



April 2025 | A Note from Kathleen Klaasen, CEO

After many ideas, much discussion, and ratification by the RHC Resident Council, we are proud to share the new name for this newsletter:

The Community Current.

The word *Community* reflects the physical spaces we live in and the commitment to relationship that is at the centre of life at Riverview. The word *Current* was chosen to convey a sense of timeliness and newsworthiness. It also references the river that borders our campus and implies movement, change, and power.

We hope you like it as much as we do! Thanks to the members of the Resident Council for their input and support in this project.

This electronic newsletter - published on the first Thursday of the month - will continue to feature information and inspiration for Riverview Health Centre residents, care partners, and friends.

While you will always see timely campus news and upcoming events, we hope to highlight more of our residents and care teams in the coming months. If you have any comments or ideas for the newsletter, please reach out to Carol at cdynkavitch@rhc.mb.ca.

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In other news, for the third year in a row, Riverview Health Centre has been recognized as **one of Manitoba's Top Employers**.

We are particularly proud of this achievement because it highlights our continuing effort to maintain the best possible work environment for our Team, empowering them to provide the best possible care.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about how and why Riverview was recognized as a Top Employer for 2025.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

April 10	Crib Tournament 2pm Location to be confirmed
April 11	Resident Council Meeting 2pm Thomas Sill Auditorium
April 14	Music: Don Carole 2pm Worship Centre
April 24	Spring Maker's Market 3pm - 5:30pm Cafeteria + Thomas Sill Aud.
April 25	Stradbrook Choir 2pm Cafeteria + Thomas Sill Auditorium
April 29	Casino 1:30pm Cafeteria + Thomas Sill Auditorium
April 30	Volunteer Reception 1pm Thomas Sill Auditorium
May 8	Music: Winnipeg Pops Orchestra 7pm Cafeteria + Thomas Sill Aud.
May 17	Music: Invisible Trio 2pm Cafeteria + Thomas Sill Auditorium

Campus News

HEALTH MINISTER VISITS RIVERVIEW

We were very happy to welcome **The Honourable Uzoma Asagwara MLA**, Minister of Health, Seniors, and Long Term Care, on a recent visit to Riverview Health Centre.

They were invited by Riverview's **Acquired Brain Injury Team** to tour our rehabilitation areas, meet several people currently receiving rehab care and support, and hear an overview of a proposed project which would greatly enhance care related to acquired brain injury in our province and beyond.

Minister Asagwara was engaged, impressed, and eager to hear more, and requested a formal proposal based on the Team's outline. This is a significant achievement which bodes well for the future of treatment for those affected by acquired brain injury. Thanks to everyone who helped RHC to make the most of this opportunity.



RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT FORUM: QUICK FACTS

Riverview's first Resident Engagement Forum was a success! We will share details in the May newsletter. In the meantime, here is a brief overview of the event:

- 27 residents in attendance and representation from the following communities: CD1, CD2, CD3, CD4, 2West, and 3West
 - Feedback was gathered on current engagement opportunities: Resident Council, Quality & Safety Council Resident Advisors
 - Feedback was gathered on new ideas for engagement: Clubs, Community meetings, Volunteer Roles
 - Residents brainstormed and shared new ideas for engagement
- Next steps:
- Share summary of feedback at Resident Council and incorporate additional feedback received
 - Identify what changes we can action this upcoming year



NEW BEVERAGE CART OFFERS CHOICE

As part of Riverview's commitment to person directed living, we are testing the use of a **Beverage Cart** to present residents with their choice of free drinks and snacks on an occasional basis. The cart will be staffed by volunteers and residents. Once the trial period is completed, we hope to visit each community once per month.



Our 'trial run', held on March 11 in the CD2 community, was an unqualified success! The cart - staffed by Andre Hall-Grusska, Co-President, Resident Council, and student nurses DK King and Ethel Nabukeera - was decked out for St. Patrick's Day. It was chock-full of coffee, tea, pop, and treats... just the thing for a mid-afternoon snack - especially when each person gets to choose whatever they like.

