming sophisticated - both individuals and businesses are at risk. Criminals are focused on trying to obtain your personal information, access your devices and assume your identity. How can you protect yourself from cyberthieves?

Here are some suggestions that can help:

- Watch out for "phishing" attempts. You may receive emails that appear to be from a legitimate firm, requesting information your financial institution would never request online — confirmation of an account number, password, Social Insurance Number (SIN), credit card number and so on. These notes can look official, often incorporating a firm's logo, so pay close attention to what's being asked of you.
- Think twice before clicking or downloading. If you are suspicious about a communication, don't click on a link or download an attachment — instead, go to your financial firm's website or use their app to verify they sent the information or request.
- **Become adept with passwords.** Use a different password for each of your accounts and change your passwords regularly. Of course, maintaining multiple passwords can be confusing, so you might want to consider using password management software, which generates passwords, stores them in an encrypted database and locks them behind a master password which is the only one you'll need to remember.
- **Use your own devices.** Try to avoid using public computers or devices that aren't yours to access your financial accounts. If you do use another computer, clear your browsing

history after you log out of your account.

- Be cautious about using Wi-Fi when traveling. When you're on the road, you may want to use public hotspots, such as wireless networks in airports and hotels. But many people don't realize that these hotspots reduce their security settings to make access easier, which, in turn, makes it easier for cyberthieves to intercept your information. In fact, some hackers even build their own public hotspots to draw in internet-seekers in an effort to commit theft. So, if at all possible, wait until you can access a trusted, encrypted network before engaging in any communications or activity involving your financial accounts.
- **Don't give up control of your computer.** Under no circumstances should you provide remote access to your computer to a stranger who contacts you, possibly with an offer to help "disinfect" your computer. If you do think your device has an issue with malicious software, contact a legitimate technician for assistance.
- Know whom you're calling for help. If you need assistance from, say, a customer service area of a financial institution, make sure you know the phone number is accurate and legitimate — possibly one from a billing or confirmation statement. Some people have been scammed by Googling "support" numbers that belonged to fraudsters who asked for sensitive information.
- Review all correspondence with your financial services provider. Keep a close eye on your account activity and statements. If you see mistakes or unauthorized activity in your account, contact your financial institution immediately.

Advanced technology has brought many benefits, but also many more opportunities for financial crimes. By taking the above steps, and others that may be needed, you can go a long way toward defending yourself against persistent and clever cyberthieves.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

When the Cost of Living is Outpacing your Retirement Income

The increased cost of living over the last few years is no-doubt causing stress for many seniors. In retirement, income is often fixed and, for many, significantly less than what they enjoyed during their working years. For seniors that carry mortgage obligations beyond their retirement date, the concern is often even greater. Shelter costs have risen by 7% in the last year and groceries by 11%, not to mention the soaring prices of necessities like gas and hydro. Seniors are feeling the pinch. One area however, where seniors carry a distinct advantage in combating this problem is assets; more specifically, homeownership. In an economy where homeownership is no longer a forgone conclusion for younger generations, the overwhelming majority of senior Canadians are homeowners.

Despite recent decreases to property values, the average home value is up since the start of the pandemic, significantly actually. House prices across Canada increased by 46% between 2020 and 2022. While they have subsequently receded by somewhere between 12 and 14% in recent months, the net overall increase over recent years is nothing to scoff at. This means that the majority of homeowners who have owned their homes for more that 3 years and who have not refinanced during that time, are sitting on quite a bit of equity.

Homeowners who have owned their homes for decades, as many seniors have, have a considerable amount of equity. Because of this, the fact of the matter is, many Canadians are arriving at retirement equity rich but cash poor.



Selling the family home and renting during retirement offers certain benefits; reduced maintenance costs and responsibilities being a big one. However, rent has increased dramatically as homeownership becomes more and more out of reach for many Canadians. Average rent for a 2-bedrooom apartment in Waterloo rose to \$2,199/month in January according to zumper.com. Waterloo now ranks among the top 20% in terms of most expensive cities to live worldwide.

