

Grand Opening at Sunrise Place— November 17, 2019

First a pictorial glimpse at the Grand Opening Ceremonies of Sunrise Place, the personal care home attached to the Mennonite Nursing Home, located on the Mennonite Youth Farm Complex grounds, Rosthern, SK. Following the photos (taken by Bonnie Reimer and Yvonne Giesbrecht) permission has been granted to reprint the copy, written by Reporter Carol Baldwin, which appeared in the Wakaw Recorder, Wakaw, SK, November 21, 2019. Thank you, Carol.





Board Chair Armin Krahn said that he saw the whole complex like a puzzle with the many components making the whole, Sunrise Place was an important puzzle piece which has been missing, but now put in place.



Ernie Epp, Fundraising Chair for Sunrise Place, Thanked all who contributed to the overwhelming task of nearly reaching the 1.5 million dollar goal.



The Ribbon Cutting time has finally come! Armin Krahn (MNH Board Chair) and Joan Lemauviel (MNH CEO) eagerly cut the ribbon to officially open Sunrise Place! Agnes Epp (Board Member) and Eldrid Roth (past Board Member when project began) hold the ribbon, while Ted Janzen looks on.

Then everyone went to the Chapel to dedicate and open the Henry W. Friesen Chapel with a ribbon cutting ceremony there. It was special to have two of Henry W. and Helen Friesen's three sons present for the occasion.



People waiting for the ceremony to begin



Joan Lemauviel, MNH CEO, shared fond memories of both Henry and Helen Friesen. She was also pleased to introduce two of their three sons, Willy and Harry, to cut the ribbon.



The ribbon was cut by Willy Friesen (left) and Harry Friesen (right) while Board Members Charlotte Neufeldt and Armin Krahn held the ribbon.



Before Chaplain Amos Fehr offered a prayer of dedication, he urged all to join him in giving Joan Lemauviel a hand of appreciation for her tireless dedication in seeing this project through.



The brothers, on behalf of the whole Friesen Family, presented their father's old, well-used, German Bible as a memento to the Chapel. He received it in the 1940s from the Robin Hood Flour Mill in Saskatoon when asthma forced him to quit working there.

Keep an eye out for updates on the Chapel, especially for the stained glass windows which will be coming.

Here's what Reporter Carol Baldwin from *Wakaw Reporter* had to say about this event in their November 21, 2019 issue

In 2013 a gap was identified in the continuum of care for elders at the Mennonite Nursing Home Complex. Since 1965, when the then Invalid Home became the Nursing Home, seniors requiring care have found it there amongst the pines of the former Dominion Experimental Farm at Rosthern. In 1967-68 a new building replaced the old Invalid Home. With an addition in 1989, followed by a renovation in 2001, this Home provides long-term extended care to 68 residents under the governance of the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

With the changing paradigms of the last 40 years regarding eldercare, the Board of Directors decided to put shovel to ground as it were, and in 1988 Country Gardens independent living suites opened. Country Gardens consists of eight independent living units grouped together with four under one roof. A communal hallway links all four units to each other, a garage, and a four-season room for visiting or for a quiet little get-away. Units for couples include 2 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, den, kitchen, laundry hook-ups, dining/living area, and a small patio at the front door. Units for singles also have two bedrooms, but only one bath, and no den. While the residents of Country Garden are still completely independent, all the yard work and maintenance is taken care of by staff hired by the Mennonite Youth Farm Complex.

Having provided for elders requiring the most care and those requiring the least, the Board then sought to provide for those in between, those that just needed some assistance, but were still relatively independent and so in 1994 Pineview Manor became a reality. While Country Gardens are physically separate from the Nursing Home, Pineview Manor is truly "just through the door". Having it attached to the Nursing Home allows residents to easily partake in activities at the Nursing Home by just walking into a different part of the Home. Pineview Manor is the assisted-living component of the Complex with space for 39 residents. Each unit features a kitchenette/living area complete with microwave and small frig, bedroom, bathroom, cupboards and closet. As well Pineview Manor has a lounge downstairs complete with stove and oven that can be rented for a nominal fee by residents for family gatherings.

