



GUELPH WELLINGTON SENIORS ASSOCIATION

OUR HISTORY

OUR HISTORY

How it All Began

Two volunteer organizations working together, the Guelph Senior Citizens Council and the Rotary Club of Guelph, were largely responsible for the idea of this fine building. They took the initial steps to encourage City Council to develop a seniors' centre and program worthy of Guelph and its 8,000+ seniors. Later, the City of Guelph and the Province of Ontario were brought on stream to provide much needed leadership and support.

The Guelph Senior Citizens Council was the brain child of the then Mayor Norm Jary in 1975. Up to that time numerous clubs of seniors were meeting throughout the City to organize activities and assistance for themselves. Mayor Jary, in consultation with local seniors after a trip to Niagara Falls, New York to see their seniors' facilities, suggested that a Senior Citizens Council be formed so seniors of the City could speak with a united voice. An open meeting for seniors was called at the Guelph Public Library with government officials from all levels in attendance, on 30 October 1975. There were 75 interested people present. The idea for a Council was unanimously accepted and **Jim Spark was appointed as the first President.**

A constitution for the Guelph Senior Citizens Council (GSCC) was developed by April 1976. Membership on the Council consisted of one delegate from each senior citizens group in Guelph and five delegates from senior citizens in general. This constitution was amended in December 1979, expanding the number of "seniors in general and others interested in senior citizens' concerns" to a number equal to those from the groups. In 1988 a new Constitution and name – The Guelph Wellington Seniors Association (GWSA) - were adopted. On 6 November 1989 the GWSA incorporated and subsequently obtained charitable status within the meaning of the Income Tax Act.

Early on, an application for a New Horizons Grant from the federal government was made to furnish an office in the Delhi Street Recreation Centre so a monthly newsletter could be published. **The Sentinel was born in 1976** with Jim Spark as the first editor. In the next few years many services for seniors were organized by the Council including a Social Centre at the County Jail Governor's Residence on Douglas Street, subsequently relocated in the Park Mall with the assistance of the City. As the services expanded and membership grew it became obvious that the relatively new location in the Park Mall was totally inadequate.

On 1 July 1979, Don Bower became president of the Rotary Club of Guelph. A Seniors Committee was formed, with Dave Kennedy as the Chairman, to add a further dimension to its extensive Community Service. Its purpose was to discover ways and means whereby the Club could provide assistance to seniors in our community. The Club made a donation to assist with the development of The Sentinel. Another early innovation in 1980 and 1981 was a Christmas Fantasy, the proceeds from which went to the Council. The second year several seniors were involved in the management and subsequently this most popular Christmas program was carried on by the seniors. One of the first moves was to contact the Senior Citizens Council, with Ernie Berner as President. In due course, Dave Kennedy became a member of the Board of Directors of the Council and after several years, President in 1984. The close liaison between the

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Seniors Committee of the Rotary Club and the Council was responsible for numerous developments expanding the seniors programs, and toward a common approach to the City for a new and much larger centre designed especially for seniors' activities.

On 18 October 1982 the two organizations, GSCC and RCG made a joint representation to the Guelph City Council, drawing attention to the lack of adequate facilities for seniors programs in Guelph and requesting:

- a) Establishment of a Senior Citizens Program Study Committee
- b) Establishment of a Senior Citizens Division within Recreation & Parks to operate seniors programs.
- c) Establish a Senior Citizens Advisory Board
- d) Appoint a Director of senior citizens programs
- e) An advisory Committee of seniors be appointed
- f) Appropriate staff be provided for the centre or centres.

It was many months before a Senior Citizens Advisory Board was established in on October 30, 1975 with Mrs. Dorothy Whyte as Chairman. The GSCC and RCG provided much information to the Advisory Board about the requirements in a new seniors centre, and in October 1985 the Board reported to City Council. A summary of the conclusions follows:

2. A new centre to serve as a "focal point" for Guelph seniors' activity and as an administrative headquarters for all seniors programs should be established.
3. Adequate staff should be provided at the centre to administer seniors programs and provide assistance to the many groups operating independently throughout the city.
5. After studying many suggested facilities which might be adapted for seniors use, and numerous sites for construction of a new facility, it was concluded the best solution was to put a "seniors" addition, containing appropriate space and facilities on the Victoria Road Recreation Centre. Such a development could result in capital and operating savings and provide the City of Guelph with a multi-purpose community centre of which we could all be proud.

A Site Selection Sub-Committee, with Allen Whitworth as Chairman, was established to study all possible sites within the City. Some 21 sites were considered by the committee, plus an additional 12 suggested by the Planning Department, prior to making their recommendation, subsequently adopted at the Senior Citizens Advisory Board for an addition to the Victoria Road Recreation Centre.

A supplementary report was made in 1986, outlining recommendations of space requirements of 17,900 sq. ft. for the many activities envisaged for the centre on the basis the centre would be an addition to the Victoria Road recreation Centre. A further recommendation regarding location was made:

THAT a seniors centre facility be constructed on the lands of the Victoria Road Recreation Centre or as an alternative that the property known as the Bowlerama buildings and lands be acquired for conversion to a seniors centre facility.

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A building Sub-Committee was set up in December 1987 with the following personnel: Dave Kennedy as Chairman, Roy Lefneski, Dorothy Wright, Gus Stahlmann, John S. Strobl, Leslie Snell, Allen Whitworth.

At about this time the City acquired the Bowlerama site for two purposes: as a senior centre location and acquisition of the river bank property as part of its riverbank plan throughout the City. This necessitated a change of viewpoint by the committee. After a professional study the Bowlerama building was deemed unsatisfactory structurally and would have to be replaced. From December 1987 until February 1992 countless meetings were held with the architects, engineers and equipment and furnishing supplies. A further complication was the City's partnership with a developer desirous of combining the centre with an adjoining 26 storey Condominium. The results of that partnership have not been determined as yet, witness the unfinished building attached at the river end of the Centre. Someday perhaps with unsightly mess will be cleared up. The final report of this committee was made on 13 January 1992, just a month before the official opening day of the new Evergreen Seniors Centre, 19 February 1992. A long, complex job well done, resulting in one of the finest, if not the finest, seniors centre anywhere in Canada.

A Finance Sub-Committee was set up in May 1989 with the following personnel: Allen Whitworth as Chairman, 10 members, the Director of Recreation and Parks and a representative of the City Treasury Department

Thank God for volunteers. There are literally thousands in this City contribution their time, energy and resources daily to make it a better place. A small group consisting of seniors and Rotarians started along the path to a new seniors centre. The journey took over ten years until that day, 19 February 1992 when the doors were officially opened. During those years, meetings by the hundreds, deputations to the City of the dozens, and donations by the hundreds, even thousands, made it happen. The Evergreen Seniors Centre is a tribute to those Volunteers who led the way through the trials of apathy and lack of will of so many in the community until the cherished dream was realized. Today, five years after that great day, we have for Guelph seniors a centre second to none, serving hundreds, yes thousands, of seniors with a variety of programs scheduled to education, entertain, physically challenge and feed the happy participants who entre the doors each day. Those wonderful doors which open automatically in greeting as we approach. And then, the smiles and warm greetings we see at every turn are a joy to behold.

One group of volunteers made the building possible. Now the volunteer tradition continues. Some 300 individuals each in his or her own way, makes the Centre a place you want to be. Under the guidance of Leslie Snell and her small staff, the place just hums with activity, good cheer and good food. Their unstinting efforts and leadership inspire us all to still greater things. We just want to make our home away from home better from still more people – seniors, shut-ins and handicapped. The GWSA and the Rotary Club continue to provide resources for additions to programs and physical improvements.

David Kennedy
1997

As explained in David Kennedy's 10th Anniversary speech, printed above, it took about 15 years for the seeds of a Guelph seniors association to take root and become the **GUELPH WELLINGTON SENIORS ASSOCIATION** that we know today. The history of the GWSA begins in 1987, but the following notes show what led up to that date:

1972

April – opened a downtown Centre at the Old Governor's residence on Douglas Street

1973

- Social Centre for Seniors taken over by the City of Guelph, financially, under the directions of Mr. Frank Vigor. Mrs. T. Brine appointed as Co-ordinator and liaison officer between the Centre and the City of Guelph
- President Mrs. Ivy White, Vice-President Mr. A Cadwell, Secretary Mrs. E. Brown, Treasurer Mr. A. Ahern, Chairman of House Committee Mrs. B. Allen, Chairman of Programme Committee Mrs. G. Mullin, Chairman of Outreach Committee Mr. H. Brown

1975

- **First President; James J. Spark (1975 – 1977)**
- Co-ordinator for Seniors in Guelph: Tillie Brine. Tilley started as Co-ordinator in 1972 at the Seniors Drop In Centre located in the old Governor's House, behind the jail on Woolwich Street.
- October 9th: meeting of Jim Sparks, Archie Gillies, Archie Ledingham, Nora Morris, Loys Readwin and Charles Wright to discuss the needs of seniors in Guelph
- October 30th Seniors Council formed as a co-ordinating body for seniors activities in the community.