It seems a simple thing: fill a study, stainless steel cart with snacks and away you go... as long as you have consulted with an RHC dietitian about each resident, are scrupulous about cleanliness and maintaining infection prevention protocols, and are prepared for curious glances, hallway conversations, and happy customers. Being sufficiently prepared, our Beverage Cart Hosts were ready for anything and received rave reviews.

We learned a lot on our practice run, and will be ready to head out again soon. We are very grateful for the **RHC Foundation and their donors**, whose incredible support allowed the purchase of this specialty cart and supplies.



RIVERVIEW HEALTH CENTRE CHILD CARE CENTRE OPENING FALL 2026

We are thrilled to (finally!) be able to share that a brand-new licensed child care centre will open at Riverview Health Centre in Fall 2026.

An incredible new building will provide 16 infant spaces and 64 preschool spaces, offering high-quality early learning and care in a setting that fosters deep connections across generations. We are in the process of finalizing the design for the building and plan to break ground by Fall 2025.

To bring this exciting project to life, we are partnering with [Inspired by Wonder](#), an innovative and experienced child care provider whose commitment to building community

mirrors our own.

A key feature of their programming will be an **intergenerational component**, where children will regularly engage with “Grand Friends” – the residents of Riverview – through consistent and meaningful visits. This aspect will strengthen our work in nurturing relationships, knowing each person, and providing individualized living and care, as part of our commitment to person directed living at Riverview.

We look forward to building strong partnerships with the Inspired by Wonder team as well as the broader community to create a truly unique and enriching experience for children, families, and residents alike. Being able to offer on-campus child care will help us continue to recruit and retain the incredible staff that make up the Riverview Team.

This project is funded through **Riverview Health Centre**, and the **Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund**, a partnership between the provincial and federal governments. Stay tuned for more updates as we prepare to bring this vision to life!



prairie RIVERVIEW HEALTH CENTRE
CHILDCARE CENTRE
GREYHOUND INC. 10000 Ave. Highway 100

Option 3 - Mahogany - Warm Rosewood

[RHC IS SCENT FREE... for many important reasons](#)

“There are many practices that are acceptable outside hospitals but not inside. One of these is the application of artificial scents to our bodies. While artificial scents are designed to make us more attractive, they may result in unintended harm to those who are vulnerable.”

The WRHA has a Scent-Free policy,** but it is often given little respect by staff and visitors alike. Perhaps if readers understood the impact for some, there would be a stronger appreciation of the rule.

Exposure to scents can cause headaches, migraines, dizziness, respiratory symptoms, and shortness of breath, among other symptoms. The severity of symptoms can vary. While some people report mild irritation, others are incapacitated and the health effects are severe.

For example, a resident in the 2 West Community had increased shortness of breath after exposure to a visitor’s scent recently. Though treated, his symptoms lasted hours before he was able to breathe regularly again. An employee had to leave work early due to exposure to scent, and

Many types of products can contain scents - shampoo, hairspray, deodorant, lotion, cleaners, and soaps, for example.

Please, be careful about scents before you come to RHC, and consider the impact on vulnerable people.

missed the next day of work due to the consequence of a migraine headache - a direct result of the exposure.



* Flegel K, Martin JG. Artificial scents have no place in our hospitals. Canadian Medical Association Journal CMAJ. 2015 Nov 3;187(16):1187. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.151097. Epub 2015 Oct 5. PMID: 26438018; PMCID: PMC4627866
**WRHA Dress Code Policy Number: 20.70.010 Page 3 of 3

Got (Gently) Used Books?

Volunteer Services welcomes donations of **gently used paperbacks** for re-sale. They can be dropped off at the Gift Shop or the Volunteer Services office.

Also needed: **large print books**, and **current magazines in very good condition** (especially on subjects like sports, cars, trains, science, and other cool stuff). These will find their way to the free Book Cart for residents and others we serve to enjoy.



Upcoming Events

All Welcome!

Spring Maker's Market

Thursday, April 24, 2025
3pm - 5:30pm
Cafeteria/Thomas Sill Auditorium



Another great campus event, courtesy of your PEP Team!

