

May 2023



**HAPPY**  
*Mother's*  
*Day*

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## Resident of the Month: Shirley Smaridge

Written by: Nancy Dupuis

2022 was an especially emotional and busy year for Shirley, besides packing and moving to Orchard View by the Mississippi, here in Almonte.

She loves that Orchard View is like a small community and says the staff have been exceptional in making her feel at home. Shirley enjoys an active lifestyle where people and activities energize her every day. Making new friends and participating in the various programs certainly helps keep her attitude, a positive one. Enjoying a good game of cribbage, she will take on anyone that would like to play. With a strong Catholic faith, Shirley can be found every Sunday morning in the chapel engaged in Rosary and Prayers. She loves the seasonal decorating that goes on as well, most recently evidenced by all the “green” in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day.

So, let’s get to know Shirley the person who I always see waiting in the wings when one of her family members are coming in for a visit.

Shirley was born and raised in the Centretown area of Ottawa. As an only daughter in a family of four siblings, she looked after two of her younger brothers who were 14 years her junior. Shirley assumes the role of a caring older sister to this day. Shirley’s mother was a stay-at-home Mom and her father owned a manufacturing company that made canvas awnings, tarpaulins for embassies and restaurant entrances as well as tents and hammocks.

Shirley’s education started at an all-girl school, then on to Notre Dame Convent for high school and, then rounded out her education with graduation from a secretarial program at Willis Business College.

She loved to sing at any opportunity and has a fond childhood memory of singing at the Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa in a recorded radio choir. Many summers were spent at the family cottage in the west end of Ottawa and with her older brother Len near Peterborough.

After graduating from Willis Business College, Shirley went to work as a stenographer for the Department of Immigration. It was here that she met her future husband, Ron Grandmaitre, who was working in the mailroom. Shirley also worked for a time as a secretary to the RCMP.

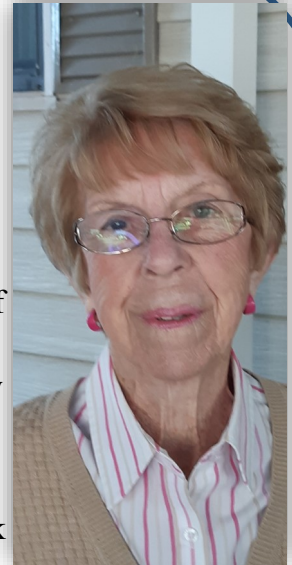
Ron and Shirley married in 1951 at St. Patrick’s Basilica in Ottawa. Continuing to advance their careers in the government, they enjoyed life in their first home – a very small apartment in downtown Ottawa on Cooper Street. A couple of years later baby Linda arrived and Shirley then stayed home to raise Linda. A couple of years later a second daughter arrived on the scene – Jane. Their rental apartment had become much too small for their growing family, so they moved to the west end of Ottawa where they purchased a triplex, living on the main floor and renting out the other two units. With this new location affording them more space, along came daughter #3 – Donna.

In 1961, Ron was transferred with the Federal Government, necessitating a move to Lachine, Quebec. Shortly after, they bought a house in Pierrefonds, Quebec remaining there for the next 16 years. Winters in Quebec were brutal with severe snowstorms which could close roads, schools and shopping centres quite quickly.

Summers on the other hand were especially delightful with family camping trips out West, around many Ontario and United States lakes and mountains. Ron made sure that the camping equipment and supplies all had a special place so he designed a box that became the pullout for supplies, cooking and eating. Each daughter had assignments assisting with the set-up or take-down.

Life in Quebec during the 1960s and 1970s was difficult for a bilingual father and English only mother raising three children. These were the trying times of the FLQ (Front de Liberation du Quebec) and the continuous language wars and bomb scares. A mailbox on the edge of their front lawn became a security threat to the family as the FLQ had been planting bombs in various locations across the city and one had been discovered not 5 minutes from their home.

Shirley returned to work part-time once the girls were in school, juggling work with school schedules; to avoid conflict on the buses or in the schoolyard, the students were either in early morning classes until noon or noon to evening classes. This added extra work for meals and insecurity to an already volatile situation. Shirley being a natural people person fit right in working retail; she also was an Avon representative for a number of those years. Her giving heart was recognized many times over when she volunteered at the local hospital spending valuable time with children with Downs Syndrome.



In 1975, the family realized another dream with the purchase of a little fishing cottage outside of Perth on the Big Rideau. In 1976, with a transfer back to Ottawa, Ron and Shirley re-purchased their original triplex on Westhill Avenue in the west end of Ottawa, with Shirley rejoining the world of retail part-time at Ogilvy's Department Store in downtown Ottawa.

In 1983, retirement came knocking after a wonderful trip to Hawaii to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Full time life at the lake now became a reality. The cries of loons, spectacular sunrises, hosting friends, skating, sewing, golfing, square dancing – all great fun at the cottage.