1976

- **First edition of The Sentinel**
- Editor Jim Spark
- Published in September by the Guelph Senior Citizens Council which comprised:
 - Knox Friendly Fellowship Centre
 - The Seniors Social Centre, Douglas Street
 - Keenagers Club, Dublin St. United Church
 - Senior citizens Drop-in Club
 - The Golden Age Club, Delhi St. Rec Centre
 - Over 60 Club, Salvation Army
 - St. Paul's Lutheran Seniors Club
 - The Senior Ambassadors, Calvary Baptist Church
 - Jolly Sixties, Crestwicke Baptist Church
 - St. George's Monday Luncheon Club
 - Guelph Reform Church Golden Age Club
 - Trinity United Church Wednesday Noon Luncheon
 - First Christian Reform lasting Friendship
 - Grange Court Residence Social Club
 - Waterloo Court Senior Citizens
 - Woolwich Court Seniors

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- Initially funded by a New Horizon grant and distributed throughout the City, mailed to individuals on request.
- Messages of congratulation sent from: Mayor Norm Jary, Harry Worton, MPP, Frank Maine, MP, G.H. Arbut, Director, New Horizons Program, Frank Vigor, Alfred D. Hales, Lester W. Phillips, Consultant, Senior Citizen Services
- Taxi fares increased from \$1.40 per mile, to \$1.60. No discount for seniors since they are the greatest users!
- Contents included: Editorial, profile entitled “Seniors You Should Know”; mailbag, many jokes, financial advice “It’s Your Money”, news from the various Clubs that made up the Seniors Council, helpful hints and advice for Seniors, word puzzles
- Guelph’s 150th birthday

1977

- Introduction of advertising in the Sentinel: Charterways Tours on the back cover.

1978

- **Second President: Ernest Berner (1978 – 1981).**
- Sentinel subscriptions \$2.00 if picked up at “your Club”, or \$3.00 if mailed
- Editorial in the November 1978 issue of the Sentinel, asked the question “When are we going to get a decent Senior Citizens’ Centre?”
- The two major projects of the Seniors Citizens’ Council are: publishing the Sentinel and organizing Home Services for seniors.

1979

- **Delhi Recreation Centre temporarily designated as an Elderly Persons Centre**, following a move from the Gaol Governor’s Residence in Douglas Street on May 25, 1979
- June 25th City Council passed the following resolution:
 - *That City Council proceed to establish a Downtown location for a Senior citizens’ Drop-In-Centre, which has the capabilities of facilitating most Senior Citizens programmes, including the operation of Senior Citizens’ Council.*

1980

- Satellite to Delhi Recreation Centre opened at 2 Quebec Street
- Sentinel subscription increased to \$2.50 (pick up) \$3.50 (mailed)
- Tele-check service introduced , arranged by Home Services Committee
- Lunch service introduced at the new Park Mall location

1981

- **Third President: Dorothy Whyte (1981 – 1983)**
- First Annual meeting on January 27, 1981
- Report from Tillie Brine, Co-ordinator January 1981
 - *We moved to our present Centre from the Recreation Centre in late January 1980 and our opening day was February 5th at 2.00 pm*
 - *The Mayor, Norm Jary, with help from Jim Sparks, who was then the President of the Senior Council, declared the Centre opened by speech and the usual cake cutting ceremony. The number of people who passed through the Centre that day was 305.*
 - *The attendance over three month period, October, November and December was 2,770. We do have a book which we like people to sign; these numbers are approximate only. The number of lunches served over the same time was 1204.*
 - *The meetings held at the Centre over a twelve month period were 42*
 - *The first and third Thursdays of each month we have a nurse in attendance here from the Wellington and Guelph Unit. She has been coming regularly since April. This service is confidential and free to seniors.*
 - *The Fire Inspector, Mr. Thompson, paid us three visits during the year; he gave us a short lecture on “fire safety”, also instruction on the use of fire extinguishers. The fire bell could not be heard very plainly in our part of the building, but pleased to say that a new one has been installed.*
 - *The usual group of people were here last year to help seniors fill out their tax papers.*
 - *Some of the crafts that are being taught at various places in Guelph, the registration only was done at the Centre.*
 - *Do not know how many of you have noticed the summer awnings have been put up. This will take the glare away, but also leave us with a little sunshine.*
 - *The bus cards can be purchased here for 25 cents which enables you to buy your senior tickets at a reduced price. Number of cards sold here as from August 1980 is 1,300*
 - *Number of articles sold from craft case in uncertain; \$35.00 has been banked.*
- The aims of the Senior Citizens’ Centre
 - To provide a drop in centre for Senior Citizens of Guelph, a senior being anyone 60 and over or the spouse of a senior.
 - To be a focal point for seniors’ activities and concerns across the community.
 - To provide a place where seniors can meet their friends, have a chat, light lunch or participate in activities organized by the centre.
 - To provide light lunches for seniors at moderate cost.
 - To provide organized programs for seniors
 - To be a source of information for seniors on housing, transportation, income tax, pensions, government services, etc.
 - To provide health consultations for seniors
 - To provide other such services as may be beneficial for seniors.

1982

Guelph Senior Citizens Council

President	Dorothy Whyte
Past President	Ernest Berner
Vice-President	David Kennedy
Secretary	Valeria Zaduk
Treasurer	Eva Stauffer

- 17,076 attendance figures
- April 15 – Legion gave a lunch for seniors. First come first served, for the first 600 people who apply in writing.
- Monthly “Evergreen Report” in the Guelph Mercury

1983

- Senior Centre Management Committee Annual Meeting held February 7, 1983
- Doctor and Public Health Nurse on site at the Centre once a week
- 10 Seniors Clubs identified in Guelph:
 - Crestwicke Jolly 60s
 - Drop In Club, Delhi St. Rec Centre
 - Friday Afternoon Euchre at Delhi St Rec Centre
 - Golden Age Club Delhi St. Rec Centre
 - Golden Age Club – Lasting Friendship – Guelph Reformed Church
 - Keenagers Club, Dublin St. United Church
 - Knox Friendly Fellowship Centre
 - St. Paul’s Lutheran Seniors
 - Salvation Army Over 60 Club
 - Sunshine Club – Trinity United Church
- Also 10 Senior Residences (Courts)
 - 2 Bayfield Courts, Speedvale Avenue E.
 - 2 Waterloo Avenue Courts
 - Delhi Court
 - Marlborough Court
 - Dublin Court
 - Grange Court
 - Hadati Court
 - Woolwich Court
- **First Christmas Fantasy held at John F. Ross Hall.**
- Guelph Bantam Hockey team members available for “rent” to help senior citizens with odd jobs.

1984

- **Fourth President: J. David Kennedy (1984 – 1985)**
- Vice-President: Loys Readwin
- Secretary: May Cater
- Treasurer: Florence Rae
- Qualified seamstress at the Centre twice a month to advise and assist with small sewing jobs.

1985

- Seniors Advisory Board appointed to the Guelph City Council, who recommended that:
 1. The Seniors Council be restructured;
 2. Steps be taken to incorporate the revised organization;
 3. A charitable tax number be obtained.
- Jim Sparks retired as editor of The Sentinel after 90 issues.
- Seniors Council Meeting held May 9, 1985
- Seniors Picnic held Saturday, June 22nd at Delhi Rec Centre - part of Seniors Month
- Presentation to City of Guelph advocating better facilities for seniors. (noted 8,000 seniors in Guelph over 65 years old)
- Third Christmas Fantasy

1986

- **Fifth President: Loys Readwin (1986 – 1987)**
- Comments from Loys regarding a new Seniors Centre:

We will probably always have a Seniors Drop In Centre in the downtown area, but – WE DO NEED A LARGER COMPLEX. At the present time we use various buildings for Badminton, Swimming, Dances, etc. We are grateful for the use of these buildings but much better to have the activities all in one complex. What we are planning for the proposed Centre is a reception area with fire-place, rooms for crafts and meetings, office space for both general use and the Sentinel, dining area, card and billiard rooms, as well as a gymnasium. (Did you realize that there is not a gymnasium in this city – city owned?) A gymnasium that could be used for volley ball and basketball. All ages would make great use of a gymnasium. One of the major advantages at the Victoria Road Recreation Centre is plenty of parking space. For the numerous day trips which seniors take, it would be no trouble to leave the car there for the day. Also the Guelph Transportation Commission is prepared to provide an adequate service to meet our needs, if the location is the Recreation Centre.
- Suggestion for building a Seniors Centre at the Victoria Road Complex – or the freight shed on Woolwich Street
- Membership 1,100
- \$2 membership fee to the Senior Council
- Fourth Christmas Fantasy

1987

- **The Guelph Wellington Seniors Association formed** to take over the activities of the former Seniors Council.
- The by-laws approved on December 15, 1987
- Guelph City Council appointed a Senior Centre Development Committee, charged with planning, financing and management proposal for a new Centre.
- Membership 1,400
- Hosted Senior Games
- Jim Spark awarded Province of Ontario Senior Citizen's Achievement Award. He was the founding President of the Guelph Senior Citizens Council and the first editor of the Sentinel.
- Promise of a new Seniors Centre fulfilled – on the Bowlerama site, purchased by the City.

