

June 18, 2024

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Residents' Council Week... Are you Ready?

Dear Residents and Residents' Council Supporters,

Did you know that Ontario's **5<sup>th</sup> annual Residents' Council Week** is just 3 short months away? Residents' Council Week (September 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>) is the perfect time to showcase and celebrate the contributions of residents, help others learn more about your Residents' Council, and find ways to bring your community together!

For this year's event milestone, our theme is *"Five and Forward"* – and we encourage you to work with your Council to dream big and set some goals. Perhaps you've always wanted to create your own Residents' Council brochure or capture your Council's meeting procedures in a set of bylaws. Have you had hopes of executing a big Council fundraiser or maybe you've been putting off an election? OARC invites you to use Residents' Council week as the perfect excuse to set the wheels in motion!



**RESIDENTS' COUNCIL WEEK**  
Celebration Ideas September 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Residents' Council Week is celebrated in the third week of September, and it presents a special opportunity to get your whole home excited about the importance and contributions of your Residents' Council, to have some fun learning about Residents' Rights, and to highlight resident engagement in all areas of your home's operations. In this document, we've pulled together some popular activity ideas to support you in planning for a memorable week!

For more inspiration, tools and templates, visit: [www.ontarc.com/residents-council-week.html](http://www.ontarc.com/residents-council-week.html)

Promote RC Week in your home's newsletter and on your activity calendars. Consider including pictures and short biographies about your Residents' Council leaders or highlight a list of Council accomplishments to highlight in your article.

Consider creating your own customized Residents' Council brochure using the OARC template <http://www.ontarc.com/education-support/tools.html#brochure>

Plan a Residents' Council social event or "meet and greet" where residents, team members, family and friends can interact and get to know the Resident Leaders in your home. A social event is also a great time for residents to get to know their home Administrator and team. If you live in a bigger home, consider having the Resident Leaders visit each floor/home area and have more intimate social events.

Create a Poster/Display Board in the front lobby (or one on each floor) promoting Residents' Council. Make your display interactive by incorporating trivia or handouts.

Consider hosting a "Red Carpet" Residents' Council Recognition event or awards ceremony to recognize the contributions of Resident Leaders and supportive partners (e.g., Residents' Council Assistants). Make up fun awards with ribbons, plastic trophies or certificates. OARC has created a **Certificate of Appreciation** template <https://www.ontarc.com/rcweek/2022RCweekCertificate.pdf>

For some help making the week of September 16<sup>th</sup> – September 22<sup>nd</sup> memorable, visit our [Residents' Council Week webpage](#) to access printable resources and activity ideas. And stay tuned for a special delivery from OARC containing balloons, posters and some other goodies coming your way later this summer.

### Looking for more Residents' Council Week inspo?

- Check out RC Week highlights from the last 4 years (Seasons magazine): [2023](#) | [2022](#) | [2021](#) | [2020](#)
- Watch our 2023 Residents' Council Week: Ideas and Inspiration [recorded webinar](#).
- Bring our 2024 compilation of [activity ideas](#) to your next Council meeting.
- Keep reading this bulletin to learn about our 2024 contests and more...

Do you have more ideas about how the OARC team might assist your Council in their planning and preparations? Please let us know by reaching out to Melissa McVie at [mmcvie@ontarc.com](mailto:mmcvie@ontarc.com).

## Applications for the Sharron Cooke Legacy Award Now Open!



Launched in 2023, the Sharron Cooke Annual Legacy Award recognizes residents and long-term care teams who, through a program or initiative, have demonstrated a commitment to authentic communication, relationship-building, establishing trust, and inspiring a sense of hope in their communities.

Has your home been engaged in a person-centred project or program that you're proud of? This award might be the right fit for you! Apply today for a chance to win a prize valued up to \$500 – selected with your Council's input.

Visit our [award webpage](#) for application details and learn more about our 2023 winner, Glen Rouge Community, in this [Seasons article](#).

**Applications will be accepted until August 23, 2024.**

Our award recipient will be notified by announced during our Residents' Council Week live webinar on September 18, 2024.

### Photo Contest: What Makes a Good Day in LTC?

We invite you to participate in a special [photo contest](#) to commemorate the 5th annual Residents' Council Week! Working with your home's Residents' Council, capture five moments that showcase what a good day looks like at your long-term care home. This might include a few snapshots of residents engaging in a favourite activity or program, a joyful connection amongst friends, or another aspect of daily life that your Residents' Council members look forward to.



**Deadline:** September 23, 2024

**Instructions:** Send up to 5 photos that include names, titles and emails (if applicable) of those pictured to Jennifer Langston [jangston@ontarc.com](mailto:jangston@ontarc.com). Participants must live and/or work in a long-term care home in Ontario. Please complete a [photo permission form](#) as photos will be used in a video celebrating Residents' Council Week 2024 and will be featured in OARC communications.

**Prize:** Five lucky Residents' Council groups will be selected by random draw to receive one of five \$50 gift certificates.

**Good luck! We can't wait to see your photos!**

**Happy Planning!** <https://www.ontarc.com/residents-council-week.html>