

TRINITY LODGE

RESIDENTS' NEWSLETTER

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WE ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER. ITS EXISTENCE IS DEPENDANT ON YOUR PARTICIPATION.
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We were honored to have dinner with Sophie Hamer and her daughter, Sharole, a couple of evenings ago. Sophie told me that, due to age related issues, she will be moving to a continuous care facility. She also told me that she hopes that it will be somewhere close so that she can visit Trinity often and enjoy seeing her friends (and enjoy the delicious offering from our dining room) again.

I've just spent four wonderful, mornings, transferring fifty dahlias into the planters in the courtyards. It was so gratifying to have residents and staff coming outside and expressing their appreciation for my efforts. Anyone that has been a gardener knows what a joy it is to spend time in a garden. I don't consider it work, it's just the best part of my day. We have some new varieties this year. I can't wait to see them bloom.

Irene Smith, daughter of Kathrina and Heinrich Neufeld was born at their homestead farm near the little town of Herbert, Saskatchewan in 1927. She was the seventh child of ten. Irene told me that all of her siblings were delivered at home by her Aunt Marie, her dad's sister. Irene was the exception, her birth was complicated, and a doctor had to be called in. After the tenth child was born, Dad, who was a Mennonite pastor as well as a farmer, decided that the family would have a better life in BC. He bundled the younger members of the family into his car and set off on a road trip to BC. The older children had gone on ahead. Irene said that her dad often spoke of the trip as the best days of his life.



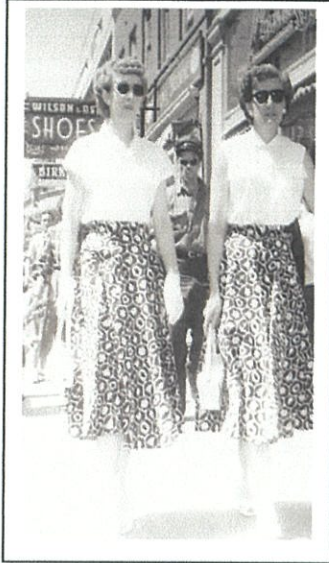
They moved into a large house, right on Main Street, Vancouver. Irene remembers the big tree in the yard, the beautiful blossoms in the spring followed by delicious cherries in the summer. She also remembers spending a lot of time at the piano that was in the house when they moved in. She discovered that she had a natural talent and could play instinctively by ear. As a young teenager, she took lessons and learned Classical music. Her prodigious talent and love of music led her to many engagements, performing with singers and instrumentalists in churches and many other venues. At one point, she thought she would like to pursue a career as a professional accompanist. Here at Trinity Lodge, we are so fortunate that we can hear Irene playing almost every day in our chapel or at the grand piano in the foyer.

At the age of eighteen, just when Alberta's oil industry was flourishing, Irene decided she would move to Calgary. She told me how she got her first job. Seeing a 'help wanted' sign on an oil company office door, Irene walked in and asked for a job. A gentleman sat Irene down at a desk and asked her to type something. She did, and she got the job. Her career advanced quickly, and she was the executive secretary before reluctantly retiring once she married.

Irene met Roy Smith through a mutual friend. The friend (Hattie) was a member of the Smith family and had sung in Vancouver where Irene accompanied her. Irene met Roy when she came to Calgary and became friendly with the family. She loved Roy from afar for 7 years when, in 1958, he met her at the train station, as she was coming back from a visit to Vancouver. He told her that God wanted them to marry, and he had the ring in his hand to prove it. Irene said "Yes." Shortly after they married, the couple moved into a new house in the newly annexed subdivision of Haysboro. Soon they were blessed with two children, Melodie, born in 1959 and Paul, in 1961. Roy and his brother Robert operated a family-owned hardwood flooring company. His Dad had established the business in 1918. Smith Bros. Hardwood Flooring, a company that has maintained a reputation for honesty, integrity, and high-quality workmanship for more than a hundred years, is now operated by Irene's son Paul and her daughter, Melodie's husband, Kent.

Irene's beloved Roy died in 2008 and a couple of years later, Irene moved into a lovely condo in Westhills. Her living room window provided a wonderful view of the Rockies.

Trinity Lodge became Irene's home in 2018. Irene is always so excited to entertain her family when they visit, especially her five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Irene and her sister Theresa, strolling on Seventh Avenue in downtown Calgary

This family picture was taken in Vancouver. Back row, left to right: Theresa, Leona, Helmut, Arthur, Irene and Elvira. Front Kathrina, (Mother) Emma, Reynold, Freida and Heinrich (Father.)

Irene's daughter, Melodie wrote me a short note about her grandmother.

"I grew up with these people and didn't give it much thought, but for the last twenty years, I am more and more amazed that my grandmother gave birth to ten children in that tiny house in the middle of nowhere. She didn't lose one child to disease or neglect. I cannot imagine how hard her life was. With just a grade three education, she spoke and wrote in two languages and spoke a third."

This is another Trinity Lodge resident's story that I really enjoyed writing. Thank you, Melodie for all of your help.

Adopt a Dahlia and support Team Trinity Lodge.

To all residents, family members, staff, and friends

Once again, for the sixth year, the Alzheimer Society of Calgary and the management of Trinity Lodge have authorised me to conduct our Trinity Lodge annual "Adopt a Dahlia" fundraising campaign.

This year, 2022, is different. All donations to the "Adopt a Dahlia" fundraiser will also support "Team Trinity Lodge" in our quest to be one of the leading fund-raising teams at the AG Wealth Management Alzheimer Walk and Run, which will take place on the footpaths on the banks of the Bow River on Thanksgiving Sunday. I am honored to be the Society's Walk and Run Ambassador again, and proud to have my Freckleton Family continue to be a major sponsor to the event.

If you wish to support Team Trinity Lodge and donate to the Alzheimer Society of Calgary, please pick up an envelope containing a donation form at the front desk.

A plaque will be generated with your name included. I will ensure that you receive the plaque to place in the planter containing the dahlia of your choice. You won't need to care for your plant, I will water, fertilize, and nurture all of the dahlias.

You may donate any amount by cash or cheque. If you wish to donate by credit card, please phone Alzheimer Society of Calgary 403 290 0110. You can also make an on-line donation through the Alzheimer Society of Calgary's web site. Be sure to mention our "Adopt a Dahlia" project and you are supporting Team Trinity Lodge

All donations qualify for a receipt for tax credit from the Alzheimer Society.

Thank you for your support of this very worthy cause.



Team Trinity Lodge