1988

- **Sixth President: W. Allen O. Whitworth (1988 – 1989)**
- The Guelph City Council purchased the land required for the Centre adjacent to Riverside Park from Crown Sable Development Group Limited
- Resolution passed by Guelph City Council on Monday August 15th, 1988:
 - THAT Guelph City Council approve the plans for the Senior Citizen Centre/Senior Citizen Apartments as presented by Mr. David Medhurst and Mr. J. Sobottka, on August 15th 1988 in principle, subject to approval by the Ontario Municipal Board on financing;
 - AND THAT the Executive Committee of Council be authorized to proceed with negotiations for a formal agreement with the developer.
- Membership 1,600 – cost \$2 per year (Sentinel not included)
- 1630 copies of the Sentinel printed monthly
- Rose Presentation on February 24th; Honorary Membership Awards presented to
 - Jim Stark: Founding President, Founding Editor of *The Sentinel*. Also received Guelph Award of Merit for Community Service from the City, and Senior Achievement Award from the Province of Ontario.
 - Ernie Berner. Also received Guelph Award of Merit for Community Service from the City, and the Paul Harris Fellowship from the Guelph Rotary Club for distinguished community service.
 - Tillie Brine. First Co-ordinator for Seniors in Guelph in 1972
- **First Annual (General) meeting held on February 24, 1988**
- Fifth presentation of the Fantasy Show
- Guelph Seniors Choir joined the Association as The Silvertones
- Ernest Berner awarded Provincial Senior Achievement Award

1989

- **The Guelph Wellington Seniors Association constituted as a charitable, non-profit organization, Ontario Number 853086**
- Buy-a-Brick Fundraising campaign launched. Seniors raised \$1.2 million as their contribution towards construction of the \$3.5 million Evergreen Centre.
- Membership 2,000
- Second Annual Meeting held on February 22, 1989 at Dublin Street Church Auditorium
- 11 Board meetings and 11 Executive Committee meetings held.
- Organizational chart approved
- By-laws developed
- Approx. 170 volunteers
- Monthly column in the Guelph Mercury: “The Evergreen Report”
- Annual picnic held in June – Seniors Month
- Sod turning ceremony – hoardings erected for new building
- Fantasy #VII

1990

- **Seventh President: Dorothy Wright (1990 – 1991)**
 - Vice-President, Ernie Norris
 - Secretary, Agnes Barnes
 - Treasurer, Margaret O'Drowsky
 - Executive Committee members: Carrie Fisk, Ruth Mahy
- Membership 2,600
- 200 Volunteers
- 49,370 Attendance figures – 189% increase since 1982
- Charitable Tax Number 0857219-56 issued by Revenue Canada.
- On November 21, contract signed for the construction of a new Centre, 25,600 square feet. A joint project of the Guelph City Council and the Guelph Seniors Association.
- Guelph City Council resolution passed on July 3, 1990:
 - *THAT THE City of Guelph increase their funding commitment to the construction of the Senior Centre to \$900,000;*
 - *AND THAT the Senior Citizens Committee's commitment to the construction of the Senior Centre be increased to \$1,100,000;*
 - *THAT subject to the establishment of total funding, and subject to the receipt of the necessary amending order from the Ontario Municipal Board, the amended tender of McKay Cocker Limited, London Ontario submitted under Project No. 88-203 in the amount of \$2,326,000.00 be accepted and the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign an agreement with McKay Cocker Limited for the construction of a Senior Citizens Recreation Complex with payment to be made in accord with work completed and accepted by the City.*
 - *AND THAT the matter of additional funding required to construct the proposed Senior Citizens Project be referred to the finance Committee for consideration.*
 - *AND THAT application be made to the Ontario Municipal Board to amend the existing order covering the construction of the proposed Senior Citizens recreation Centre, such request to recognize the revised total estimated cost of construction in the amount of \$2,796,700.00*
- Third Annual Meeting held on February 28, 1990 at Dublin Street United Church Auditorium. 55 attended., chaired by Allen Whitworth
- Sentinel Editor, Carrie Fisk
- Royal Bank held a bake sale at all Guelph branches to assist with fundraising for the new Centre - \$1,200 raised.
- Name-the-Centre contest initiated: December 1990 – January 1991

1991

- It is anticipated that the Centre will be open and be in operation by October 1, 1991.
- Membership has increased from 300 in 1975 to 2,700 in 1990 and a large increase is anticipated.
- President Dorothy Wright,
 - Vice-President Ernie Norris,
 - Secretary Agnes Barnes,
 - Treasurer Margaret O'Drowsky
 - Management Committee: Ernie Norris, Norm Drury, Fred Thoben, Dorothy Wright, Leslie Snell, Agnes Barnes, Jesse White, Dorothy Riley, Joyce Hendry, Betty Richard
- Kick off of fundraising project of "buy a brick for \$100"
- Membership fees raised to \$5.00
- Issues such as (mostly on-going for many years!)
 - Smoking policy
 - Parking for trips
 - Rental of facilities
 - Express buses
 - Evening activities
 - Coffee service
 - Arrangements with the Twilights
- Fourth Annual Meeting held February 27th 1991 at the Dublin United Church Auditorium
- Membership grown to 2700
- Introduction of name tags for volunteers

1992

- **Eighth President: Ernest E. Norris (1992 – 1993)**
- Vice-President, Agnes Coslett
- Secretary, Doris Taylor
- Treasurer, Fred Thoben
- Executive Committee members:
 - Fred Black,
 - Agnes Barnes
- Management Committee members: Ernie Norris, Norm Drury, Fred Thoben, Agnes Barnes, Dorothy Riley, Dorothy Wright, Leslie Snell, Mary Joy Morgan, Muriel Wood, Betty Richard, Joyce Hendry
- **Official Opening of the Evergreen Seniors Centre on February 19th**
- Lunch room service started. Meals \$4.00 for members, \$5.00 for non-members
- Fifth Annual Meeting held February 26, 1992 at the Evergreen Senior Centre
- Membership fee \$10 – suggestion that \$3.00 of this be given to the City to help run the Centre.
- Luisa of Luisa's Draperies offered suggestions for window decoration as a memorial to her husband.
- Grant from Esso for Library bookshelves.
- 50/50 Draw held monthly
- Seniors Business show put on by Chamber of Commerce
- City turned down request for traffic lights and a pedestrian crosswalk on Woolwich Street.
- City moved to ward system for municipal elections
- Special Events: Strawberry Tea (316 people) Persian Market (\$1,000), Fashion Show (\$3661.90), Pot Luck Social, Bazaar (\$\$,666.26)
- Seniors Day in Health held on June 24th; cost \$7.50
- Roberta Bondar gave presentation at the Evergreen
- \$1,000 donation from Imperial Oil, used for library shelving
- Notes from a speech made by Loys Readwin in January 1992

“How it all began....We now have close to 3,000 members in the Guelph Wellington Seniors Association. It was on Thursday October 9, 1975 at 1.00 pm in the Guelph and District Community Building on Waterloo Avenue that Mr. Jim Spark asked several people to come to a meeting to set up a Seniors Committee. Mr. Spark chaired the meeting and those present were: Dr. A. Gillies, Mr. Archie Ledingham, Nora Morris, C.S. C. Secretary, Miss Loys Readwin, and Mr. Charles Wright. This meeting was held to talk about what the future direction of senior citizens' requirements in the City might be, and to look forward to a Centre for seniors sometime in the future. We planned to have a larger open meeting at the Guelph Public Library, inviting representatives of various clubs and city officials. This meeting was held on Thursday, October 30, 1975 at 7.30 pm. There were about 75 present. To mention a few: Mayor N. Jary, Mr. E. Berner, Mrs. Tillie Brine, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dougherty, Mrs. Carrie Fisk, Mrs. Anne Godfrey, Mr. Alf Hales, Mrs. Eileen Hicks, Mrs Muriel Manson, Mrs. Margaret McKinnon, Mrs. Grace Newstead, Miss Margaret Plaskett, Mr. Frank Vigor, Mrs. Dorothy White. Following short talks and opinions, Mr. Spark extended thanks to all those present. So from this small group of six our membership grew – and grew – and grew. And now here we are with the largest membership in the City and a new Evergreen Senior Centre almost complete. All as a result of this first meeting. Many, many thanks to you, Jim Spark.”

1993

- Sixth Annual Meeting held February 24, 1993 at Evergreen Seniors Centre
- President, Ernie Norris
 - Vice-President, Agnes Coslett
 - Secretary, Marion Drury
 - Treasurer, Fred Thoben
 - Executive Committee members:
 - Bill McKie
 - Agnes Barnes
 - Management Committee: Agnes Coslett, Dorothy Wright, Fred Thoben, Agnes Barnes, Ernie Norris, Leslie Snell, Mary Joy Morgan, Betty Richard, Ernie Hopping, Doug Erickson, Muriel Wood. Dorothy Riley
- Membership rose to 4,200, then dropped back to 3200
- Fantasy #10 held, hosted by the Silvertones
- 300 Volunteers
- 19 card tables purchased with New Horizon grant
- Coat racks made by Guelph Correctional Centre.
- Drapes/blinds for skylight above desk
- Special Events: Valentine /social, St. Patrick's Pot Luck, Dessert & Cards (80 people); Breath of Scotland, Hawaii Calls (156 people), Fish Fry, Summer Fayre (\$650), Hobby Show & Tell, Friday night dances (\$700+), Strawberry Tea (\$710), Beach Party
- Garden plots available at Yarway
- Identified need to monitor memberships
- Volunteer brochure developed
- Motion that Basketball not be allowed in the auditorium
- New programs: scrabble, solo and darts
- \$1,967 raised from, quilt raffle
- TV and VCR purchased with New Horizon grant

1994

- **Ninth President: Agnes M. Coslett (1994 – 1995)**
 - Vice-President Bill McKie
 - Secretary, Marion Drury
 - Treasurer, Fred Thoben
- Executive Committee members:
 - Agnes Barnes,
 - Bill Taylor
- Directors:
 - Fred Black,
 - Fran Blair,
 - Ernie Hopping,
 - Art Riley,
 - Frank Vigor,
 - Carrie Fisk
 - Gordon Hall.
- Management Committee: Agnes Coslett, Allen Whitworth, Dorothy Wright, Betty Richard, Agnes Barnes, Fred Thoben, Leslie Snell, Ernie Norris, Dorothy Riley, Muriel Wood, Mary Joy Morgan, Frank Vigor, Doug Erikson
- Seventh Annual meeting held February 23, 1994 at the Evergreen Seniors Centre
- Special Events: Card Party, Variety Show, Fashion Show (2), Breath of Scotland, (2), Picnic in the Park, Strawberry tea, Evergreen Flea Market, Evergreen Show Case, Variety Show, Christmas Parade, Deck the Halls, Christmas Carols
- 350 volunteers
- Councillors approached regarding a pedestrian crossing.
- Hearing clinic started
- Initiated monthly reports from: Program Committee, Food Services, Special Events, Membership and Staff.
- New podium
- David Creech, John Counsell and Allen Whitworth attended AGM
- 2,207 members
- Board ruling that all participants in programs must be GWSA members
- Further request for pedestrian crossing with traffic lights, at Woolwich Street
- Vegetables for dining room grown by volunteers in 2 City-allocated plots
- Bookshelves installed in the Rotunda, and filled with books
- Attempt made to monitor memberships. Two persons posted in front lobby to check membership cards of each entrant. Recommended this be done once a month, and that program leaders check membership cards regularly.
- Chef Nicole hired for the dining room