Yet, in spite of all this, families and Board members identified a gap in the continuum. What about those who needed more than just assistance, but weren't in need of and did not qualify for, the long term extended care in the Nursing Home? In 2013 at a Strategic Planning Meeting, the Board of Directors and the Leadership Team including Administrator/CEO Joan Lemauviel, put ideas to paper and the process of closing that gap began. Architectural drawings were rendered in January 2015 and on May 24, 2017 the sod was turned for Sunrise Place. Attached to the southeast wing of Pineview Manor via a newly constructed chapel, Sunrise Place will operate as a 20-bed personal care home. With its completion, spouses requiring differing levels of care could potentially remain under the same roof, just in different rooms. During the Grand Opening Ceremonies on Sunday November 17, 2019, Terry Stefaniuk, Moderator for MC Saskatchewan, explained that although many see aging as the sunset of ones life, it is instead a sunrise; "it's a new phase, its new life, its new enjoyments, new celebrations....So it is a beginning to a different part of life, one that is to be celebrated, to be enjoyed to the fullest of ones ability, talents and health situations."

The chapel addition was another highly requested feature. Being situated between Pineview and Sunrise provides easy access for residents from both parts of

the Home. At another Strategic Planning Meeting on Nov. 2, 2017 it was unanimously decided to name the chapel the Henry W Friesen Chapel, in memory of Henry W and Helen Friesen who left a legacy of prayer, dedication and faith to the entire Mennonite Youth Farm Complex. Henry helped to organize the first youth retreat and bible camp at the farm in 1941 and worked tirelessly canvassing Mennonite families across Saskatchewan for funds to support the Invalid Home which started in 1944, and the Men's, Women's, and Children's homes which followed in later years. Two of Henry and Helen's three sons, Willy and Harry, were on hand for the Grand Opening and while Henry did not own the farm, nevertheless, Willy shared, it was and will remain home as Henry and Helen both lived out their lives at the Complex. As a token of appreciation for the recognition granted their late father, the family gifted Henry's well-worn German bible to the chapel. The bible was a going away gift from his coworkers at the Robin Hood Mill, when due to asthma, he quit and entered bible school in Rosthern. Being under the wing of a religious entity, namely the Mennonite Conference of Saskatchewan, the inclusion of a chapel in the Nursing Home Complex is not surprising. It is important to note however, that all housing on the MYFC grounds are open to all people regardless of ethnic, religious or national backgrounds. For people of faith who may not be able to get out to partake in worship in one of the numerous churches in Rosthern, the chapel will provide a dedicated space for religious services, and prayerful contemplation for those desiring it. And hearing the singing of the Doxology after the ribbon cutting ceremony in the chapel, it is not an exaggeration to say the acoustics are amazing.

The original goal was to have Sunrise Place ready for occupancy in 2018, however attaching a new build to a facility already almost 25 years old resulted in some unforeseen issues. Building codes had changed requiring upgrades to, amongst other things, the water supply from Rosthern. More permits etc were needed from the Town of Rosthern and the RM of Rosthern and so the process that seemed to be taking forever, was really a matter of needing the right balls to fall into the right holes in the right sequence. When full, Sunrise Place will be home to 20 residents. New staff have been hired and furnishings will continue to arrive. The hope and plan is to have 10 residents moved in by Christmas.

The Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon was Ted Janzen. Involved in the ribbon cutting for Sunrise Place were Agnes Epp and Eldrid Roth who were both there as part of the Board when the project was first envisioned, while cutting the ribbon was entrusted to Board Chair Armin Krahn and Administrator/CEO Joan Lemauviel. Involved in the ribbon cutting for the Henry W Friesen Chapel were Charlotte Neufeldt and Armin Krahn, while cutting the ribbon was entrusted to Willy and Harry Friesen. Following the official ceremonies guests were invited to enjoy the coffee and snacks prepared by the Mennonite Nursing Home staff, walk around the new facility and enjoy the powerpoint compiled by Yvonne Giesbrecht who was in charge of the pictorial timeline updates that were available on the Nursing Homes website.



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among the fields*