

**A Message from Soo Wong,**  
**Executive Director**

Spring has finally arrived!

Spring is a time when nature is changing, from warmer weather to longer daylight hours. It is often seen as the best season of the year. This is a season with many flowers in bloom, fresh outdoor air, outdoor opportunities, and exploration. Despite the Covid-19 Pandemic, we can still check out our local neighbourhood, explore the many natural trails, take leisurely walks in local parks, or take virtual tours of national parks, museums, and zoos.

As we celebrate spring, we can not let our guard down about the third wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We need to ensure that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), good hand hygiene, and social distancing are practiced every day and everywhere. Furthermore, we strongly encourage everyone to get the COVID vaccine.

There are number of spring events the Home is hosting and planning. This includes welcoming the Junior Achievers (local youths) to the Home and they provide virtual social activities with our residents; outdoor walks and visits; gardening activities; and upcoming External Partners Day. If you are interested to learn more about these events, please contact Sonia Fedele ([sfedele@bennettvillage.ca](mailto:sfedele@bennettvillage.ca)) or 905-873-0115 ext. 8511.



Long Term Care at Bennett Village

## Family Friendly

### April 2021



Patricia and Brady filling our new bird feeders! Happy Spring!

#### **Covid-19 Bi-monthly Conference Call**

**By: Leadership Team**

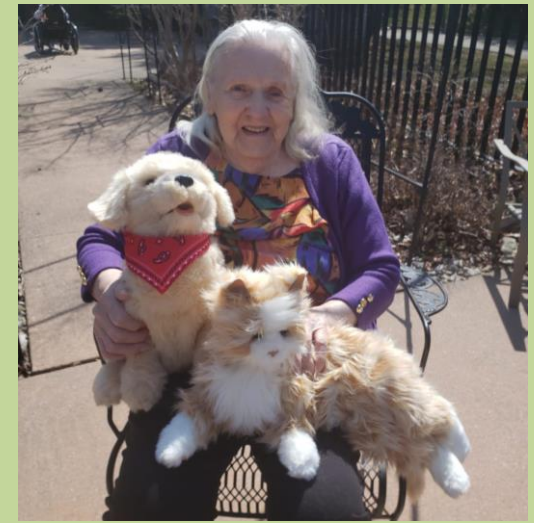
Please continue to join us for our bi monthly family conference call every other Thursday at 5:30 pm. To join please call 1-855-331-8822 or 416-933-3851  
Conference ID: 7933152#

#### **"Pet" Therapy**

**By: Elizabeth Mantey, BSO**

Last month, our BSO team emerged Pet and Doll Therapy program to support our Residents' emotional, mental and social well-being during this pandemic. These robot pets (cat and dog) employ motion sensors to simulate realistic behaviors. They, purr, wag their tails, blink, vocalize and respond when petted.

Companionship is one of the most important necessities in life. The pets serve as a soothing presences by alleviating distress and reducing loneliness seen in some of our residents. They're great conversation starters and encourage positive interactions among residents. We've seen amazing results from pet therapy in our Home within recent weeks and it truly does work wonders to our residents' mood and social well-being.



Margaret and her new friends enjoying the warm weather; Margaret is happier than usual.

*"Thanks to whoever gave me these animals because I don't feel lonely anymore".*



**Milf and Casey enjoying their time at The Bennett Centre with our amazing staff members Raj and Anthony**



### A Message from our Family Council

First, many thanks to Ro Palumbo-Coates for her leadership of the Bennett Family Council over the last three years. She was always very caring, comforting and educating the family council members as well as the residents.

We (Rick and Neil) are now co-chairs of the Bennett Family Council as of April 1st. We look forward to this opportunity, and encourage all family and friends to join us in our Zoom calls that will be held on the same evening as the Bi-monthly Bennett Leadership team conference call. The call will be at 7:30 pm for 30-60 minutes. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the Bennett centre operation and to share information with each other.

Family member Priscilla has generously volunteered to collect items for Nurses Week (May 6-10). Our target is to create 125 gift baskets, a small token of appreciation for those who care for our loved ones. We're looking for donations of any kind or number. From a gift card, to free services, to new physical items. Please reach out to Priscilla on our FaceBook group by May 1st (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Bennettfamilycounsel>). For those that don't use FaceBook, please contact her via her e-mail account (see below).

We are all discouraged with recent lockdowns and rules that prevent us from visiting our loved ones indoors again. This is out of the control of the Bennett Leadership team, but we know they are doing everything possible to enable safe visits and communication (FaceTime, Skype). Now with the weather turning for the better, it won't be long before we're meeting again in the garden. Definitely something to look forward to!

Join us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Bennettfamilycounsel/> It's a private Facebook group/page to discuss/join/be made aware of topics.

Visit [www.fco.ngo](http://www.fco.ngo) (Family Councils of Ontario). See what they do and how they help.

April/May Zoom calls scheduled for April 15, April 29, May 13, May 27 (Same as Bennett Leadership have their bi-monthly conference call)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89964532901?pwd=NG83RjBaanZUNkIvNk9vL2Z6dWUzd09>

Meeting ID: 899 6453 2901 Passcode: 910603

Regards,

Rick Stomphorst (co-chair) - [rick@stomphorst.com](mailto:rick@stomphorst.com)

Neil Hageman (co-chair) - [neil.hageman@gmail.com](mailto:neil.hageman@gmail.com)

Priscilla Nesbitt (secretary) - [nesbittpriscilla@gmail.com](mailto:nesbittpriscilla@gmail.com)