1995

- 8th Annual General Meeting held February 22, 1995
- 133 members, 5 non-members in attendance
- President Agnes Coslett
 - Bill McKie, Vice-President
 - Marion Drury, Secretary
 - Fred Thoben, Treasurer
 - Bill Taylor
 - Agnes Barnes
 - Francis Blair
 - Carrie Fisk
 - Gordon Hall
 - Art Riley
 - Allan Whitworth
 - Rosemary Coleman
 - David Kennedy
 - Management Committee: Bill McKie, Fran Taylor, Agnes Barnes, Leslie Snell, Dorothy Wright, Allen Whitworth, Ursula Stevens, Betty Richard, Fred Thoben, Agnes Coslett, Ernie Hopping, Jess White, Mary Joy Morgan
- Final payment to City of Guelph of \$25,000, last payment of \$1.1 million contributed to the building Evergreen Seniors Centre by the GWSA
- Membership fee \$10 per year
- Life Membership given to Abigail Elizabeth Fisher
- Draw for five GWSA Gift certificates
- Membership information entered into computer
- Membership 2,964
- Watercolour Painting group organized
- 10 members agreed to act as hostesses, welcoming people in the front lobby, as well as giving information and tours, and keep the cloakroom tidy. Also maintain bulletin boards
- GWSA inventory assessed at \$319,398.85 (inc. taxes). Increase in insurance recommended.

1996

- 9th Annual General Meeting held February 28th
- Board of Directors:
Tenth President Bill McKie (1996 – 1997)
 - Vice-President Gord Hall
 - Past President Agnes Coslett
 - Secretary Vera Packer
 - Treasurer Fred Thoben
 - Director Fran Blair
 - Director Jim Langedijk
 - Director Agnes Barnes
 - Director Mary Bott
 - Director Dorothy Riley
 - Director Carrie Fisk
 - Director Helen Jeffray
 - Director Bill Taylor
 - Director Allen Whitworth
 - City Staff Leslie Snell
- Management Committee: Gord Hall, Bill McKie, Allen Whitworth, Dorothy Wright, Barbara Nicol, Michael Byre, Fred Thoben, Leslie Snell, Mary Joy Morgan, Lynne Briggs,
- Member survey and program and space usage review undertaken
- 20th anniversary of The Sentinel – editor Carrie Fisk
- Oct 1996 – 3044 members, with 802 new members
- Life Membership awarded to Carrie Fisk
- Draw for GWSA Gift certificates
- On-going problem of line dancers not being GWSA members
- Strawberry Tea co-ordinated by members of the Shuffleboard Group
- Arrangements for City of hold weddings in the Rotunda on Friday afternoons.
- Lynne Briggs welcomed to the Centre as Seniors Program/Co-ordinator of Volunteers
- Volunteer orientation held. 29 called, 12 attended.
- For Sale notice erected on Woolwich Street, relative to the Riverside Residences Condos.
- Quilted banner donated by the Craft Club for display

1997

▪ Board of Directors (1997-8)

President	Bill McKie
Vice-President	Jim Langedijk
Treasurer	Fred Thoben
Secretary	Vera Packer
Directors:	Fran Blair
	Mary Bott
	Dorothy Riley
	Agnes Coslett
	Helen Jeffery
	David Paterson
	Agnes Barnes
	Ann Rabson
	Joan Bleach
	Bill Taylor
	Leslie Snell

- GWSA initiated negotiations to purchase the commercial property, owned by the developer of Riverside Residences on the Park, but a part of the Evergreen Seniors Centre building.
- David Kennedy nominated for Ontario Senior of the Year Award
- Management Committee: Jim Langedijk, Bill McKie, Fred Thoben, Michael Byrne, Leslie Snell, Barbara Nicol, Ernie Hopping, Isobel Wallace, Allen Whitworth, Dorothy Wright, Lynne Briggs, Mary Joy Morgan.
- Special Board meeting held in April to discuss potential problems that would affect the Evergreen during construction of the adjacent condo tower
- 500 copies of the new GWSA By-laws printed
- Number of copies of the Sentinel printed each month increased from 1835 to 1875
- Sentinel editor, Carrie Fisk resigned at the end of the year
- Number of members as of October 7, 1997 2,970 with 509 new members.
- 3,027 members by year end
- 10th Annual General Meeting held February 26, 1997.
- 17 minute report from the President
- 5th Anniversary of the Evergreen Seniors Centre
- Summer Variety Show held – 14 different acts

1998.

Board of Directors (1998-99)

11th President	Jim Langedijk
Vice President	David Paterson
Treasurer	Ed Martin
Secretary	Vera Packer
Directors	Russelle Madigan Lyle Plumb Helen Jeffery Dorothy Riley Bill Taylor Ann Rabson Joan Bleach Kaye Newstead Norma Uptegrove Leslie Snell

- Eleventh President: Jim Langedijk: “brought the GWSA and the Evergreen into the 21st Century with a bang” with his hi-tech ideals and computer literacy
- Management Committee: David Paterson, Jim Langedijk, Leslie Snell, Lynne Briggs, Barbara Nicol, Joan Bleach, Cay Schaffter, Agnes Coslett, Dorothy Wright, Josephine Mann, Mary Joy Morgan, Hans Schepers, Inger Tonkin, Ann Rabson
- Break in in January; \$2,245 in cash was stolen. Some damage.
- GWSA and the City purchased the retail space adjacent to the Evergreen Centre for \$125,000 (to be paid at the rate of \$25,000 per year) and \$110,000 respectively and this was converted into Room 4
- Sentinel moved to Microsoft Publisher program
- November membership 3007 (589 new)
- 11th Annual General Meeting held February 25, 1998

1999

- Board of Directors (1999-2000)

President	Jim Langedijk
Vice-President	David Paterson
Past President	Bill McKie
Secretary	Vera Packer
Treasurer	Dorothy Britton
Directors	Norma Uptegrove Lyle Plumb (resigned November) Bill Taylor Mark Major Kaye Newstead Harry Robertson Joan Bleach Ann Rabson (resigned in November) Russelle Madigan Leslie Snell

- International Year of the Older Person (IYOP)
- Management Committee: David Paterson, Jim Langedijk, Leslie Snell, Joan Bleach, Cay Schafter, Bert Reinhart, Lynne Briggs, Agnes Coslett, Inger Tonkin, Ed Martin, Dorothy Wright, Barbara Nicol, Josephine Mann, Mary Joy Morgan.
- Membership dues increased to \$13 per annum
- Plans drawn up to convert retail space into “Room 4”
- Plans for first Computer Lab, comprising two used computers – one for games, and one for e-mail and WordPerfect. Application for grant from Rotary for six computers to establish classes
- Dorothy Britton appointed Treasurer in September
- CLASS computer registration system established at the Front Desk; 50 volunteers trained
- Moved to a Lease with the City, instead of an “annual donation” - \$30,000 per annum
- Sentinel entered into a lease agreement with Ricoh for a 550 printer.
- Past Presidents’ Photos framed, and mounted on the Boardroom wall
- Jim Langedijk retired as Producer of The Fantasy
- Web page established
- November Membership 3085 (595 new)
- 12th Annual General Meeting held February 24, 1999
- Life Membership awarded to Fred Thoben, GWSA Treasurer for nine years.
- Membership increased 3.5% to 3,100
- Increase in volunteers of 25% to 420
- Entered a team in the Dragon Boat races

2000

Board of Directors: (2000-2001)

12th President

Vice-President

Past President

Treasurer

Secretary

Directors:

David Paterson

Kaye Newstead

Jim Langedijk

Dorothy Britton

Vera Packer

Norma Uptegrove

Mark Major

Joan Bleach

Mike Rooke

Russelle Madigan

Bill Davis

Inger Tonkin

Pat Lawrie

Harry Robertson

Leslie Snell

- First lease agreement with the City of Guelph, required for application for a Trillium Foundation grant to renovate Room 4
- Management Committee: Kay Newstead, Joan Bleach, Lynne Briggs, Barb Nicol, Cay Schaffter, Leslie Snell, Inger Tonkin, Winifred Notton, David Paterson.
- Payment of membership fees to change to anniversary date of joining the Association instead of January 1st each year
- Membership fee includes a copy of *The Sentinel*
- Traffic lights installed on Woolwich Street
- Senior Games hosted by Waterloo-Wellington District. Committee chaired by Jim Langedijk. 1,000 registrants in 24 events.
- Membership: 2,875
- Slight decrease in membership but higher usage of facilities.
- Increase in volunteers to 491 – 58,000 hours of help
- Craft Bazaar raised \$15,000; Fantasy \$8,500; Travel Club \$12,000
- Contributions from Activity Groups: \$16,500
- Cupboards, a stove and a refrigerator installed in Room 2
- Blackout curtains and wireless mikes purchased for the Auditorium
- Volunteers trained to use CLASS registration system
- Applied for a provincial grant to hold a Volunteer Summit next year in celebration of the International Year of the Volunteer.
- Negotiations to use space at the new West End Recreation Centre
- Service Programs include: Feeling Better, Evergreen Acton Nutrition, Outreach, and Osteoporosis Support
- Recreational Programs in Visual and Creative Arts, Computer, Fitness and General Information as well as seminars on Gardening, Finances and Health related topics
- Special Events: New Members' Reception, Strawberry Tea, Dragon Boat Races, Attic Treasures, Tea Dances, Bazaar, Fantasy and New Year's Eve Party.
- 13th Annual General Meeting held February 23, 2000
- Writers' Club produced an anthology titled "*Seasons of the Heart*"
- District senior games held in Guelph; the George McLean Memorial senior games
- Shoppers Drug Mart sponsored the purchase of canvas shopping bags, to be sold as a fundraiser.
- Production of the Evergreen Seniors' Centre video

