

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

2026



Sunshine, Connection, & Community

Summer has arrived at LMH, bringing longer days, warmer weather, and countless opportunities to enjoy the beauty of the season together. Across our campus, residents, families, volunteers, and staff are making the most of this special time of year, whether it's spending time outdoors in our courtyards and gardens, enjoying community outings, participating in activities, or simply sharing conversations with friends old and new. The summer months offer a chance to appreciate life's simple pleasures. From watching flowers bloom, welcoming visits from loved ones, to celebrating special occasions, and creating new memories, each day brings moments that enrich the lives of those who call LMH home. These experiences help foster the sense of belonging, purpose, and community that has been at the heart of our organization for more than 60 years. As you read through this edition of our newsletter, we invite you to celebrate the stories, milestones, and everyday moments that reflect the spirit of our Home. Thank you for being part of our community and helping us continue our mission of putting Residents First. We wish you a joyful and memorable summer season.



Seasonal Reflection

ANNA-LISA SALO | LMH CHAPLAIN

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me...”
Matthew 11:29

Imagine the delight of the Retirement residents this past spring when a female mallard duck graced their courtyard with her presence. Excitement increased with each passing day as the residents waited patiently for the chicks to hatch. Eventually, the chicks broke free from their shells and flooded the garden space with their adorable, fuzzy selves. The courtyard has never seen so much activity. Residents took every opportunity to observe the antics of their web-footed friends. They strolled through the courtyard, sat on benches, or watched through their windows. LTC residents were frequently ported through on wheelchairs. This feathered family was fully embraced and adopted by our residents, providing hours of joyful entertainment.



But the presence of the ducks did not just entertain. What began as casual curiosity grew into an important daily ritual—one that prompted laughter, conversation, and a sense of connection among the residents. Psychologically, it is well known that interacting with animals carries powerful emotional benefits, even in simple ways. These encounters can lower stress, ease loneliness, and lift mood. The ducks offered the residents gifts that were wonderfully grounding. Watching the ducklings wobble after their mother stimulated memories from the past and reminded them of the beauty found in the simple rhythms of daily life. Feelings of empathy were awakened along with a sense of purpose and bonding through shared experience.

More importantly, as it often happens in nature, a deep spiritual lesson emerged through this duck family. The ducklings, although free to explore and roam independently, were never far from their mother. One word from her and they came running. The ducklings trusted their mother instinctively. They followed her because they knew her. Early on in their little lives, the ducklings imprinted on their mother, following her example and placing their confidence in her care.

By observing the ducklings' imprinting process, we can find a parallel with our own faith journey. Just as the ducklings imprinted on their mother, listened for her voice, obeyed, and followed her with trust, we are invited to follow Jesus with the same simple, steady confidence. Like the little ducklings, God's children move through life with the freedom to explore but never beyond the range of God's call. By faith we "imprint" on the word of God which then informs our identity, security, and purpose. Immersed in God's word, we learn to abide in God's presence daily. Shaped by God's word, we become God's image-bearers in the world.



The mother ducks and her 12 disciples have been relocated to the Jack Minor Bird Sanctuary but they left our residents with echoes of a deep spiritual truth. As wanderers in this world, we flourish and mature when we stay near the One who calls us by name. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." God's voice guides our steps, gathers our hearts, and draws us home again and again.

In Christ's peace,
Anna-Lisa Salo

Resident Submission

Special Report: The Missing Ducklings Case

Breaking News!

As reported by Horace D. Sniffenschnabel

Here in Peanut Centre, residents are curious, angry, upset. Well, you get the picture. Their source of entertainment for weeks has been the sight of a devoted mother caring for her children and playing “hide and seek” and amidst the hostas and ferns.

But, no more! They seem to have been kidnapped – one and all. No ransom has been demanded and no ransom has been paid. Police are baffled. Horace advises, “Be kind to your web-footed friends, for a duck may be somebody’s mother.” What????!!! We’re talking about ducks? – Give me a break! In the meantime, as the police do their job, keep your eyes on the media and watch for new developments.



