

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2018

Bonnechere Manor Celebrates 60 Years

On August 13, 2018, Bonnechere Manor residents invited their families, day program clients, staff, volunteers, community neighbours and dignitaries to help them celebrate 60 years of long-term care service in the Renfrew and area communities. It was on that date exactly 60 years ago that the first Bonnechere Manor opened its doors to the new residents at 782 Raglan Street in Renfrew.



The Bonnechere Manor Home

A few short years ago
Some people started in to build,
A Home for all old people
Way out by Thompson Hill;
A Home in Renfrew County
A place that they could own,
They planned and built the structure
Called the Bonnechere Manor Home.

And so our loved ones had a hope
When all seemed dull and lost,
A place to spend their twilight years
At very little cost;
Some men went out to look them up
Through all the County combed,
To bring them all together
In the Bonnechere Manor Home.

And now they are collected here
The gay young folk of old,
The ones who built our Country up
Who struggled brave and bold;
And now they are inside our doors
A-waiting Heaven's call,
They've heard the Saviour's Blessing
Where He said "God Bless You All".

And we the Staff at Bonnechere Manor
Come and do our deed,
To serve our Senior Citizens
In their great time of need;
They may be maimed and broken
And their minds may sometimes roam,
But we'll protect your loved ones
In the Bonnechere Manor Home.

Editor's Note: This poem was read to Renfrew County Council Wednesday by J. L. Hughes, superintendent of Bonnechere Manor. It was written by an employee of the Manor, Bert Briscoe.

Fast forward to 1995, and the County of Renfrew and City of Pembroke contributed to the provincial funding to construct a new, state of the art "A" facility at its current location on 470 Albert Street. Since that time, the Renfrew Rotary Club and numerous other local people and businesses contributed to the beautiful auditorium addition, known as Renfrew Rotary Hall. It was only fitting that the old-fashioned (1958 to be exact) Garden Party was held in this space and adjoining courtyard garden. It is estimated approximately 250 guests enjoyed entertainment, including the Manor's own resident, staff and volunteer choir singing, "Summer of 58"; a riff on the popular Canadian Bryan Adam's song and one of the residents' award-winning pieces in this year's Rotary Music Festival. Other local entertainers, who included Dave Hurley, The Countrymen and Dennis Riopelle, made sure everyone's toes were tapping throughout the afternoon. Another Renfrew institution - Odi's King Burger, provided their delicious hamburgers. Local Brum's lemonade, popcorn and ice cream filled out the lunch menu to fit in with the 1958's theme.



Shelley Sheedy, Director of Long-Term Care introduced the local dignitaries who were on hand, including Mayor Janice Visneskie Moore, Chair as well as Mayor Bob Kingsbury, Vice Chair, both of the Health Committee, that governs the Home and Mayor Eady and Reeve Peter Emon from the Town of Renfrew. They brought greetings to the residents and their guests from County Council and Health Committee and the Town of Renfrew respectively. Chair Visneskie Moore recognized the Home’s history and said that, *“it is no wonder residents and families highly recommend Bonnechere Manor to their friends and family and the Home has a waiting list of over 200 people”*. Mayor Don Eady presented the Home with a beautiful scroll and Reeve Emon credited the long-serving dedicated staff who ensure *“they uphold the strong reputation for quality care that the Town relies on.”*

Mrs. Sheedy thanked the management and staff who assisted the residents in planning the day’s festivities and noted that they all look forward to many more years of working together to ensure the best possible programs and services.

Claire Ullrich, Fundraising Co-ordinator, reminds everyone that the 60th party does not end here – next up; the Bonnechere Manor Foundation’s annual Gala on Saturday, October 20th, will also feature the 60th Anniversary theme. So be sure to contact Claire for tickets as they are selling fast, and get your name in for the early-bird draw before August 31st for your chance to win two tickets to see Elton John in concert, generously donated by Aikenhead’s PharmaChoice Drug Store. You can contact Claire at 613 432-4873 Ext. 1252 for more information.

Bonnechere Manor is a 180 bed municipal (not-for-profit) long-term care home. It is owned and operated by the County of Renfrew and City of Pembroke and has provided quality care to the frail and elderly since 1958. A wide-range of long-term programs and services including 24 hour nursing care, accommodation, meals, as well as physiotherapy programs and a variety of social and recreational activities. In addition to long-term care services, the Manor also offers a variety of community services such as respite care, an adult day program in Cobden and Renfrew, and a Parkinson’s support group. Bonnechere Manor holds Accreditation with Accreditation Canada which provides the Home with the opportunity to benchmark their programs and services to national standards and assists in continuous quality improvements.

For more information, visit our website at www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca or call:

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