2001

Board of Directors: (2001-2)

President	David Paterson
Past President	Jim Langedijk
Vice-President	Kaye Newstead
Treasurer	Dorothy Britton
Secretary	Vera Packer
Directors:	Bill Davis
	Harry Robertson
	Mark Major
	Joan Bleach
	Inger Tonkin
	Russelle Madigan
	Pat Lawrie
	Mike Rooke
	Ron Kerr
	Leslie Snell

- Management Committee: Kaye Newstead, Joan Bleach, Agnes Coslett, Howard Harris, Barb Nicol, David Paterson, Cindy Richardson, Cay Schaffter, Leslie Snell, Inger Tonkin, Winifred Notton, Lynne Briggs, Reta McPhedran.
- 2001 is the International Year of the Volunteer
- Traffic lights installed with a crosswalk on Woolwich Street, paid for by GWSA; cost \$20,000. Riverside Residences were asked to contribute \$5,000 towards this cost.
- Digital camera purchased – Mike Rooke named “Digital Camera Co-ordinator”
- Board motion for GWSA to install a light at the carousel
- Additional wall required at the West End Rec Centre for security of GWSA assigned area. City to build a half-wall with a counter top and a lockable door
- GWSA to provide small fridge, coffee maker, kettle etc. for WERC
- 25th anniversary of the Sentinel
- Shirley Smith and Jean Cummer took over as Co-Editors of the Sentinel
- Jim Langedijk awarded Ontario Senior Achievement Award
- Special Events included: Strawberry Tea, IYV Summit at Stone Road Mall, Volunteer Picnic, Tea Dances, Attic Treasures, New Members’ Reception
- Planning started for 10th anniversary next year.
- Shelves installed in the Book Nook
- Lindsay McGinn hired
- 14th Annual General Meeting held February 28, 2001

2002

Board of Directors (2002-3)

13th President

Vice-President/Treasurer

Past President

Secretary

Directors

Kaye Newstead

Dorothy Britton

David Paterson

Vera Packer

Joan Bleach

Bill Davis

Harry Robertson

Shirley Smith

Ron Kerr

Russelle Madigan

Inger Tonkin

Mike Rooke

John Randall

Bill Taylor

Leslie Snell

- Management Committee: Joan Bleach, Inger Tonkin, Howard Harris, Agnes Coslett, Cay Schaffter, Doris Cox, Leslie Snell, Lynne Briggs, Cindy Richardson, Kaye Newstead, Barb Nicol
- Evergreen 10th Anniversary Celebration – 800-1,000 people attended
- Board members visited Don Mills Foundation for Senior Citizens to assess their computer lab.
- Computer lab established – the only organization in the City to offer courses using Windows XP
- Membership 2425
- Board questioned why excess books from the Book Nook are sold to raise funds for the Elora Festival
- Renovations to front lobby
- Kaye, David and Leslie attended a Policies and Procedures workshop in Toronto with a view to creating a GWSA Policies and Procedures manual.
- Membership at 3122
- 15th Annual General Meeting held February 27, 2002
- Life Memberships presented to Joan Bleach and Jim Langedijk

2003

Board of Directors (2003-4)

President	Kaye Newstead	
Past President	David Paterson	
Vice-President	John Randell	
Treasurer	Dorothy Britton (resigned – died in December)	
Assistant Treasurer	Rosemary France (appointed Treasurer in October)	
Secretary	Vera Packer	
Directors	Harry Robertson	Ron Kerr
	Russell Madigan (resigned)	Inger Tonkin
	Shirley Smith	Mike Rooke
	Doug Fortune	Barbara Rogers
	Gloria Smith	Leslie Snell/Lynne Briggs

- Management Committee: Kay Newstead, Agnes Coslett, Barb Nicol, Howard Harris, Cay Schaffter, Stella Gamble, Joan Bleach, Lynne Briggs, Andrew Goldie, Inger Tonkin, Doug Fortune, John Randall
- Rosemary France appointed as Assistant Treasurer and later appointed to the Board to replace Russell Madigan who moved away.
- VON ceased their foot care clinic. Taken over by Kim Wiatr on a private basis, at same cost.
- Board decision that no proxy voting would be allowed at the AGM
- GWSA to take over organization of the Outreach Program from Rotary
- Volunteer Satisfaction Survey conducted
- 48 tables purchased for Craft Club
- Membership at 3007
- GWSA donated \$5,000 to the Enabling Garden, at \$1,000 per year.
- SOS Program launched
- Visa card issued to the Travel group. \$15,000 collateral required.
- Front lobby reorganized and re-decorated – paid for by GWSA
- Leslie Snell's last Board meeting in November, following 17+ years at the Evergreen Seniors Centre
- Changes made to the GWSA constitution
- Lynne Briggs named as Manager of the Evergreen Centre in December.
- 16th Annual General Meeting
- President Kaye Newstead's message was given via video tape as she was on vacation in Australia
- 21st Fantasy show - "Coming of Age"
- Life membership presented to Vera Packer

2004

- AGM date changed to March, from February to allow longer time to complete and audit year-end financial report
- Board of Directors (2004-2005)

14th President	John Randell (resigned) /Harry Robertson
Past President	Kay Newstead
Vice-President	Shirley Smith
Treasurer	Rosemary France
Secretary	Vera Packer
Directors:	Trav Coleman
	Cay Shafter (resigned)/Jeanne Fry
	Shirley Smith
	Doug Fortune
	Gloria Smith
	Barbara Rogers
	Mike Rooke
	Doug Jenkins
	Barb Nicol
	Lynne Briggs

- Management Committee: John Randall, Barb Nicol, Agnes Coslett, Stella Gamble, Joan Bleach, Lynne Briggs, Andrew Goldie, Kay Newstead, Howard Harris, Inger Tonkin, Cay Schaffter
- Petition circulated regarding continuation of seniors drug benefit, which Premier had threatened to reduce
- Ron Kerr started an inventory of GWSA assets
- Committee guidelines drafted
- Governance Committee established to review list of 17 items identified by David Paterson, which require the Board's attention. Members: Ron Kerr, Barbara Rogers, David Paterson and Lynne Briggs.
- Discussion on a site for a Seniors Centre in the South End of Guelph initiated.
- **Management Committee dissolved on recommendation of the Governance Committee, with Committees reporting directly to the Board**
- Partnership Committee established to handle GWSA Services, including Book Nook and Riverside Residences, as well as EAN, SOS, FB and Outreach
- Ken Russell created a web site for the Golf Group, for a stipend of \$400
- Denstedt Diggle Inc. engaged to prepared a Marketing Plan
- 17th Annual General Meeting held March 31, 2004
- Initial thought of a South End Centre

2005

Board of Directors (2005-2006)

President	Harry Robertson
Past President	Kaye Newstead
Vice President	Trav Coleman
Treasurer	Rosemary France
Secretary	Vera Packer
Directors	Ron Ferrier
	Doug Fortune
	Barbara Rogers
	Barb Nicol
	Bill Raffan
	Gloria Smith
	Mike Rooke
	Jeanne Fry
	Jim Langedijk
	Lynne Briggs

- Presentation to the Board of Guelph's Draft Strategic Plan; comments requested
- Board motion that Special Events provide a budget to the Finance Committee three months prior to the event and a financial report after the event.
- Board motion that Honorary Life Memberships be awarded to Presidents when they retire. No other member of the GWSA is eligible for the award
- John Randell resigned as President, but remained on the Board
- Denstead Diggle presented their proposal which included the logo "GSA". Discussion on the ramifications of dropping the "W" (Wellington); although this would be retained in the legal name of the Association.
- **First Annual Report prepared for 2004, presented at 2005 AGM**
- Membership at 3110. New Probus Club brought in 29 new members.
- Room 4 renovated to allow for a Sentinel Office.
- Ron Kerr completed measurement of all rooms at the Evergreen
- Art & Dorothy Riley awarded Provincial Senior of the Year Award
- GSA (as it was then being known) was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism in Ontario
- 18th Annual General meeting held March 30, 2005
- 2005 the first year the GWSA has operated at a deficit
- Proposal to establish a Probus Club in partnership with GWSA

2006

Board of Directors (2006-7)

15th President	Barbara Rogers
Past President	Harry Robertson
Vice-President	Bill Raffan
Treasurer	Rosemary France
Secretary	Jennifer Blackie
Directors	Ron Ferrier
	Ken Hills
	Gloria Smith
	Jeanne Fry
	Barb Nicol
	Jim Langedijk
	Frank Pearce
	Lynne Briggs