Shop **REALLY** local! 🇨🇦

You may just find the perfect thing to welcome spring. 🌸

Everyone welcome.



JOIN THE
STRADBROOK CHOIR!

APRIL 25TH
2:00-3:00
TSA/CAFE



Scan the [Campus Calendar](#) at the top of this newsletter for lots of great activities. There is something for (almost) everyone! Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

APRIL IS PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

Parkinson's is the fastest-growing neurological condition in the world. Yet, awareness and support still lag behind.

With increasing diagnoses, we need more research, better access to care, and stronger community support. At Riverview, we are proud to care for some of the many Manitoban's living with Parkinson's.

There are plenty of ways to get involved. Learn more at:

<https://www.parkinson.ca/PAM/>
<https://uturnparkinsons.org>



Community Connection

Care Partner Support Network - Notes from March 5 Meeting

The name of this meeting group was changed from 'Family Information Meeting' to '**Care Partner Support Network**' to better align with Riverview's person directed living initiatives.

The **potential for a strike** by allied health team members was noted, with assurances that Riverview is - as always - committed to the safety and care of our residents and people in our care. (*Strike action did not occur, as a tentative agreement was reached.*)

At the date of the meeting, several **outbreaks of cold and flu** were occurring. All communities are faring well, with no large spread of illness. If you are unsure whether or not a loved one has received all their vaccines, please speak with a nurse or manager in your community.

Tub room renovations continue; C-side work is expected to be completed in April. After that, renovations on the tub rooms in the AB and 3West communities will begin, followed by the D-side. We aim to have all work completed by the end of October, 2025.

NEW As part of Riverview's commitment to person directed living, we will test the use of a **Beverage Cart** to present residents with their choice of free drinks and snacks on an occasional basis. The cart will be staffed by volunteers and residents. Once the trial period is completed, we hope to visit each community once per month.

The results of the **Manitoba Health Standards visit** to Riverview were shared. Riverview achieved 100% in all areas, with some recommendations and suggestions for improvements. Action on these recommendations is already underway.

Olivia Essex, Quality & Accreditation Consultant presented on the '**Appropriate Use of Antipsychotics**' project (May 2023 - May 2024). Results: 46% of general personal care community residents had their antipsychotics reduced or discontinued, and there was a 17% reduction in the number of residents who were prescribed antipsychotic medications.

Going forward, usage summaries continue, as well as ongoing evaluation of the appropriateness of antipsychotic use in individual cases. In February 2025, Riverview's CD3 community joined Health Care Excellence Canada's 'Sparking Change in the Appropriate Use of Antipsychotics Awards Program'.

Round Table

- Temperature in the Solarium too cool for some. (*Action will be taken to change the settings to improve the temperature.*)
- Compliments were shared for those who care for residents at Riverview.
- How to get the newsletter? Provide your email address to the manager in your community to be added to the subscription list or ask for a printed copy.
- Request for photos of the newly renovated C-side spa rooms, once completed, as well as the Beverage Cart.

Each community has a **Lost and Found** box. Beginning with the next Care Partner Support Network gathering, each community will bring their Lost and Found items for display, in hope that they will be claimed.

(Photos will be shared in the newsletter as soon as the spa rooms are completed. Photos of the Beverage Cart in use are in the Campus News section [above](#).)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 | 3pm - 4pm | Thomas Sill Auditorium
Care Partners of all Riverview Residents are welcome!

Resident Council Report - March 14 Meeting In Brief

Beverage Cart

- The test run of the Beverage Cart (a pilot project) was well-received by the residents of CD2. Going forward, we hope to create a different theme for the cart for each month, with input from Resident Council. It is the intent for the cart to visit each community once a month.
- The pilot project was funded by the RHC Foundation; we will be submitting a proposal to the Foundation for ongoing support.

Next Meeting

Friday, April 11
2pm - 3pm
Thomas Sill
Auditorium

All Riverview
Residents
welcome!

