

Sun-Tribune people

Parkview Home administrator Wally Kribs chats with residents of the Weldon Road nursing home. Mr. Kribs is retiring after 13 years at the Stouffville facility.



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Retiring administrator big fan of Stouffville

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

Wally Kribs strolls through the halls and stairwells of Parkview Home, greeting staff and residents.

Next month, after 13 years, it will be all over. The administrator of the Stouffville nursing home is retiring, he told the Parkview board last fall. The news was made public this month.

Mr. Kribs' work with seniors gave him a chance to pay tribute to his own mother and father.

"Interacting with the residents has helped me to honour my parents in a way one usually finds difficult when at a much younger age," he said. "I can't say enough about the wonderful and extremely competent Parkview staff, many of whom have been with the organization for 20 years or more.

"I had some mighty big shoes to fill and my job would have been much more difficult without these staff members who are truly dedicated to the care of our residents."

Ditto from the Parkview board.

"Wally's letter to the board was submitted with very mixed emotions and was accepted with equally mixed emotions," board chairperson Melody Potter said. "Wally brought a wealth of experience in the health care field, a commitment to Parkview's values, a heart for the elderly and a way of competently juggling the many demands of leadership."

The opening of the new Parkview on Weldon Road last year was a large but

welcome task.

"Once the new Ministry of Health design guidelines were published in 1998, we knew that in order for the home to continue to fulfill its mission and to continue providing up-to-date quality care for its residents, we had to consider building a new home," Mr. Kribs said.

"The planning process was long and arduous but at the same time exciting and challenging. Residents, their family members and Parkview staff were provided opportunities for input into the design features."

He praised the vision of the planning committees.

"I believe the new Parkview is a beautiful building that will serve care needs well into the future, just like the Rupert Avenue building did for many years," he said.

Mr. Kribs' wife has been retired from nursing for two years. They plan to spend more time with their three children and their grandchildren, including time at their cottage.

A replacement could be named as early as this month, Parkview board vice-chairperson Joanna Reesor-McDowell said.

FACES & PLACES

In praise of 'Stouffville-ites'

Wally Kribs has had a soft spot for Stouffville, from his days as a youth to his time administering Parkview Home.

The support "Stouffville-ites" provide the nursing home stands out.

"The amount of financial support for the new building raised by this relatively small community without too many major corporate donors is awesome," he said. "Support comes in many forms and includes the large number of community volunteers that regularly assist the home in the provision of residents' comforts. For Parkview to be called Stouffville's own is truly an honour."

Growing up in Toronto, he knew Stouffville. "My dad often talked of a former relative (Rev. Ludwig Kribs) being the first minister in town and of his donating property for the Stouffville Cemetery," he said. "I had also heard tales of Kribs brothers running the toll road from the town to Yonge Street."

It was an American fifth-cousin who wrote and said he wanted to visit Stouffville that led Wally to the Whitchurch-Stouffville library. The cousins met with Ruth Burkholder of the historical society, who filled them in on the local Kribs.

"It was at this time that I remembered a recent Parkview ad for an administrator," he said. "Call it serendipity or whatever, but I knew that after 18 years at Sunnybrook (hospital) and three years in the long-term care sector, I had to apply for the job. Gratefully, I was hired."

Whitchurch-Stouffville News Digest

Visit yorkregion.com for more on these and other stories

Ballantrae resident picked by Conservatives

Paul Calandra won the three-way race to be the Conservative candidate for Oak Ridges-Markham.

On Thursday, 320 federal Conservatives packed into the auditorium at Brother Andre Catholic High School in Markham and picked the insurance broker as their candidate for the riding now held by Liberal MP Lui Temelkovski.

Mr. Calandra, 36, of Ballantrae defeated Andrew Keyes of Markham and Caroline Allesley of Oak Ridges.

Mr. Calandra told party members he believes in "a clean smog-free environment" for Canada's children.

"I believe in lower taxes, creating more jobs and providing families with more money to invest in their future," he said.

"People in Oak Ridges deserve more effective representation than they've been getting since 2004."

A university graduate, Mr. Calandra opened and ran two small businesses and managed a real estate portfolio.

In 1995, he served as chief of staff for a cabinet minister in the Mike Harris provincial government.

He's married to Melanie and the couple has an eight-month-old daughter.

Mr. Calandra has started to put his campaign team together.

A federal election has not been called, although many expect Canadians to return to the polls this spring.

—Joan Ransberry

SOUND OFF

Have something to say about these or other stories?

E-mail us at letters@stouffville.com



REVEAL YOUR CARE-FREE, HAIR-FREE BODY THIS SPRING

Laser hair removal is safe, effective and pain-free

March Special for Men
Full Back just \$195 per treatment

March Special for Women
Full Legs AND Bikini just \$295 per treatment

Specials effective for the month of March. Please call for a no-obligation consultation.

MediSpa Clinic on Main
6038 Main Street Stouffville 905.640.0092
www.medispaclic.com