- \$22,500 New Horizon grant received to establish a Woodworking Program. This was returned the following year as it had proved impossible to find a suitable location.
- Position of Asset co-ordinator established. Ron Kerr appointed.
- Frank Pearce resigned. Replaced by Gord Clegg
- GSA (sic) office established in former Sentinel office.
- Board motion to increase annual membership dues from \$15 to \$20 following AGM
- Ad hoc Business Continuity Plan Committee established
- Three-year Strategic Plan initiated, Gail Valeriotte from the Volunteer Centre hired as facilitator
- Time of Board meetings moved from 9.30 am to 9.00 am
- Association reverted to GWSA following motion at AGM
- “GWSA Partnerships” re-named “GWSA Services” (SOS, EAN, Feeling Better and Outreach)
- 30th Anniversary of The Sentinel
- Change to Membership, Marketing and Communications Committee. “Communications” to be dropped from M&M and merged with The Sentinel Committee
- Rob Mackay replaced Andy Goldie at City of Guelph rep on the Board
- 19th Annual General Meeting held March 29, 2006.
- Election of seven nominees for the Board of Directors, for five positions.
- GWSA operating at a deficit for the first time.
- Establishment of Peer Learning and West End Art Groups

2007

Board of Directors:

President	Barbara Rogers
Past President	Harry Robertson
Vice-President	Bill Raffan
Treasurer	Rosemary France
Secretary	Jennifer Blackie
Directors	Gord Clegg
	Ron Ferrier
	Jeanne Fry
	Ken Hills
	Vionna Maye
	Barb Nicol
	Jim Langedijk

- Motion to stop sale of bottled water (rescinded in 2008)
- IT Strategic Plan initiated – Data Perceptions hired, and later fired
- Gloria Smith resigned from the Board. Replaced by Vionna Maye
- Attempt made to establish a Seniors Advisory Council, with representation from the many seniors organizations across the city. But very little interest resulted.
- Board moved to sever the relationship between the GWSA and the Probus Club due to the fact that the latter is governed by the central Probus Club organization, and therefore can not be an Activity Group of the GWSA, which is governed by its own by-laws.
- Jim Langedijk initiated a plan to back up all GWSA files.
- Board approved the up-grading of the copier in the Sentinel office to colour, for the balance of the lease, as a trial.
- City initiated the idea of a seniors' facility in the South End, to be a part of a new Recreation Centre.
- Lease of space at the Delhi Street Recreation Centre was discontinued
- EAN Program Co-ordinator position ceased
- Cay Shafter resigned as GWSA Librarian, replaced by Elaine Norris.
- Following a question from Ken Johnson at the AGM, the erection of new flagpoles was investigated. It was not possible to do this in front of the building, due to the fact that there is a parking garage underneath the parking lot. The only place is at the end of the building, facing on Woolwich Street. One flagpole was erected, funded by proceeds from the Senior Summer Games, accompanied by a plaque commemorating Bill Kashur who worked on the Games Committee prior to his sudden passing.
- Board Profiles initiated in the Sentinel
- Jennifer Blackie volunteered to re-vamp the Policies and Procedures Manual, reporting to the Governance Committee
- Jim Langedijk resigned from the Board, effective December 31st. Replaced by Pierre Desmarais
- OCAO initiated a survey project, "Building Bridges to Tomorrow" to commence in the New Year (2008)
- 20th Annual General Meeting held March 28, 2007

2008

Board of Directors:

16th President

Past President

Treasurer

Secretary

Directors

Bill Raffan

Barbara Rogers

Rosemary France

Jennifer Blackie

Tom Beale

Pierre Desmarais

Ron Ferrier/George Hughes

Vionna Maye

Jim Langedijk

Gord Clegg

Jeanne Fry

Ken Hills/Bob Langlois

Barb Nicol

- Meeting of Committee Chairs proposed. Bi-annually suggested. George Hughes to chair.
- Board motion to prepare an action plan re advocating for a Seniors Centre in the South End.
- Resignation of Ken Hills and Ron Ferrier. Replaced by George Hughes and Bob Langlois
- Cerlox binding machine purchased
- Locks on Craft Room cupboards keyed alike
- Certificate of Appreciation presented to Jim Langedijk at AGM
- Advocacy Committee established to replace former Liaison Committee
- Anne Pappert, newly appointed as Director of Community Services at City Hall
- Spouses of members, who are under 55 years of age, are eligible for Associate membership
- Sheila Schuehle and Maryanne Wolford appointed to head the Make Yourself at Home Program.
- Development of contract for Sentinel advertisers
- Back cover advertising spot sold to Norfolk Manner for one year. Board motion that this be restored to the Travel advertising next year.
- Squirrels gaining access into the building!
- Establishment of the Make Yourself at Home Program (MYAH) with funding from the Ministry of Health via WWLHIN (Waterloo-Wellington Local Health Integration Network) as a part of their Aging at Home initiative.
- Geraldine Desmarais appointed Assistant Treasurer; separate bank account established. MYAH took over the GWSA office, and a new office was built in a corner of the lobby for the GWSA.
- Offsite storage rented at WeeStor to house files and other materials previously stored in the GWSA office.
- Development of PowerPoint presentation about the GWSA
- Community policing initiative started, whereby an officer drops into the Centre from time to time
- Plans for a South End Centre move forward as a part of the Recreation, Parks and Culture Strategic Master Plan
- Frank Roth appointed editor of the Sentinel
- Renovations to the dining room
- Ken Russell appointed Webmaster
- \$2,000 donated to the United Way
- 150 chairs replaced. Old chairs donated to Habitat for Humanity
- 21st Annual General meeting held March 26, 2008.

2009

Fiscal year changed from calendar year to April 1st to March 31st, to coincide with Ministry of Health which funds the MYAH program.

Board of Directors 2009 – 10

17th President Pierre Desmarais

Past President Bill Raffan

Vice President Tom Beale

Secretary Jennifer Blackie

Directors:	Jeanne Fry	George Hughes
	Bob Langlois	Vionna Maye
	Elaine Norris	Barb Nicol
	Veronica Sanche	Barry Scutt

Appointed Treasurer: Geraldine Desmarais

- Resignation of Treasurer, Rosemary France, Geraldine Desmarais appointed to replace her as Treasurer. Elaine Norris appointed to replace her as a director.
- Ken Russel paid to develop website, and maintain it for a monthly fee.
- MP Frank Valeriote attended February Board meeting.
- Resignation of Chef Nicole DeBuyere, following her return from educational leave. Not replaced due to hiring freeze.
- Business Continuity Plan developed and approved
- Pandemic Plan developed and approved
- Display rail for GWSA Presidents' portraits installed in the Board Room
- Attempts to establish a Woodworking program frustrated due to lack of a suitable location.
- Canoe, Skating, Chess and Skiing Clubs started.
- Sub-Committee of the Program Committee established to review requests for new Activity Groups.
- Outreach program extended to the Norfolk Street Church location.
- Governance Committee issued revised Terms of Reference for Board Committees, together with Position Descriptions for the President and Secretary of those Committees.
- GWSA approved by the Minister of Health under the WWLHIN to operate an Aging At Home Program, to be called Make Yourself at Home.
- GWSA provided replacement benches inside the front door
- The Sentinel posted on the GWSA website
- Membership & Marketing Committee asked to establish a "Speakers Bureau" to promote GWSA to outside groups in the community.
- System established to collect members' e-mail addresses, for speedy communication.
- 22nd Annual General Meeting held March 25, 2009
- Bob Langlois resigned. Replaced by Ross Coulter
- Barbara Rogers resigned (not required to continue as Past President after Pierre Desmarais elected President, and Bill Raffan assumed position of Past President.)
- Veronica Sanche appointed to fill Barbara's position

2010

Board of Directors: 2010 – 2011

President	Pierre Desmarais
Past President	Bill Raffan
Vice-President	Tom Beale (resigned)
Secretary	Jennifer Blackie
Directors:	Ross Coulter
	Lois Finlay
	George Hughes
	Bob Langham
	Vionna Maye
	Elaine Norris
	Veronica Sanche
	Barry Scutt

Appointed Treasurer: Geraldine Desmarais

- GWSA contributed \$11,000 for a permanent sign at the street side of the Evergreen property
- Provincial grant awarded for signage on the front and west sides of the building, as well as improvement to internal signage.
- GWSA donated \$5,000 to the FAIR program to assist seniors
- Board contracted with aestima research to conduct a membership survey, utilizing a New Horizon grant
- \$88,000 removed from City's budget for food services at the Evergreen
- Guelph hosted the OACAO conference at the Delta Inn, with assistance from GWSA volunteers.
- Board approved Membership & Marketing Committee's proposal for an advertisement on the side of a City bus.
- Speaking engagements undertaken by Membership & Marketing Committee members, with the aid of a video presentation.
- Governance Committee completed draft of GWSA Policy & Procedures Manual for Board approval
- GWSA Board approved payment for a new menu board for the dining room.
- Membership and Marketing Committee created a new promotional brochure.
- Tom Beale resigned
- 23rd AGM held June 30, 2010

2011

- 24th AGM held June 29, 2011
- Board for 2011-12:
 - President: Pierre Desmarais
 - Past President: Bill Raffan
 - Vice-President: David Wrathall
 - Directors:

