

SENIORS: Dream come true



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Jean Knapp of Bloomington Cove talks with Margaret Haskins and Lewis Clark during a surprise reunion at Stouffville Memorial Christian Church. She was given a dream come true after a partnership between Specialty Care, Niagara College and Second Wind Dreams granted her wish of a day with family and friends.

Resident treated to big day, thanks to therapy program

BY SANDRA BOLAN
sbolan@yrmg.com

Jean Knapp's dream came true when friends and family gathered at Stouffville Memorial Christian Church for a surprise party.

"Jean apparently felt like she was a celebrity," said Lindsey Alfermann, from the recreation department of Bloomington Cove, where Mrs. Knapp, 78, is a resident.

The Ninth Line long-term care centre is home to 112 residents. Last month's party was part of the facility's Second Wind Dreams program.

"It's a form of wellness therapy," Ms Alfermann said.

Mrs. Knapp's party was done in conjunction with Niagara College's recreation and leisure services program.

"She said she wanted a big soiree because she used to entertain all the time, but she can't do that now," Ms Alfermann said.

Mrs. Knapp was treated to professionally-styled hair, a manicure and make-up before the big event.

At the party, while a slide show of her life scrolled, guests played the Jean Jeopardy Game.

"She told the story of her life through the game," Ms Alfermann said.

The party provided three important things to Mrs. Knapp - anticipation, the event itself and reflection, according to Bernice Miller, director of wellness and employee development at Bloomington Cove, a Speciality Care facility.

"What makes Speciality Care's program special is the emphasis on the inter-generational relationship," Ms Miller said. "Part of anticipation, for example, involves having someone young and energetic visit the home and pay one-on-one attention to a resident. Reflection follows by continuing to emphasize the relationship, as well as reminiscing about the event over photos."

Money for Shadow Lake

Shadow Lake Centre has received \$70,000 from the provincial government.

The money, which is part of a \$5-million investment to improve community services and bolster local economies, will be used to make the repairs for the facility to come into compliance with its fire inspection report.

The centre, which is northeast of Musselman's Lake, has 300 acres of water and rolling terrain. It's owned and operated by Community Living Toronto.

During the summer, the centre provides co-educational, residential camping for people of all ages with an intellectual disability.

The rest of the year, the facilities and property are rented to community groups. It's also been the site of movie shoots.

A total of \$119,500 in grants

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