

THE CEDARS' 10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Welcome by Karen Hope

Good afternoon and welcome!

It is such a pleasure to be with you here today, celebrating The Cedars' 10th anniversary. I see many familiar faces of friends that have travelled all or part of these 10 years with us, supporting us along the way. How lovely to see you again.



To kick off our short program this afternoon I would like to introduce you to members of the Music Exploration group who have written a song for the occasion.

CHORUS:

CEDARS is the best place in town,
If you come with a frown, we'll turn it
upside down

We love to play the bells they make us feel
so well

When Anton plays, our worries just float
away

When we hear the guitar it takes us back
so far

When we hear the songs of yesteryear
– and they swing inside our ear.

People often say that there is something special about The Cedars, a feeling, that they cannot put their finger on but it feels "special". Part of that special feeling is our staff and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge, in particular, those that have been with us for these 10 years.

They are: Barb C*****, Gina R*****, Romi L*****, Julia C*****, Adrienne W****, Pat

Y*****, Charlie W*****, and, I know some of you think Jack Y***** retired but, to our great good fortune, he continues to share his expertise with us. Also, our valiant volunteer Jacqueline A***** and our bookkeeper, Donna D*****.

We have had two guiding maxims that have supported our work here as we all, together, grew The Cedars. They are:

- 1) To create somewhere we would want someone we loved to live;

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10th ANNIVERSARY SONG

The 10th Anniversary is here, we're full of
wine and cheer
Look through the garden and you will see
the lovely little deer
Friendships that we make when we share
tea and cake
We have a jolly time and never pay a
dime.

2) If in doubt, err on the side of compassion (my husband Warren often wishes I would bring this particular maxim home!).

I am often in the privileged position of receiving many accolades about The Cedars. However, I have not created this alone. It began with the board of directors, entrusted with the fulfillment of Mr. Dawson's vision of housing; the board, in turn, placed their trust in me. I have had the great good fortune to place my trust in colleagues who have consistently demonstrated a commitment to, and a love, of their work and the people that we serve.

Residents in The Cedars, and across campus have brought their hearts, imaginations, energy and at times, hard work to grow community here. The Cedars has often served as a focal point for particular community activities and celebrations.



Residents from The Dawson and The Cottages have joined in to weave a particular 'magic' into life here. Who can forget The Dawson Angels and their 'chicken dance' as they welcomed Beej home from his surgery and rehab? Or, their rendition of "Six White Boomers" when we gathered to send Anne N***** off on her Australian journey.

The annual Bazaar would not be possible without the combined efforts of residents across campus.

A very special acknowledgement must go to Janet H*****, resident of The Cottages since 1986. and a mainstay of afternoon tea at The Cedars. Janet often brings her famous pancakes and lemon curd and even more famous, and highly



sought after, "proper" Scottish shortbread.

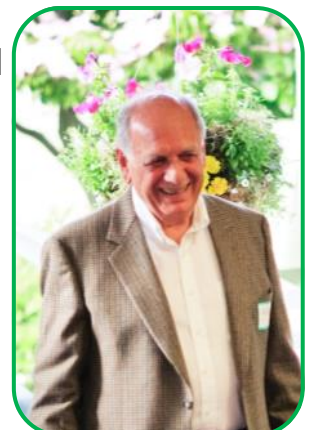
There are many stories that could be told of love, laughter and loss over the years, but it is my intention to keep this short. I hope that you will take the opportunity of spending time looking through the photo displays that Anita and Maureen have placed throughout the common areas as they tell many of those stories.

I want to end my welcome with a quote that has been gifted to us by one of our suppliers. It struck me so powerfully when I read it because I believe that it expresses one of our core values and sums up how we all - residents, friends, our board of directors, our staff and the families that support us - have helped to create "that special feeling".

"Excellence is the result of caring more than others think wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical and expecting more than others think is possible!" (E. Madill)

My gratitude and appreciation to each and every one of you for your contribution to the creation of life at The Cedars.

It is now my pleasure to introduce our President and Chairman Mr. Robert W.



Dora B

Hello Everyone.

Karen tells me that I've been at The Cedars longer than any other resident. We share 10 years together, The Cedars and I.

Percy Dawson would be so pleased to see how his original generous donation in the late forties has somehow grown and prospered until today we have a great variety of housing. With six plus acres there's been room to stretch out. The Cottages were first aimed at assisting war widows with their rent and safe housing. The minutes from a later date state that at its height Twilight Homes had "ninety and nine" units, a great achievement. Since then there has been the building of The Dawson, a completely independent rental accommodation which opened about four years prior to ours. The Cedars has been the crowning glory of the housing effort, still with the aim of affordability.



My husband and I both had heart attacks, and he a long-standing spinal problem from the war years. He was no longer comfortable mowing a large lawn and other things associated with home owning duties.

So we had decided to move to a place easier to handle. We watched The Cedars being built, and one day when it finally opened, we inspected the offering and loved what we saw and felt here. Tony had five happy years as a resident and I have had ten, all of them giving a sense of peace and comfort.



As you know, the staff are an exceptional bunch, and are willing to help each of us as best they can with smiles and good humour. The chef and his crew do a remarkable job and turn out healthy, tasty meals.

We can be thankful for all our staff, those we greet regularly and those unseen, working diligently to keep us comfortable and safe.

I love this place!

I have a feeling that Percy Dawson knows how Dawson Heights' board and its senior staff have instinctively known what the original vision was, and have been able to follow it through with their decisions.

Long may his spirit guide us.

By: Dora M. B. (The Cedars)





“The Cedars”

Retirement homes are many; you can find them by the score,
But each one very different, once you get inside the door;



If your time has come to choose one, in your special twilight years
Be alert and scan the options with cautious eyes and ears.
Be aware of your objectives as the facilities you roam,
It's so very, very critical as you choose one as your home.
What do you really look for as you decide just where to stay?
I beg to share some thoughts on this; permit me, if I may.
A place where care is paramount, staff share your heart and soul;
To make you feel first among equals their most important role;
Where kind and heartfelt outreach are always very near,
Where smiles abound so naturally, a house replete with cheer,

Where their stated umbrella mission always hovers close above

And service outshines profit, with gains assessed by love,
A place where frills mean little, and the most basic goals are set,

Where comfort, fine meals, and enjoyment are always superbly met,
With a community of residents who link their arms to ensure
That peace and harmony and sharing will constantly endure.

If you've searched these factors carefully, I'd say you've surely found
Your answer at a fine campus with a reputation that's sound;

Dawson Heights is a rare phenomenon, on all tests it tops the score,
As has its unit, The Cedars, for now ten years and more;

Part of the reason is very obvious, as each resident there will know,
They've a diligent and insightful Board and a wondrous CEO

Who've set a tone that's infectious, a pattern designed, then done
Brought alive by fine employees, surely ranked as second to none.

So we halt on this special occasion, as The Cedars we've paused to assess,

And offer a toast that is heartfelt, “Don't change a thing---and God bless!”



By: Arthur K. (The Cedars)



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