Quality and Safety Committee

- Noted that Mike and Jack (residents, both present at the Council meeting) were members of this committee.
- While some of the front entrance navigation issues will be addressed when the weather warms up, there are additional challenges which will require another review by the building and grounds team.
- In the public washrooms, the toilet seats are too low to allow easy use for all.
- Several people commented on food and food service (soup too hot, process for communicating with dietitians, etc.). A report from the Meal Time Experience Working Group will be requested for the next meeting.

Anti-Psychotics Project Report

- See notes in the Care Partner Support Network article above.

Naming Communities

- A project is underway to name the Riverview communities where people reside full-time, as part of our overall effort to minimize institutional language. The new names will reflect a move toward a nature-oriented physical environment which will take shape over the next couple of years. Residents will be invited to participate in selecting names for their communities. A process is being established and will be rolled out in the coming months.

Round Table

- Request for materials for the Book Cart - Large print materials, short stories, music, audio books, magazines. A request will be placed in the April newsletters.
- Access to Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy is sometimes challenging, likely due to the fact that the therapists are providing care for multiple communities.

Health and Wellness

If you have any questions about infection control, please contact the Riverview Infection Prevention and Control Team at 204-478-6172 or 204-478-5728.

Contact Precautions

- Residents are placed on Contact Precautions when they are sick and may be contagious (stomach upset, skin rashes etc.).
- Contact precautions are used to stop the spread of germs carried on hands, clothes and equipment.
- Gowns and gloves are worn when helping with care such as bathing, toileting, or changing soiled items.
- Ask staff *before* you go into the room of someone on Contact Precautions so you know how you can help stop the spread of germs.



[In Focus: Volunteer Helps Make Donut Days Possible](#)

Every Tuesday after supper, **Melanie Davis**, Therapeutic Recreation Facilitator, and **Ava**, a Volunteer, make mini donuts for the residents on AB2.

Whether it is the aroma in the air, the visual of watching Melanie and Ava bake, listening to conversations involving past baking experiences the residents had, helping with mixing ingredients, or eating the donuts with a nice cup of hot coffee, everyone is happy to take part.

The activity used to be called “Baker’s Corner”, but because of a family member’s suggestion, it is now called, “Donut Days.”

April 27 - May 3 is National Volunteer Week. We are grateful beyond measure for each and every volunteer who shares their time and energy with all of us at Riverview. Thank you Volunteers!



[Person Directed Living at Riverview](#)

For questions and comments about Person Directed Living, please contact Deanne O'Rourke, Person Directed Living Coordinator at dorourke@rhc.mb.ca or Kelly Dutiaume, Clinical Educator at kdutiaume@rhc.mb.ca.

Spring Greetings to everyone!

Did you know...?

Over the past year, **310 staff** that work within or support the CD1, CD4, AB2, 2East, 2West, and 3West Communities have completed their **Person Directed Living learning and education program**. The AB2 team will complete theirs over the next month and the CD2 and CD3 teams will complete theirs between April and June. Education planning for the staff/team members who work within other care areas and core services teams within Riverview will begin shortly.

As the staff have been completing their education, we have also held some informal information and discussion sessions for residents and care partners within some of these Communities. If you were not able to attend a session yet and would like to learn more about what Person Directed Living is and what it looks like in real life, we would like to share some examples with you. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.



Please feel free to reach out through the emails above if you have any additional questions or feedback about Person Directed Living at Riverview. Information and updates will continue to be provided in the monthly newsletter, so please stay tuned! - *With gratitude, Deanne & Kelly*

[People and Places](#)

Therapeutic Recreation is a health care profession that utilizes leisure, recreation, and play as primary tools to support each person in achieving their highest level of independence and quality of life.

These activities are made possible at RHC through the generous support of donors to the [Riverview Health Centre Foundation](#).

Click here for
the latest
recreation
calendars.

2W Residents, along with Musical Therapist Logan, recently hosted a Sing-a-long in the Cafeteria. Logan played the guitar and Irv's daughter played the fiddle. Song books with the words to many classic favorites were shared. Residents from other communities, families, care partners, and visitors sang along. It was a happy day!



