



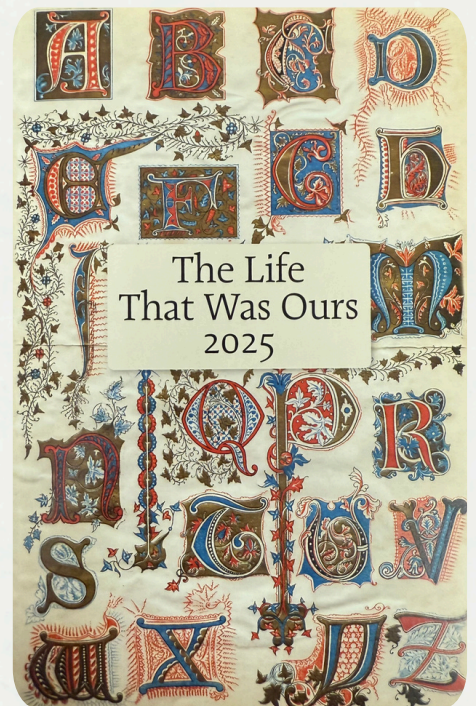
The Life That Was Ours

Tenants and residents at Belmont House have searched through their memories—and their photo albums—to create a brand-new book of stories to follow the first edition published in 1985.

Titled *The Life That Was Ours*, the new volume is a heartfelt collection from over 50 Belmont tenants and residents of personal stories, reflections, and poems that span over a half century of lived experiences. From tales of wartime courage to joyful childhood antics and adventures of family life, the book captures the essence of a generation that continues to inspire and speaks to the lasting value of social history.

“This book is more than a collection of stories,” said Peter Lewis, who coordinated the project. “It’s a celebration of lives well-lived.”

Copies are available for purchase for \$10 at Belmont House, with all proceeds supporting the Foundation.



Peter Lewis, Mary-Jane Horsfall large, Mary Mercer, and Toni Allen worked together to collect and organize stories from the Belmont House community.

Construction Corner

We are getting close to putting the shovel in the ground for our new, 11-storey building! There have been a number of developments we're excited to announce!

- The Ministry of Long-term Care announced enhanced funding for new construction projects in July. Belmont House will be receiving a significant increase in our provincial funding.
- The Belmont House Board of Directors has selected a general contractor for the project.
- Our site plan and building permit are currently being reviewed for approval by the City of Toronto.
- The Care It Forward fundraising campaign has just over \$21 million! The campaign will be publicly launched this Fall (date to be announced).
- We are on track to officially break ground in early November!



New interior courtyard

New Build Highlights

- 168 private long-term care beds/rooms.
- 32 memory care and assisted living beds.
- Therapeutic connections with nature, with outdoor terraces and beautiful landscaping.
- Lower-density floor plans (21 Long-term Care beds per floor).
- Spaces designed to create and sustain a sense of community, including a cafe for residents, families, and staff.
- Live music performances, celebrations, and programs in new outdoor and indoor event spaces.



New Belmont House entrance



Newly designed walking path

New Board Chairs Working Together to Move Belmont House into the Future

This summer, two new Chairs were appointed to the Belmont House and the Belmont House Foundation Boards of Directors. Kathryn Ramsay (BH) and Jim Christie (BHF) sat down to discuss their vision and plans for the next two years under their leadership.

Q: How were you first introduced to Belmont House and what about our community inspired you to serve on the Board of Directors?

KR: I applied to an online posting for the Board Directors' position. I did not have personal experience with Belmont House at the time, but significant experience in the seniors care sector. When I came for my interview and tour, I immediately connected with Maria Elias and her passion to ensure the very best experience for all seniors. Belmont House makes decisions from a community perspective, not profit. It is an exciting and endlessly inspiring community to serve.

JC: I have known Belmont's excellent reputation for many years. I was more formally connected when the Foundation began planning for the New Build fundraising campaign. Belmont House feels like an authentic community to me. When you walk in the front doors, you immediately feel a sense of home, not an institution.

Q: How have philanthropy and volunteering played a role in your life?

KR: My family and friends would say that I love to jump in and help people. I am generally most fulfilled doing that, both on an individual scale and on a more formal scale. Volunteering has always been a natural extension of that focus, and - involvement in non-profits aligns well with my social values. I am grateful to have been in a position for many years to be able to give freely of my time. I am pleased to be able to once again increase my volunteering as I have retired from the paid workforce.

JC: Giving and being involved in non-profits has given me the opportunity to participate in interesting projects and to meet lots of great people outside of my day-to-day business and legal life. I very much enjoy working with others on initiatives and causes which contribute to making our immediate community, and Toronto more generally, a great place to live.



Q: How has your time at Belmont House shaped or changed your outlook on seniors care?

