

Life in the Philippe Lapointe Pavilion

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The Philippe Lapointe Pavilion, the long-term care facility attached to the hospital in Ste. Agathe, has produced a useful little brochure.

The long-term care facility is carefully organized to provide comfort and care to its residents who are there because they are no longer able to live in their own homes. Many are elderly and have lost their autonomy, cognitive or physical, but there are also some younger people who have suffered catastrophic damage through illness or misadventure.

Every effort is made to reduce the institutional feeling and increase its hominess. Residents may bring some of their own furniture and decorative items for their rooms. They are encouraged to take advantage of the community rooms and outdoor spaces to meet with each other and with family members and friends. There are activities geared to all levels of need and ability. These include arts and crafts, games, cooking classes, sing-alongs and celebrations of birthdays and holidays. Excursions are organized and supervised by staff.

Of course, medical care is a high priority, and there are always nurses available. The location of the Pavilion adjacent to the hospital also ensures prompt interventions by doctors should the need arise.

Under the leadership of Pauline Sved, head of the Users' Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of the CSSS des Sommets, Lyne Reid, a counsellor in home living, sat down with other members of the staff at the Philippe Lapointe Pavilion and thought through all the questions that arise when someone comes to live in the facility. They then set out to answer them and the result is a lively and attractive brochure, available separately in both English and French.

Starting with an explanation of why the name Philippe Lapointe was chosen, it goes on to deal with such things as the philosophy of the institution, how the family of a resident can participate in his or her daily life, and on through the actual facilities and services available, to a list of useful telephone numbers for many of the departments in the CSSS des Sommets.

While no one chooses easily to move into this kind of facility, if the need arises it is good to know that an institution of this quality is available to the community. In fact, the French and English brochures, available through the Users' Committee, could serve as a template for other long-term care facilities that may not have such a helpful tool available in both languages.

Sheila Eskenazi, President, English Communities Committee of the CSSS des Sommets