It's time to think Spring! Even with the snow on the ground (it's melting fast), folks around Riverview are excited about all things spring.

We are looking forward to warmer outside temperatures, greening grass, leaves popping out on the trees, and of course bunnies and chocolates and eggs.

While we wait, some **spring crafts** remind us that this wonderful season is just around the corner. Happy Spring!



Not all of us can trace our roots back to the bonny green hills of Ireland, but when **St. Patrick's Day** comes around, there's room for everyone to celebrate! Musical guests and 'the wearing of the green' brought a lot of fun and song and laughter to Riverview, just when we needed it most. Happy St. Patrick's Day!





[Research at Riverview](#)

The two years since **Dr. Genevieve Thompson** undertook the position of **Research Chair, Person Directed Living** at Riverview Health Centre have been a whirlwind of excitement, learning, and change. We have made significant strides in embracing person directed living at Riverview, thanks in part to evidence-backed practice supported by Genevieve and her team. Here are a few highlights of their work:

- Conducted a facility wide staff survey to explore staff perceptions on person directed living. We will conduct this survey again once all staff education is completed.
- Gathered information on the Artifacts Tool from each community to identify and help set priorities for person directed living initiatives and changes.
- Worked with several communities to have 4th year University of Manitoba nursing students run small quality improvement projects.

Human Forever: A Documentary About Dementia Around the World

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 | 1pm - 3pm
Sam Cohen Auditorium, St. Boniface
Research Centre

In an effort to build on the relationships we began to develop during the 2-day workshop, we will be hosting another gathering. This time, we will meet to view '**Human Forever**', an award winning documentary which explores how dementia is managed

- Conducted a pilot project with the AB community to open the pavilion doors. This project, funded through the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation, demonstrated the need to have staff available in the pavilion to facilitate use of activities and engage residents.
- Held a 2-day workshop with leaders and decision-makers from the long-term care sector in Manitoba to discuss how we can re-imagine person care homes.

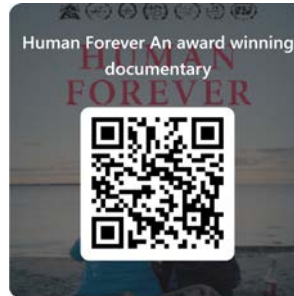
This project, funded through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), is helping to lay the foundation for many demonstration projects across the sector including mealtime enhancement, and staffing model changes amongst others.

We will continue to broaden the impact of person directed living on our campus, supported by what we learn and discover through research right here at home.

in various countries and what we can learn to make the future more beautiful and inclusive.

This film is NOT available online or through a streaming service; the only way to see this remarkable movie is in person.

While it is free to attend, registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register, or scan the QR code below.



[Riverview Health Centre Foundation](#)

Follow us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on events and see how donors impact RHC! @RHCFoundation1

Cycle on Life

Exciting news! Registration for Cycle on Life is just around the corner. Stay tuned for details on how you can sign up, start fundraising, and be part of this incredible ride in support of Riverview Health Centre.

Keep an eye out—more info coming your way soon!

[Editor's Note](#)

Hello! Did you try the clickable links under 'In This Issue', the index at the top of this newsletter? They make it easier to find what you need, and navigate quickly through the newsletter.

We encourage you to review the whole newsletter, if you have the time. If it's in here, it's information we want you to have a chance to know, understand, or be aware of. And who knows? Something you read here just might be what you need to help make today a good day.

Watch for the May issue of *The Community Current* on **Thursday, May 1, 2025**.

As always, please email me at cdynkavitch@rhc.mb.ca if you have any questions or comments about this newsletter. Thank you for reading!

~ Carol Dynkavitch, Communications Specialist and Editor



PURPOSE: Creating a vibrant, innovative, and inclusive community that enables each person to live a purposeful and meaningful life.

PRIORITIES: Each Person We Serve | Our Team | Excellence and Innovation | Growth and Sustainability

PERSON DIRECTED LIVING COMMITMENTS: Respect | Relationships | Knowing Each Person | Individualized Living and Care | Autonomy | Dignity of Risk

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