KR: My time at Belmont House has renewed my faith in how well we can care for seniors. Our residents and tenants have helped to contribute to the world in many ways and they deserve to continue to have rich and fulfilling lives, when they are less able to do so independently. At the heart of our mission is the enduring commitment to provide an exceptional quality of life to all who call Belmont House home. That is a mission I am honoured to be a part of, and keep in mind with every decision we make as a Board of Directors.

JC: I have seen the good and the bad of seniors care. Belmont House is the good. Through my time serving on the Foundation Board of Directors, I have seen how teamwork and, as Kathy said, an enduring commitment to providing the very best for our seniors, leads to the implementation of exemplary experiences and care. The Butterfly Model of Care has transformed the experience of residents, families, and the staff in our Long-term Care Home. Fundraising for equipment such as therapeutic surfaces and new tubs guarantees all residents and tenants always have access to care and comfort that is so vital. I see now that we do not need to accept the bad, and we can ensure the good.

Q: What do you want your legacy at Belmont House to be?

KR: I want to be remembered as someone who supported the Belmont House Board of Directors and inspired them to make our collective dreams a reality.

JC: I want to be remembered as someone who helped make the dream of a bigger and better Belmont House a reality.

Putting Relaxation at the Center of Residents Days

Is there anything better than a relaxing bath? A soothing bath is something everyone looks forward to, and, we believe, everyone deserves.

For seniors unsure on their feet, or unable to lift themselves out of a tub, the enjoyment of bath time can easily disappear. We are committed to providing more than basic hygiene services, but safe, comforting, and relaxing experiences for residents.

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”
– Maya Angelou

The ability to provide a comfortable, and enjoyable bathing experience aligns with our primary goal in the 2025 – 2030 Strategic Plan: Provide an excellent resident and tenant experience.

Time and again, our community has come together and given what they can to help. That is what makes Belmont House so special. We need to raise \$40,000 to purchase a new bathtub for the residents living on 2East and your support will make a real difference.

The specialized tubs we use on all Long-term Care floors are designed to be used with lifts and are height-adjustable, giving flexibility for staff and residents to enjoy a bath as safe and comfortably as possible. The tubs also offer optional hydromassage, and multi-sensory features designed to enhance the therapeutic benefits of a luxurious bath.

We would be grateful if you would help make a new tub possible today by using the enclosed reply form and postage-paid envelope. You can also make a secure donation online by visiting www.belmonthouse.com. Yours will be the ultimate gift of comfort to Belmont House residents!



To donate, please fill out the reply coupon and return it in the postage-paid envelope.

You can also contact us directly at foundation@belmonthouse.com or (416) 964-9231 ext. 238.

Thank you for your generosity and support!



Introducing Belmont House's new Chief Operating Officer

As you know, we have been planning for the future of Belmont House for several years. The new building will more than double our capacity and scope of our work.

To that end, we would like to introduce you all to our new Chief Operation Officer (COO), Barbara Bell who started in April. Barbara comes to us with a wealth of experience in nursing and healthcare leadership at West Park Healthcare Centre and Ontario Health at Home and—most importantly—a deep commitment to ensuring residents feel safe, respected, and truly at home. Her vision for compassionate, person-centered care aligns beautifully with Belmont House.

Barbara is passionate about quality of care and service. She is dedicated to Belmont's vision of a continuum of care that allows seniors to receive the appropriate care for their own specific needs while staying within the community they love.

As COO, Barbara is overseeing the day-to-day operations of our home, working closely with staff, residents, tenants, and families to make sure every aspect of our services run smoothly. Her leadership will allow our CEO, Maria Elias to focus more on the long-term vision of Belmont House and the new building, confident that the heart of our home is in excellent hands.

Here's to a new chapter of growth, collaboration, and continued excellence in care!



COO, Barbara Bell and CEO, Maria Elias



Honour Walk: Saying Goodbye with Grace and Respect

We believe that every life is meaningful—and every farewell deserves respect. We've recently introduced a new tradition called the Honour Walk, a practice that allows us to pay tribute when a resident passes away.

When the time comes for a resident to leave our home for the final time, their body is gently covered with a handmade quilt—crafted with care by tenant Barbara Hobbs and 15+ year volunteer, Trudy Huainig. These quilts are a symbol of warmth, love, and respect, and ensure that no one leaves unnoticed.



Barbara Hobbs and Trudy Huainig worked together to create five quilts for our home.

When the time comes, staff quietly line the hallways to offer a moment of reflection, and honour. This simple yet powerful gesture allows us to say goodbye together, recognizing the impact each person has made on our community.

The Honour Walk is a small but meaningful way to uphold the dignity of our residents to the very end, and to support each other in both grief and gratitude.



Please join us! Upcoming Events

- October 1 – Oktoberfest Party
- October 31 – Halloween Party
- November 29 – Children's Christmas Party
- December 11 – Christmas Tea

Belmont House is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors licensed by the Ministry of Long Term Care, the Retirement Home Authority, and operates under a service agreement with Ontario Health.
Charitable Registration # 89048 9867 RR0001

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