○ Ross Coulter	George Hughes,
○ Barry Scutt,	Jennifer Blackie,
○ Judith Carson,	Veronica Sanche,
○ Elaine Norris,	Marg Hedley (replaced Bob Langham)
○ Vionna Maye,	Ken Chupa (replaced Lois Finlay)
 - Appointed Treasurer: Geraldine Desmarais
- No Board meetings held in January and February
- LHIN Funding for MYAH Program ceased March 31, 2011. Some Transitional funding provided. Services restructured as GWSA Community Support Services
- Bob Langham resigned from the Board, replaced by Marg Hedley
- HST to be charged on Craft Sales
- Sentinel office purchased heavy duty paper cutter and folding machine
- \$5000 contributed to City's FAIR program
- \$5,181 received from United Way
- Marion Kuti, from Porcelain Art Group, secured a grant from Bell for the GWSA, on the basis of her being a retired employee now volunteering with the GWSA
- Lois Finlay resigned from the Board; replaced by Ken Chupa
- Board members attended lunch at Guelph Lake Commons Retirement Home
- Lynne Briggs transferred to City Hall; Wendy Kornelsen assumed position of Manager of the Evergreen Seniors Centre. Becky MacDonald hired to replace Wendy.
- AGM held June 29th ; Changes to by-laws
- Renovations to the Auditorium ceiling, then flood damage to floor when sprinklers were inadvertently activated. \$1,000 donated to the Guelph Legion for providing space for activities while Auditorium was being repaired.
 - Board agreed to meet every month, instead of 10 times a year.
 - Regular memberships increased to \$22 per annum
 - Open House held on October 1st.
 - HST added to all Activity Group contributions to the GWSA.
 - Pierre Desmarais resigned as President in October, for health reasons.
 - **Ross Coulter appointed 18th President for the balance of the term (To June 2012).**
 - Past-president Bill Raffan left the Board, and was replaced by Pierre Desmarais.
 - Pierre made a presentation to City Council

2012

- Board of Directors for 2012-13:
 - President: Pierre Desmarais
 - Past-President: Ross Coulter
 - Vice-President: David Wrathall
 - Directors:
 - Veronica Sanche, Ken Chupa,
 - Elaine Norris, Barry Scutt,
 - George Hughes, Christine Jamieson,
 - Ken Russell, Marg Hedley,
 - Judith Carson
 - Appointed Treasurer: Geraldine Desmarais
 - Appointed Secretary: Jennifer Blackie (having completed two terms as director)
- 20th Anniversary of the opening of the Evergreen Seniors Community Centre.
- Wright family donated \$2,500 for a podium in honour of Past-President Dorothy Wright
- Communications Committee disbanded; some duties absorbed into newly-titled Membership, Marketing & Communications Committee. Sentinel Operations Committee established
- \$3,000 received from Norfolk St United Church for the Outreach Program
- \$135,600 awarded by United Way for each of the next 3 years.
- Effective April 1st all Activity Group fees will be deemed to include HST
- President provided with a lap top computer, for his/her exclusive GWSA use.
- \$1,500 provided by GWSA for A/V upgrades in Room 4
- Lanyards (for name badges) provided for all volunteers
- \$9,000 spent to upgrade computer lab
- Jennifer Blackie appointed GWSA Secretary, following completion of her term as a Director
- 25th AGM held on June 27th
- All financial accounts/credit cards transferred to Bank of Montreal, following approval at AGM
- Jennifer and Marg designated as GWSA representatives to the City's Older Adult Strategy planning meetings, lead by the Osborne Group. Presented to Community & Social Services committee of Council on November 13th.
- Profiles of Board members, and others published in the Sentinel.
- Photography Club produced a GWSA calendar as a fundraiser, in conjunction with the Sentinel office
- Ad hoc committee formed to review President's workload
- Treasurer assumed responsibility for Asset Co-ordination
- Staff of CSS put on to a new GWSA Payroll
- Partnership Agreement with Diabetic Care Guelph
- Form designed to capture information about new and renewing members; a potential source of new Committee and Board members.
- New Activity Group established: Texas Hold'Em
- Began advertising in Mercury's monthly Quality Living publication
- Ken Chupa appointed as IT Co-ordinator
- Carpet Bowling discontinued

2013

- Board members as at 26th AGM, held June 26th
 - **19th President, Judith Carson** Pierre Desmarais,
 - Ken Chupa, Joan Ksenych,
 - Ross Coulter, David Wrathall,
 - Ken Russell, Elaine Norris,
 - George Hughes, Dorothe Fair,
 - Barry Scutt, Marg Hedley.
 - Appointments: Jennifer Blackie (secretary), Geraldine Desmarais (treasurer) and Wendy Kornelsen.
- Christine Jamieson resigned from the Board and was replaced by Joan Ksenych.
- Veronica Sanche resigned from the Board and was replaced by Dorothe Fair
- Jean McClelland was appointed to the Board to replace Pierre Desmarais, who passed away.
- Bill Allen hired to assist with finalizing Strategic Plan. Additional meetings held to complete plan for 2012 and prepare new Plan for 2013-2015. Summary presented at AGM and Executive Committee charged with arranging implementation of the noted Actions
- Membership, Marketing and Communication Committee sponsored a show at the RiverRun (Wingfield)
- Advocacy Committee planned and presented a symposium on Healthcare for Seniors Month (June), funded by \$4,000 donation from Co-operators
- Introduction of Drop Box for distribution of material to Board members, and other uses.
- Art In The Hall, Pickleball and Bunka Art established as new Activity Groups
- \$10,000 received from Norfolk Street United Church, following the sale of this building
- Legislation requires Travel Club to accommodate wheelchairs on their trips
- Thursday morning manual collating of the Sentinel discontinued
- Volunteer Handbook developed
- Open House held on June 13th, as part of Seniors Month, combined with New Member Reception
- Self-evaluation of the Board undertaken by the Governance Committee and results reported to the Board
- Nancy Ebel hired as co-ordinator for the Feeling Better – Eat Well Program.
- Variety Show cancelled
- Motion to move AGM from Wednesday to Tuesday in future
- Multilingual Welcome banner mounted in front lobby
- Laura Handley Consulting hired to assist with revision of Human Resource policies.
- Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2015 completed.

2014

- Board members as at 27th AGM June 24th:
 - Judith Carson, Ken Chupa,
 - Joan Ksenych, Dorothe Fair,
 - Jean McClelland, Marg Hedley,
 - Toni Crowther, Barry Scutt,
 - Kerry Detlor, Don Hillman,
 - Ken Russell,
 - Appointments of Gerry Schinck (Treasurer), Jennifer Blackie (Secretary) and Wendy Kornelsen (City staff representative). Wes Anderson was also elected but resigned immediately and Jennifer Blackie was re-appointed as a Director.
- Established first Community Benefit Agreement with the City of Guelph
- Hired Miller Thomson to assist in changing our By-laws to meet new legislation regarding Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. (ONCA). Approved at AGM
- New computers, equipped with Windows 8
- Tracy Benson hired to replace Maggie Evans who retired
- Gavel presented by Elaine Norris in memory of Pierre Desmarais
- \$22,000 New Horizon grant received
- Further examination by the City of the need for a South End Centre. Plan for 4,300 sq ft on the ground floor for seniors
- Glass top of Board Room table broken. Cost \$1300 to replace; considering alternatives
- \$5,000 donation to FAIR
- Elaine Norris resigned from the Board. Replaced by Toni Crowther
- \$25,000 donated to the City to repair floors in auditorium and Room 4
- Attempt to establish Special Events Committee. Initially only involved with dances.
- Grant for Marketing Plan received. Letter M Marketing hired. Draft reviewed and new Tag line approved.
- Speakers Bureau discontinued
- New Art Studio Group established
- Second Board self-evaluation undertaken
- Volunteer survey
- Virtual tour of the Evergreen Centre filmed
- Geraldine Desmarais resigned from the Treasurer position. Replaced by Gerry Schinck. Wendy Hake remaining as Assistant Treasurer (later titled Financial Administrator)
- Paperback books at the front desk increased in price from 10 ¢ to 50 ¢ as instructed by the Librarian
- Ken Russel resigned as Webmaster, and later from the Board, due to ill health
- Open House held on October 4th
- Jean McClelland appointed Accessibility Co-ordinator
- Mayoral candidates meeting held at the Evergreen
- Six handed Euchre started as a new Activity Group
- \$2,500 donated to United Way

2015

- Board members as at 28th AGM, June 23rd:
 - Judith Carson,
 - Dorothe Fair,
 - Jennifer Blackie,
 - Jean McClelland,
 - Gail Moore,
 - Barbara McLeod,
 - Ken Chupa,
 - Don Hillman,
 - Toni Crowther,
 - Kerry Detlor.
- Appointments: Wendy Kornelsen and Gerry Schinck (treasurer)
- Joined Chamber of Commerce
- Ross Knechtel appointed volunteer Webmaster
- Board room table replaced with several smaller ones to allow for a variety of configurations. Old table put into City storage.
- City eliminated payment of rebate paid on City-run courses and workshops at the Evergreen.
- New Marketing Plan launched on March 31st
- SE Centre removed from City's list of capital projects.
- Advocacy Committee disbanded.
- \$5,000 donated to FAIR. This is now part of the CBA as an annual expense.
- Open House on October 24th
- Graphic Arts Designer appointed (Barry Scutt)
- Barb McLeod resigned from the Board due to ill health. Replaced by Doris Thornington
- Renewal of CBA; a few changes recommended. To run from June 1' 2016 to be in line with the Lease Agreement
- Applications for membership now available on-line.
- Non-members permitted on trips organized by the Travel Committee, when space permits.
- \$2,000 donated to United Way. (Plus \$1,176 from quilt raffle)
- Computer program introduced to capture volunteer hours.

2016

- Education /Training with David Hartley held on January 14th. Morning for Activity Group leaders and other volunteers; afternoon for Board members.

Someone you know

No, she is not a 'senior' as defined by our Seniors Association, but she is the 'classy gal' who has guided us for the past five years or so on behalf of the City – when there is a major decision to be made – when one wonders “should I do it this way or that” – to whom do we turn? None other than our Seniors Program Supervisor – LESLIE SNELL. 44 Woodside Avenue. No doubt many of you know LESLIE – possibly not by name but definitely by contact or by seeing her in her major role as ‘Co-ordinator’ the term by which we used to know her.

