

The Carleton Kirk Lodge Fund



Carleton Kirk Lodge Nursing Home received a Christmas gift in December 2009 with the establishment of a new endowed fund, **The Carleton Kirk Lodge Fund**, thanks to the generosity of Eileen and Gordon Boyd, long-time congregation members who have actively volunteered as board members.

Saint John's Carleton-Kirk Church is one of Saint John's most historic places of worship, formed by the merger of the West Side Kirk and Carleton United Churches. It rose from the ashes of a disastrous fire in 1973 to become an integral part of the Carleton-Kirk Complex Inc. which now includes a 75 unit Seniors' apartment complex and 70 bed Nursing Home on a West Side hilltop overlooking Saint John Harbour.

In the 1970's, community and church came together, recognizing a need for affordable housing. After the seniors housing was completed in 1977, it soon became evident that residents would eventually require more intensive care and support and that a nursing home should be next on the list of projects. Rev. Ken Thomson and Randy Reynolds played key roles in the planning and construction of the Carleton Kirk Lodge Nursing Home (CKLNH). "It wouldn't have happened without them" states Eileen Cameron Boyd, a life-long congregation member. Land had to be purchased and the properties on them were rented at first to help augment income for the project. Their mission statement is "With God's eternal love, we will enhance our residents' quality of life in all its aspects by providing care at the optimum level".

After four generations of family association with the Carleton-Kirk, Mrs. Boyd and her husband Gordon, thought it was time to establish a lasting way to cement their connection and commitment to it. Several of our area's nursing homes have the good fortune to have their own foundations, a concept the Boyds support. In December 2009, they inaugurated the **Carleton Kirk Lodge Fund**, giving the Nursing Home a permanently endowed fund with the help of the Greater Saint John Community Foundation. It will provide annual income to the facility. They hope it will inspire other supporters to contribute.

The dedicated couple is fully involved in their community and church, where they were married in 1977. In addition to being part of the Carleton Kirk's congregation, the couple has held numerous facility Board positions for many years. Gordon Boyd, a Windsor NS native, served as a board member and later devoted many years to the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes and the Canadian Long Term Care Society. Eileen grew up on Guilford Street, attended New Albert School and Saint John High and had a career in health care, retiring from a senior therapist position in the oncology department, at the Saint John Regional Hospital. With a keen appreciation for history, she notes her Great Grandfather Robert Cameron was one of the original congregation members. She contributes time to the Canadian Cancer Society, Salvation Army Auxiliary and

sings in the Carleton Choristers. “It isn’t about us, it’s about how we can help” she states, which sums up the Boyds’ philosophy on life.



New Brunswick’s nursing homes provide round the clock professional nursing care to over four thousand individuals who cannot fully look after themselves due to age, infirmity or physical disability. Most are fully accredited nationally and operate as non-profit organizations run by volunteer boards, which are committed to high quality resident care. The taxpayers of NB provide the lion’s share of nursing homes’ operating costs but many additional benefits accrue to those with links to a church, service club or community organization. In 2009, Jack Rogers served as CKLNH Board Chair along with Board members Rick Sabin, George Burchill, Donald Scott, Eileen Boyd, Judith Harrity, Paul Hooper, Mary Melanson, Marian Melvin, Jim Murray, and Rev. Ron Vincent.

The CKLNH has a Residents’ Council which provides additional support to residents. Tim Stevens has been the Executive Director of the CKLNH for almost two decades. He readily understands how needs are growing as they welcome seniors with greater acuity levels and needs for support of all kinds. Their latest project involves the installation of wheelchair accessible doors to the outdoor courtyard area.

Community Foundation Chair Cheryl Robertson states, “The new **Carleton Kirk Lodge Fund** brings the total to forty-six funds held within the permanent endowments of the Community Foundation, a testament to the generosity of our donors. As our demographics change, there will be more and more need for financial support to facilities which care for our aging population. We commend the Boyds for their generosity.” Donations to the new fund can be made by contacting the Foundation.

December, 2009

For further information contact:

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