Seasonal Snapshots: Spring at LMH



Spring 2026 Activity Highlights:

Spring was filled with fun, laughter, and meaningful moments across the LMH campus. Residents enjoyed several bus outings to local favourites including Colasanti's, Walmart, and Giant Tiger, providing opportunities to shop, explore, and spend time together in the community. In April, a few of our Retirement Residence residents embraced the spirit of April Fools' Day by dressing up and enthusiastically playing their roles, bringing plenty of smiles to those around them. We also celebrated Easter and Mother's Day with special activities and treats. Residents enjoyed decorating Easter eggs and gathering together for festive celebrations, while Mother's Day was marked with delicious cupcakes and time spent honouring the special women in our community. To celebrate Victoria Day, residents gathered on the patios to enjoy ice cream and the beautiful spring weather. One of the season's highlights was welcoming a family of ducklings to our Retirement Residence courtyard. Residents loved watching them grow and explore before they were safely transferred to Jack Miner's Migratory Bird Sanctuary. As spring came to a close and summer approached, residents helped prepare our outdoor spaces by planting flowers throughout the courtyards and patios, adding beautiful colour and creating spaces everyone can enjoy in the months ahead.



Meet Your Neighbour:

Marion Driedger, Retirement Resident

Marion was born in Canada to parents who immigrated from Ukraine. She grew up on a farm and later married a farmer, John Driedger. Together they built a life centered around family and farming, growing tomatoes, corn, wheat, and soybeans. Marion and John were blessed with three children—one daughter and two sons—and six grandchildren. Family has always been at the heart of Marion's life, and she especially enjoys spending time with both her immediate and extended family at gatherings and celebrations.

A woman of strong faith, Marion was baptized as a young adult and has been a member of the North Leamington United Mennonite Church community. She also was a member of a Verein, where they gathered to create beautiful quilts for themselves and to sell. Marion became especially known for her quilting skills, delicious baking, and her willingness to lend a helping hand whenever it was needed. Before starting her family, Marion worked at Eaton's and later at the Sears Order Office. After becoming pregnant, she chose to stay home to raise her children while also helping with the many responsibilities of farm life. She fondly remembers family vacations and a memorable trip to Europe, along with the many experiences shared with loved ones over the years. Known for her faith, kindness, generosity, love, and helpful nature, Marion continues to touch the lives of those around her. Following some health challenges, she became a resident of the Retirement Residence in May 2024. We are grateful to have Marion as part of the LMH community and appreciate the warmth and positivity she brings to our Home.

Meet Your Neighbour:

Neil Fotheringham, LTC Resident

Neil was born in Ruthven, Ontario, in 1944 and grew up on a family farm alongside his five siblings. The farm, where his father built the family home, was home to cows, pigs, horses, tomatoes, and corn. Neil and his former wife, Wanda, raised three daughters together, and after returning to the family farm, he remained there for many years before moving to LMH in June 2025.



A lifelong learner and active community member, Neil earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and has been involved with Scouts Canada, the Barbershop Harmony Society, and the Leamington United Church Choir. He is also a member of Leamington United Church.

Music has always been a central part of Neil's life. A former school music teacher and owner of Major Chord Music stores in Leamington and Windsor, he has shared his passion for music with countless people over the years. Neil plays the guitar, cello, piano, banjo, and violin, and enjoys listening to artists such as Gordon Lightfoot and Peter, Paul & Mary. One of his favourite traditions was attending the Mariposa Folk Festival each year with his daughter, Sarah. When he's not enjoying music, Neil likes reading the newspaper and music magazines. We are grateful to have Neil as part of the LMH community and appreciate the many experiences and talents he brings to our Home.

This or That?

Circle one or discuss with a neighbour!

Drive-In Movie or Movie Theatre

Camping Trailer or Cottage

Ice Cream Stand or Corner Store Treats

Fishing Trip or Family Picnic

Baseball Game or Fairgrounds

Porch Swing or Lawn Chair

Homemade Lemonade or Iced Tea

Fireflies or Shooting Stars

Day at the Beach or Day in the Garden



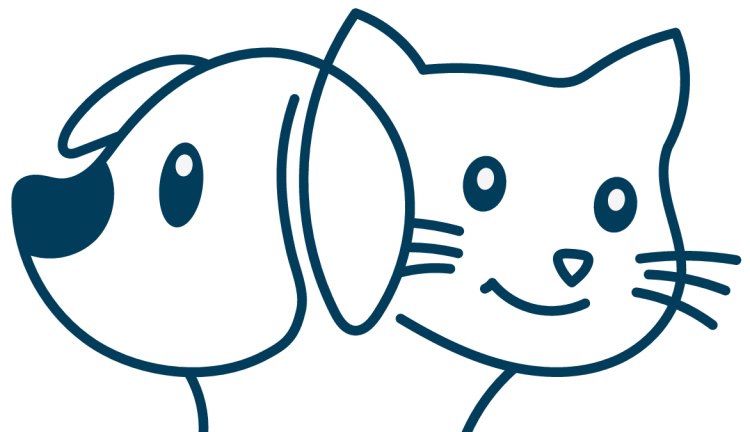
BRINGING A PET INTO OUR HOME?

The Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care requires all pets coming into our Home to be registered with our Front Office.

Pet owners must provide proof of the pet's vaccination on an annual basis for Infection Prevention & Control purposes.

Unregistered and/or unvaccinated pets will not be permitted in our building.

Pet owners will be provided with our Pet Visitation Policy upon registration.



Seasonal Craft Corner

Lavender Sachets

Materials Needed:

- Small fabric squares (cotton, linen, or felt work well)
- Dried lavender buds
- Ribbon, twine, or decorative string
- Scissors
- Spoon
- Optional: lace, buttons, fabric markers, or decorative trim



Instructions:

Step One:

Lay a fabric square flat on a table

Step Two:

Place 2–3 tablespoons of dried lavender buds in the centre of the fabric

Step Three:

Gather the corners and edges of the fabric together to form a small pouch

Step Four:

Tie securely with ribbon, twine, or decorative string

Step Five:

Add any optional embellishments to personalize your sachet

Step Six:

Place your finished sachet in a drawer, closet, bedside table, or gift basket to enjoy its fragrance!

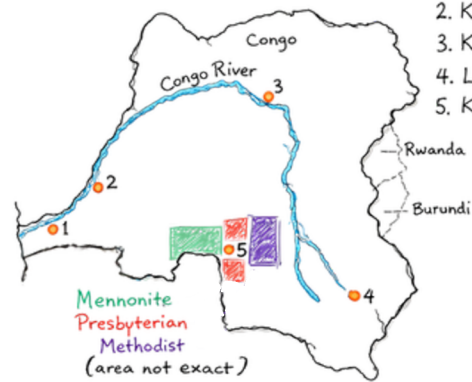
Did You Know?

Lavender has been valued for centuries for its pleasant scent and calming properties. It is often used in sachets, soaps, and oils, and many people associate its fragrance with relaxation and comfort. Have you ever grown lavender in your garden?

Stories from My Corner of Africa - Chapter Two

Written by Anita Janzen, Retirement Resident

We left the port of Antwerp one blustery morning in spring 1968. We embarked on the Patrice Lumumba and sailed rough seas through the Bay of Biscayne until we reached Tenerife. After a very short stop we sailed south again. We rounded West Africa and after some days noticed that the ocean was turning brown. We were told that we were near the mouth of the Congo River. This was the soil and water emptying into the ocean.



1. Matadi - port
2. Kinshasa capital
3. Kisangani 1st university
4. Lubumbashi
5. Kananga /Tshikaji

The port of Matadi was busy and we were welcomed by a Swedish missionary who guided us through the procedures and drove us to Kimpese Medical center. I had to spend time in orientation to tropical medicine. After three months, I was off to the Mennonite area. We flew over country where the forest was dense and dark with oak, mahogany, ebony, walnut and rubber trees. Nothing was visible but I knew there were some animals and many snakes lurking in the trees. on the river banks crocodiles slept in the sun. Occasionally, the hippopotamus was seen cooling in the river. We soon flew over the savannah with scrub brush, acacia trees, and tall trees where weaver birds had made their nests.

The mango, guava, avocado and various citrus trees flourished. Here, the tall grass which is called elephant grass, grew to the height of five or six feet. The fierce white heat of the African sun beat down during the day. Temperatures hovered between 90 to over 100 degrees. At 6pm, the day ended and a chilling star-washed velvet night began. The temperature dropped to 60 degrees. This was the beginning of dry season and we saw fires burning on the flat land. The burning was a yearly event to get rid of the old brush and restore the land for new crops. As the season progressed, the wind whipped the red soil into dust and we breathed it in. Soon everything was covered in a layer of red dust.