High demand has not just driven rental prices to astronomical levels, it has also led to a shortage of rental units. According to a report by CMHC, Canada now has fewer apartments available for rent than at any time in the last 20 years, meaning long wait lists for desirable rental accommodations and even bidding wars amongst prospective renters to secure accommodations, something that was previous unheard of. Re-mortgaging with a conventional mortgage is another option. These mortgages often offer the lowest interest rates but require borrowers to make monthly payments, which can be cumbersome on a fixed income. Because of the need to make regular payments, traditional mortgages require borrowers to demonstrate that their income outpaces their shelter costs by almost 3 times. For that reason, traditional lending solutions are often unable to address the unique concerns of senior clients who have considerable equity but limited income.

This is where a reverse mortgage can help. Reverse mortgages are available exclusively to homeowners over the age of 55 and allow you to leverage the equity in your property to decrease monthly payments, increase cash flow and enjoy your retirement free of financial stress. Rather than make monthly payments on the mortgage, the interest that accrues is simply added to the balance. The lender guarantees that you will never need to requalify for the mortgage and will not be required to pay back the mortgage until the house is sold. For senior couples, this has the added benefit of ensuring that the passing of a spouse will not impact a borrower's ability to remain in their home. Additionally, reverse mortgage lenders guarantee that you will never owe more than the home is worth.

Equity can be withdrawn either in a lump-sum or an annuity, meaning the reverse mortgage can be used to augment cash-flow and help homeowners remain in their homes for longer. And because the amount you are receiving is a loan and not "income", the lump sum or monthly installments are not taxable and have no impact on payments received from the government such as Old Age Security.

And so, senior homeowners have increasingly been turning to reverse mortgages to help manage the increasing cost of living. Canadian reverse mortgage lenders saw an increased demand in 2022 of almost 30%. Because what's the use of equity and a healthy net worth if you can't leverage it to give yourself peace of mind and the financial freedom to enjoy retirement?





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During the month of March, as dieticians across Canada celebrate Nutrition Month, we hear a lot about the importance of maintaining a healthy diet, especially as we age. Eating well not only helps to keep our bodies functioning well, it also helps to repair our bodies and provides us with the necessary energy and nutrients that we need. Eating well also helps us to lower our risk, as well as manage, chronic health conditions.

While we recognize the importance of eating well, many older adults struggle with maintaining a healthy diet. For some, limited access to grocery shopping, particularly during the winter months, makes it difficult to access ingredients to prepare a healthy meal. For others, some medications may reduce their appetite. We also know that it can take a lot of energy and work to prepare a meal for 1 or 2. For many living on their own, eating alone is not enjoyable. Eating is a very social event that is best when it is shared.

While we cannot control all of these factors, there are options in your local community to support you in maintaining a healthy diet as well as to reduce some of the loneliness associated with eating alone:

 Meals On Wheels: Volunteers through Community Care Concepts deliver a hot, nutritious meal at noon on weekdays throughout the Townships. A meal consists of a soup, salad, entrée and dessert. Special diets can be accommodated. Meals in Wellesley and Wilmot Townships are prepared by Schmidtsville Restaurant. In Woolwich Township, Bonnie Lou's Cafe prepares the meals. Registering is a simple process. Individuals can call into our main office, provide a minimal amount of information and be set up to receive meals within 48 hours. Individuals can select the number of meals each week and can start or stop based on their schedules. Beyond the nutritional value, the visit by the volunteer provides an important safety check and also a friendly source of social contact in a long day.