LESLIE was born in Toronto and received her early education there; however, it was to the University of Guelph she turned for later studies and the famous McDonald Institute was her stamping ground where she obtained her Bachelor of Household Science. Next followed a short course as O.C.E. (Ontario College of Education) because of a shortage of teachers at that time. She did some teaching in Ottawa and Gananoque, later obtaining her Master's degree, majoring in Gerontology. Since her husband, Jamie was (and is) a professor in Canadian history (and now Family and Legal History) at the University of Guelph, it was quite fitting that Guelph became the settling feature of their lives, especially with two young daughters now added to the household. Needless to say, they saw and utilized the educational facilities that Guelph offers any young family and they took advantage of these opportunities.

With her great source of energy, we find LESLIE working at the University as Assistant Editor of the Consumer News Letter for a short time and then supply teaching at Erin High School and our own GCVI (home economics).

With her knowledge of gerontology, it is evident that from her early days LESLIE has had a lot of interest in oldsters (to our good fortune) and one year's teaching along these lines at Georgian College gave her the desire for other ways to use her skills. Thus, when the opportunity arose of becoming Senior Co-ordinator for the City of Guelph she was the fortunate applicant, in charge of the many facets of seniors' activities through the Recreation and Parks Department. Now she felt she had reached her goal – and even though her position demanded many meetings, planning of courses and activities which would interest seniors, LESLIE certainly was kept busy. Thus when the Evergreen building was merely a hole in the ground, it meant the wheels in our Co-ordinator's head were turning and turning. Once again it meant reaching out for new and interesting policies to be undertaken – seniors must be kept busy - and many paths to be explored which would be beneficial.

Not only were there meetings regarding the building, but most important were the programs that would be most useful; always LESLIE was (and is) on the lookout for something new: the Wheels to Meals program, to be started later; also an intergenerational program whereat seniors and youngsters could meet on a common ground – in fact always reaching out for something new and of interest for seniors. As she states “Your attitude to aging is more important to your wellbeing than your actual chronological age. Keep up to date with events and maintain your interest and curiosity about the world around you.” These are the goals to which our Supervisor aspires for all of us, and so, when she passes you in the hallway, give her a smile and help make her day! We are most grateful for your services, LESLIE, and extend best wishes to you and your family.

Carry Fisk, Editor
The Sentinel
April 1992

Memorable Days

For three days in February jubilation reigned at 683 Woolwich Street. The occasion was the opening of the Evergreen Seniors Centre. Evolvement of the Centre is history and a record of persistence and dedication by many. However, the celebration is worth reporting.

A small committee had planned for several months, always waiting for a construction clearance before considering a date. It was also decided to eliminate as many operations bugs as possible and not be too late for the occasion to be meaningful. Who to invite? Who would entertain? What decorations? And where to park? Where among the many concerns that were dealt with. There was a great rallying of talent and willingness to assure a memorable occasion.

The Opening Ceremony was, by all accounts, a huge success with close to eight hundred persons present and many who were unable to get near the full auditorium. Estelle de Haas played nostalgic tunes on the piano as the audience assembled until a procession of dignitaries were led by pipers Alan Whittle and Double Lee, to the stage ablaze with flags and flowers. Master of Ceremonies, Fred Black, then called for the Silvertones Choir to lead the singing of "O Canada". Following the introduction of persons on the dais, Frank Vigor recognized leaders, some of whom were present, who had pioneered the idea of a centre worthy of the City and its seniors. Dorothy Wright, Association President, followed with acknowledgement of all the efforts, energy and monies, including those of major donors. Greetings from Elsie McNaughton, representing Prime Minister Mulroney and MP William Winegard, Ray Applebaum on behalf of the Minister of Community and Social Services and Mary Brown, for the Minister of Seniors' Affairs, were delivered. Guelph's MPP, Derek Fletcher, and Ted Arnott, MPP for Wellington South, each brought his own congratulations.

Archdeacon Hill, requesting all to stand, then with prayer and the singing of 'Bless this House' by the Choir dedicated the Evergreen Seniors Centre to the purpose of service and joy for local seniors for today and years to come.

Finally Mayor John "Counsell acknowledged the contribution of City Council and its staff in co-operation with the Guelph Wellington Seniors Association which had realized this facility, already the envy of communities beyond Guelph's boundaries. Concluding his message and thanks to all concerned he declared the Centre to be officially opened, and cut a bright green ribbon. At this time colourful balloons were released and cascaded from the rafters.

The solemnity of the occasion over, the young at heart then patted, pushed and popped the air-filled toys as they re-lived a past and anticipated a happy and satisfying time together. Familiar and new faces then enjoyed a social occasion with refreshments and displays, while many took advantage of the guided tours which revealed the light, spaciousness, vistas and potential of the park side facility.

Not to disappoint those who could not attend the Opening, the next two days were devoted to showing off Guelph's latest pride and joy to other seniors, their families and friends. Entertainment by the Guelph Concert Band, the Twilites, the Sunshiners, the Silvertones, the Silver Sounds, the Harmonies, Roy Wheeler and his No 9 Band, and Country Line along with demonstrations by badminton players, line dancers, Tai Chi seniors and displays of painting and porcelain art which proved the many talents of Guelph's seniors. These events augured well for the future of the Evergreen Seniors Centre.

Frank Vigor
April 1992

OUR HISTORY

SENIOR CENTRE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Opening Date of the EVERGREEN SENIORS CENTRE has passed with the Official Ceremony taking place on February 19, 1992. The Building Committee and the Fund Raising Committee have met their objectives and so has the Development Committee with the last meeting to be held in March.

As Chairman I am very grateful for the support that I have received over the past four years from the members of the Committees. The EVERGREEN CENTRE is a tribute to our combined accomplishments.

We have now to honour those who have made major contributions in accordance with the established policies. This will be the responsibility of the Guelph/Wellington Seniors Association Board upon a report from the Development Committee.

First, we have already produced a list of all the donors up to December 31, 1991. Donors' names will be added for the donations received in 1992.

Secondly, an Honour Wall will be created listing all those who have contributed excess of \$2,500 in three categories:

1. Individuals
2. Corporate
3. Service Clubs

Thirdly, the benefactors who have contributed towards the physical resources which will be acknowledged by the placing of plaques to make the donation. The following list acknowledges these benefactors to date:

- The Rotary Club of Guelph Charitable Foundation – \$300,000 - THE T.T. SKOV AUDITORIUM -
- The Rotary Club of Guelph - \$100,000 – THE ROTARY ROTUNDA OVERLOOKING THE RIVER
- The W.C. Wood Co. Ltd. - \$50,000 – THE DINING FACILITIES
- The Royal Bank of Canada - \$25,000 – THE FOYER AND BUSINESS OFFICES
- McNeil Consumer Products Co. - \$15,000 – THE JOHNSON AND JOHNSON HEALTH UNIT.
- Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Clayton - \$10,800 – THE INFORMATION DESK
- The Guelph Wellington Men's Club - \$6,200 – THE BOARD ROOM FURNISHINGS

In addition we also received the following large donations:

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	\$10,000
Kinsmen Club of Guelph	\$10,000
Canada Trust Company	\$10,000
Mr. Jack Fine	\$10,000
Mr. and Mrs. R. Hammond	\$21,100

Finally there is a large commitment and contribution of \$300,000 from our own Association, of which \$200,000 has been paid.

I am very grateful to all the donors, large and small, and all those who have contributed their time and energy to this development – our EVERGREEN CENTRE.

Sincerely, Allen Whitworth
March 1992

OUR HISTORY

BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE SENIORS CENTRE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

FINAL REPORT

The activities of this Sub-Committee commenced with our first meeting on 3 December 1987, over four years ago. Prior to that we had several other committees – site, facilities and so on, as part of the overall development of a new seniors centre for Guelph. Extensive work was done by these groups over several years, even down to the selection of a site (adjacent to the Victoria Road Centre) and floor plans for an addition to it.

The members of our Sub-Committee at the outset were: Roy Lefneski, John Strobl, Leslie Snell, Gus Stahlman, Allen Whitworth (ex officio), Dorothy Wright and Dave Kennedy, as Chairman. At our first meeting Carrie Fisk was added and several others have joined our discussions in the intervening years: Isabel Henderson, Valerie Beckett and members of the City Staff.

The first task was to determine if the newly acquired Bowlerama site was suitable for renovation as a seniors' centre. After investigation by an architect, it was decided that the original building was not adaptable, largely due to poor construction, and would have to be torn down. In conjunction with the developer, who came on the scene through his agreement with the City, it was necessary to draw up plans compatible with their ideas. Since on Woolwich Street we would not have access to the Victoria Road Centre facilities, we were forced to expand our requirements considerably above what we had originally planned.

From the time we started anew in December 1987, there have been countless meetings (we gave up numbering them) with architects, City Staff and Council committees to finalize a plan acceptable to all concerned. The hundreds of hours spent at formal meetings and in other discussions have produced a new centre, to be opened on 19 February 1992, of which we can all be proud.

I wish to thank all who participated in our discussions, before the inception of the Committee and subsequently. Each brought to our deliberations valuable input. Our Committee's principal role was to develop plans and generally supervise construction of the new Evergreen Seniors Centre. That task has now been completed and Guelph's seniors will be forever grateful for the efforts of our group.

While planning and construction aspects are completed and our Committee can be disbanded, it may well be a small committee of seniors should be formed to act as advisors to staff as to modifications which are deemed necessary in the future. The Activities Program Committee will develop many new ideas for use of our expanded facilities, but changes to the building itself may require another committee to deal with modification. It might be called a Building or House Committee. We leave this decision to the GWSA or City Council.

J. David Kennedy, Chairman
13 January, 1992