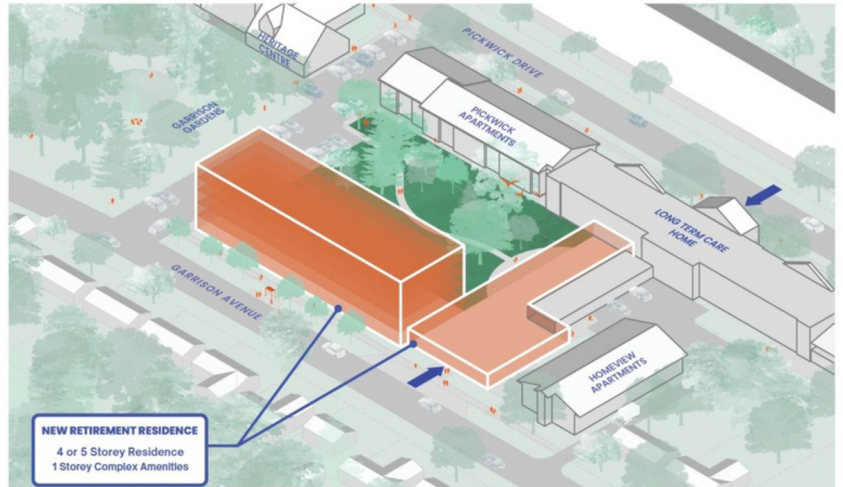
Six months later the rainy season was heralded by dark clouds and strong winds. Then came the lightning and the crashing thunder. The storms were violent, the ferocious rains lashed across the land and when the rains came they poured down. The rain would last about an hour perhaps two and then stop. In no time at all it was as if there had been no storm at all. There were bats and grass eating rats, and birds of all kinds hovering around. There were also diseases - malaria, sleeping sickness, bilharzias, river blindness, black water fever all of which bred in the rivers. Tuberculosis and leprosy were a real threat to the population. This was the Congo that I met and learned to love. It was the people however, that made the experience something I will never forget. This article sets the scene; the following articles will tell you about some of the lovely people I met.

Building a Future of Compassionate Care

New Assisted Living Retirement Residence & Amenity Spaces for the Complex

Excitement continues to grow as plans move forward for the Leamington Mennonite Home's new Assisted Living Retirement Residence and expanded campus amenities. Following unanimous support from our supporting church voting membership, the project is progressing through the planning and development stages, bringing us one step closer to creating new spaces that will serve seniors for generations to come.

Guided by our mission of Residents First, this project will help meet the growing need for updated senior living options in our community while enhancing opportunities for connection, recreation, and support. The new development represents more than a building, it is an investment in the future of compassionate, faith-based care and community living. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and encouragement we have received from residents, families, staff, volunteers, donors, our supporting churches, businesses, and community partners. Together, we have already raised more than \$2.2 million toward this important initiative. The LMH quilted logo reflects the eight core values that have guided our community. Just as a quilt is stitched together one square at a time, this new home will be built one story, one square at a time. We invite you to add your square to the story and help create the next chapter for the Leamington Mennonite Home.



Concept visual provided by Glos Associates Inc. Concept visual illustrating preliminary development intent and overall massing based on site constraints, as design will evolve into a realistic form through engagement and further design development.

To learn more about our Capital Campaign and New Development Project, visit www.mennonitehome.ca



Every square tells a story...



Can you help us build the next chapter at LMH?



One Story, One Square at a time.

Thank you to Ken & Rita Enns for an extraordinary leadership gift of \$1 Million towards the New Development Project



Thank you to the Driedger Family for a \$100,000 gift in honour of Abe & Helga Driedger





LEAMINGTON

Mennonite Home

Room & Meal Reservations

General Room Reservations

Room reservations should be made ahead of time to ensure availability. Reservations for rooms & meals can be made by contacting our Front Office Monday-Friday between 8am-4pm. Reservation requests cannot be fulfilled on holidays or weekends. There is no fee for reserving a room in long-term care. A fee may be applicable to reservations within the retirement home. We encourage families to plan ahead and make reservations early.

Meal Reservations

We are pleased to offer family members the opportunity to share a meal with their loved one. To ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for everyone, please take note of the following guidelines:

Designated Dining Area

- Visitor meals must be enjoyed in the designated lounge. Shared meals are not permitted in the main dining areas.

Reservation Guidelines

- Reservations should be made at least one day in advance to ensure availability.
- Each reservation holds a maximum of 4 visitor meals.

Meal Cost & Payment Options

- Each visitor meal is \$10. Payments can be made ahead of time or on the day of the meal, except for weekend reservations, which must be paid for in advance.

Acceptable payment methods include:

- Cash (exact change preferred)
- Credit card
- Cheque
- Charge to the resident's room

Meal Choices

- Each meal has two choices available. Due to limited quantities, meal choices must be specified at the time of reservation.

*Please note that during an outbreak, all reservations and visitor meals must be suspended. You will be notified if your reservation must be cancelled and any payments will be refunded.



Birthday Treats & Dessert Drop-Off Guidelines

If you are planning to bring cake or dessert for your / your resident's birthday celebration, please contact our front office: info@mennonitehome.ca or 519-326-6109 ext. 0

Please notify us by 2:00 p.m. on the day prior to your desired date of service. This allows our Dietary Department adequate time to prepare and ensures your dessert is served at the correct time.

Dessert Delivery Times:

- 9:00 a.m. for desserts served with lunch
- 11:00 a.m. for desserts served with supper