- Nutritious Frozen Entrees: For those not wanting to commit to a noon delivery or those requiring meals for evenings or weekends, Community Care Concepts offers a wide assortment of frozen entrees, soups and desserts – all fresh food that has been frozen and can be heated in an oven or microwave. Frozen meals can be ordered through the main office and picked up or delivered.
- Lunch Date: For those who prefer company during their meals, Community Care Concepts has volunteers and staff that will join individuals over the lunch hour, whether it be to join someone for Meals on Wheels or to help prepare lunch.
- ★ Community Dining: Recognizing that meals are a very social event, Community Care Concepts offers a series of group dining events at community locations across the Townships. This is a great opportunity to get out of the house, connect with others and enjoy a hot, healthy meal. Interested individuals must call the office at least 48 hours prior to the meal to register. Doors open at 11:30 am, with lunch served at noon.
- ★ Grocery shopping: For those who cannot get out to the grocery store, Community Care Concepts has staff who will grocery shop on your behalf. For those who are able to shop but need transportation, staff can accompany you to the grocery store.

Maintaining a healthy diet is a key component of aging well. Contact Community Care Concepts today at 519-664-1900, 519-662-9526 or 1-855-664-1900 for information or to register for these programs.



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I hear a lot about collagen but I don't know much about it. Should I be taking this supplement?

- Question from Christine Bunn

Collagen is the most abundant structural protein in animals. There are 28 known types. Type I is the most abundant in humans, found in skin, tendons, bones, cartilage, connective tissue, and key in cellular processes. As we age, collagen production decreases. The plump chipmunk cheeks turn into fine lines, wrinkles and sagging. Diet and lifestyle choices sadly speed up the process. A sugar laden and highly processed menu, sun worshipping and smoking are partly to blame. We can obtain collagen from consuming bones, skins and ligaments from pork, chicken and beef, as well as the skin of fish. Bone broth is also a super source.

Are you plant-based? The body does produce collagen from amino acids and luckily, legumes are super stocked. One absolutely key takeaway for those thinking of adding collagen to their daily routine is the importance of vitamin C. Collagen production and vitamin C go hand in hand. Berries, citrus, broccoli and peppers are stupendous sources. Porcine, bovine and marine collagen can be taken in liquid, powder and pill form. Several studies support slowing down ageing of the skin with collagen supplements. Some studies suggest collagen supplements improve symptoms of osteoarthritis and reducing joint pain. Muscle atrophies with age and studies suggest collagen increases muscle mass.

Collagen benefits overall health inside and out. There are five main types of collagens used in supplements. Choose products containing a full spectrum with a focus on hydrolyzed collagen from marine and bovine. Marine collagen is linked to beauty and animal-based to muscle, bone and gut-healing goodness. Plant-based collagen supplements are simply a slew of anti-oxidants and vitamins to support the body's own production. With flavors like chocolate, vanilla, lemon-lime and even peppermint, collagen powder is an easy and tasty way to add protein to the diet whether you stir into morning coffee, add to smoothies, yogurt or baked goods. Collagen is body-boosting love linked to longevity and offsetting ageing.



What to put in my "When I Die File"

"When you don't share your thoughts on illness and dying, Your family members are left to fill in the blanks. Turns out they tend to fill in those blanks with their own beliefs **not yours**. Be **clear**. State your wishes **now**". - Unknown

Death is one of the many things we try to avoid thinking about until it's absolutely necessary. It often feels too sad, scarry or even morbid. Surveys done recently in Canada indicate more than half of Canadian adults don't have a signed will or personal directives. When asked why they may feel they are too young, they don't have children or they lack financial assets. Loved ones can be saved so much stress and heartache if you simply take the time so secure your wishes and beliefs are known early. Once you frame end of life planning as the last big favor you can do for your family, it becomes easier to deal with.

Do you know what could happen if you could not speak for yourself? Who would you trust to make those health care decisions you would want. Completing an Advanced Care Plan is a process of reflection and communication. It is how we care for each other.

THINK about what is important to you, your values, wishes and beliefs.

LEARN about your overall health conditions

so you are better prepared.

DECIDE on your Substitute Decision Maker and pick and ask a person you feel would be willing and able to make decisions that you would want with regards to your personal care.

TALK to your family friends and health care professionals about what is important to you and **record** all this in your EOL file.