After Ron's sudden passing in 1993, the lake became Shirley's seasonal home, but she continued to golf, bowl and have euchre parties.

A year later she married lifelong friend, Eric Smaridge (Buzz). Buzz with Parkinsons, they still enjoyed life's many pleasures – travel, their love of music as well as each other's company. Shirley took on the role of caregiver once again and cared for Buzz at his home as well as at the Peter D. Clarke Long Term Care home in Ottawa until his passing in 2009. Always with a generous giving heart, she continued to volunteer there for some time afterwards.

Life in Perth came to an end when 47 years of memories were carefully sifted through last year, shared and stowed away in the family's hearts in advance of the eventual sale.

Moving to her first apartment in Ottawa, next to the Carlingwood Shopping Centre where she would walk on a daily basis, was next up right after Buzz passed away in 2009. Then the pull to Almonte, and to be closer to Jane and her husband Bob. We're so glad you decided to make that move Shirley and enjoy seeing you each and every day, fully engaged in whatever it is that you are doing.

# Keep on Smiling



**The Easter Bunny was VERY good to us all!**





## Special Events in May

May Day ~ May 1

Pot Luck with Town Home Residents ~ May 1

Seniors Games ~ May 2nd

King's Coronation ~ May 6

Nursing Appreciation Week  
~ May 8-13

Turkey Hunting

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea  
(Reserve your Guests with Reception) ~ May 14

Making Soap Workshop

Falls Prevention Presentation with Patti Morton from Almonte General Hospital ~ May 18th

## Open Activities

~ Bistro ~ Puzzle Tables

~ Joe on Piano ever Wednesday

~ Wellness Centre Bike and Walking Bars

~ Joe on the Piano

~ Adult Colouring

~ Social Distanced Bingo with Joanna and Friends

~ Massage Chairs (Wellness Centre/3rd Floor Lounge)

~ Library

~ Tuck Shop ~ Scrabble

~ Church Services / Rosary Prayers

~ Fitness classes on Main & 3rd with Almonte Physio

~ Door to Door Mind Work Games

~ Bistro Activities

~ Musical Entertainment

& LOTS MORE!

## Employee of the Month - Tammy Leary

Congratulations to Tammy on being our Employee of the Month for May! Tammy has been working at OVM for just about 7 years now in our Nursing Department as a PSW extraordinary. She can be found working all throughout the building within Memory Living and Assisted Living. Tammy always puts the residents first and truly loves working in a supportive team setting! She is caring, thoughtful, helpful and even under the mask you can see her smile and hear that laugh of hers. Thank you Tammy for the years of hard work and dedication to the OVM family! Your time and efforts do not go unnoticed by our team!

## Testimonial - Victoria Tompkins

Working at OVM is great. Staff can always be found smiling and laughing with residents, fellow staff and families. We have an amazing group of managers and team members. It's like a little (big) family.

## Volunteers are always appreciated...

Do you enjoy giving back to the community? Do you want to feel invested in the lives of others? Do you enjoy making a difference in the lives of Seniors?

Become a volunteer at Orchard View by the Mississippi! Whether you enjoy arts and crafts, trivia, knitting, musical entertainment or walking we have a place for you!

Contact Michael Rowland at [ovmrecreation@ovlc.com](mailto:ovmrecreation@ovlc.com) OR 613-963-5000

## JoJo's Did You Know

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

A shrimp's heart is in its head.

It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.

The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is believed to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.

If you sneeze too hard, you could fracture a rib

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

There are 293 ways to make change

## Laugh out Loud with Orchard View

A man and woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other, except that the little old woman had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about.

For all of these years, he had never thought about the box, but one day, the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover.

In trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside.

She agreed that it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened it, he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of money totaling \$95,000.

He asked her about the contents. "When we were to be married," she said, "my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll."

The little old man was so moved; he had to fight back tears. Only two precious dolls were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness.

"Honey," he said, "that explains the dolls, but what about all of this money? Where did it come from?"

"Oh," she said. "That's the money I made from selling the dolls."



Thank you to Annie, one of our brave dietary staff for allowing Harry to cut her hair off in support of Cancer.

Annie raised over \$300 and donated 12" of her hair.

This is the tremendous connection that our staff and residents have for each other!



Team "Apple of our Eyes" is on a mission again this year to fully support the Almonte General Hospital Foundation by raising over \$2000. On June 10th, our residents will walk on our campus to show their appreciation for the support they receive at AGH.

We ask you to donate to our page or at reception or join our team or make your own team to participate with the run through our community. This years 5km & 10km walker and runners will be doing a lap around Orchard View. They love to hear the cheers and words of encouragement as they go for their best time.

<https://aghfvmf.givecloud.co/fundraisers/orchard-view-by-the-mississippis-fundraiser>