Mistakenly many people believe that a will or trust is all they need to leave behind. Without other important information, a will cannot be executed and survivors are left to deal with an often time difficult path to sort things out. These two documents state your directions for dividing your assets after your death. When specific articles are intended for a specific person this may be something to take care of before death to ensure your wishes are followed. Lawyers may suggest 2 Wills when there are two persons still alive.

- Lawyer's or accountant's information: Even your closest family members may not have the contact information of your lawyer and/or accountant who are crucial in executing your will.
- Tax documents: should be collected and stored from the 5 previous years.
- Birth certificate: This is one of the first documents your family will need. It may take a while to locate it, but once you do,

keep it in the folder you are preparing.

- Power of attorney for financial care. This is a person you trust to make financial decisions on your behalf when you become incapacitated.
- Bank Accounts and investments information will speed and provide more ease to access these necessary items.
- Debtor information credit cards, loans, membership dues if any.
- Real estate documents and deeds should be compiled to make it easy to execute your Will
- Copy of driver's license if one is held, copy of SIN, Marriage Certificate, divorce papers especially if married more than once.
- Home details, passwords, email, phone details etc.

FUNERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Most people are aware of a traditional burial or Cremation as the disposition of a deceased body. Many new alternatives have been coming to light.

Green your death: A growing number of Canadians are making their end of life plans more environmentally friendly than in the past. Direct Cremation of course skips the embalming and the risk of those toxic chemicals seeping into our ground as the body decomposes.

Aquamation or cremation by water is a flameless procedure using alkaline warm water and gentle movement to decompose the body as it would normally. This procedure uses much less energy than direct cremation. Again do your research about where and who will perform this procedure. Much good information online. **Natural burial** is chosen by some and remains the most environmentally friendly. There is no embalming or cremation taking place. The body is wrapped in a biodegradable shroud or casket (eg. Willow casket). Again as this gains popularity research is important.

Plan to make your ceremony, memorial or celebration of life personal!

An End of Life Doula will walk you through your entire journey and be available to offer helpful information along the entire way. They strongly encourage that you express your wishes while you are able when it comes to planning your ceremony, memorial or celebration. Do you wish to write your own obituary or eulogy? Or do you wish a friend or loved one to assist. What music might accompany this and will there be readings by anyone? Do you wish pictures posted or video recordings that could include a message from yourself. Individually written letters can be prepared for those most important to us. Whenever you have a thought write it down and act upon it if necessary. Your Doula will remain grounded and attached to all discussions and offer choices and education.

Be thoughtful and cautious about what you put in writing but do it **now**.

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Brain-Healthy Tips to Reduce Your Risk of Dementia

Why brain health is so important

While there are some risk factors you cannot control for dementia, such as age and genetics, reducing the effects of risk factors that can be influenced is possible.

By following these tips and strategies, you're not only reducing your risk of dementia, you're also:

- Looking after your long-term brain health,
- Reducing your risk of other cognitive and chronic diseases, and
- Protecting your overall health

Be physically active

People who exercise regularly are less likely to develop heart disease, stroke and diabetes – all risks associated with dementia.

Physical activity also pumps blood to the brain, which nourishes the cells with nutrients and oxygen. As well, regular exercise helps to reduce stress and improve your mood.

Being physically active can reduce these risk factors for dementia:

- Depression
- Diabetes
- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Lack of physical activity

Five tips for being physically active

- 1. Start where you can and set reasonable goals. If you feel you have little opportunity to exercise, start by adding a bit of physical activity into your daily routine. Choose a brisk walk or roll to the store rather than driving the car, or take the stairs instead of the escalator or elevator for one or two floors.
- 2. Think of it as "activity", not "exercise." Choose activities and sports that you enjoy, and physical activity won't seem like a chore or task to tick off.
- 3. Once you get going, aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per week. Moderate activities could be walking a dog or going for a bicycle ride, while vigorous activities include swimming or going for a run. If you have reduced mobility, try activities that can help you maintain your balance and prevent falls, such as gentle yoga or tai chi.
- 4. Consider aerobic activities. Aerobic activities, such as walking, swimming, hiking and dancing, can help maintain general fitness. Many experts

recommend walking as one of the safest and most effective forms of aerobic exercise.

5. Plan out your physical activity with someone you know. That way, you are more likely to keep active while you also gain the brain-healthy benefits of social interaction.

Be socially active

Staying connected socially helps you stay connected mentally. Research shows that regularly interacting with others may help reduce your risk of developing dementia.

Having an active social life also can reduce your stress, brighten your mood and keep your relationships strong.

Being socially active can reduce these risk factors for dementia

- Depression
- Social isolation

Five tips for being socially active

- 1. Make the most of your daily opportunities to socialize. Chat with your taxi driver or store clerk; make conversation in the elevator.
- Practice a random act of kindness. It could be as small as smiling at someone else passing by – paying your happiness forward will not only brighten someone else's day, but yours as well!
- Find time to volunteer. Whether it's participating in service clubs or joining a hobby group, you'll find that there are many healthy benefits to volunteering. It can build self-esteem and confidence, and it can expand your network of social support.
- 4. Combine social interaction with an activity. It could be a physical activity like walking together or a fitness class, or it could be something like a book club or a play. Ask someone to try a brain-challenging game together. Enjoy yourself while you positively impact your brain health.
- 5. Maintain old friendships and make new ones. Stay social through work, volunteer activities, travel, hobbies, family and friends. Be open to new experiences – accept invitations and extend a few of your own. Keep up your old and new friendships through talking on the **phone**, chatting online via email or social media, or even writing a letter.

Alzheimer Society





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Meat-Lovers Lasagna A Conestoga Lodge Favourite Recipe

Ingredients

🗇 1 pack lasagna noodles

For the meat sauce:

- □ 2 tablespoons olive oil
- □ 1 medium onion
- □ 3 tablespoons minced garlic
- □ 2-pound lean ground beef
- 🗖 28 oz. crushed San Marzano tomatoes
- 🗖 1 can tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons dried Italian seasoning
- 2 teaspoons fresh basil chopped
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- □ ½ bottle red wine preferably a dry wine

For the cheese layer:

- 🗇 15 oz. ricotta cheese
- □ 15 oz cottage cheese
- □ 16 oz. mozzarella cheese divided
- 4 oz. freshly grated parmesan cheese divided
- 🗖 1 egg

Instructions

Heat olive oil in large saucepan over medium heat. Add chopped onion and cook until soft. Add garlic, ground beef – and cook until browned. Drain excess fat and return meat to pan. Add crushed tomatoes, tomato paste, sugar, seasonings and wine. Bring to a boil and then simmer for 2-3 hours. Once sauce has cooled place in fridge overnight.

In a mixing bowl, combine the ricotta, 10 oz. of mozzarella cheese, and 2 oz. of parmesan cheese. Add egg and mix well. Keep in refrigerator until ready to assemble lasagna.

To assemble lasagna, add a small amount of sauce to bottom of pan. Layer noodles, meat sauce, and cheese mixture. Repeat three times and add remaining mozzarella cheese and parmesan cheese to the top.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake lasagna (covered) for 30 minutes or so. Then remove cover and cook for another 10-15 minutes, or until top is slightly browned.

Let stand 10-15 minutes before serving, so it has a chance to set.

Serve with parmesan cheese over top and you can also add fresh chopped basil over top.

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What is home care?

Home care is about trust. It is feeling comfortable with a provider coming into the home of someone you care for and, possibly, assisting with the most intimate care.

Bayshore's home care services are extensive, varied, and personalized for each individual. Whether it's just a little assistance for daily tasks or roundthe-clock care, Bayshore's caregivers can help your loved ones to live their best life while remaining at home.

Let's talk. 226.215.3152 kwprivate@bayshore.ca

PERSONAL CARE | HOME SUPPORT | NURSING