

GRAVENHURST MANOR VOTED BEST RETIREMENT RESIDENCE - 2008

Caring staff and volunteers help residence thrive

Gravenhurst Manor retirement residence may be owned by the largest seniors housing company in Canada but the service is very personal.

Chartwell has almost 200 properties stretching across the country and Gravenhurst Manor is one of its shining jewels. Spacious, comfortable lounges and cozy suites make this home special for residents and guests. The indoor and outdoor verandas are the perfect place to watch the world go by, both in summer and winter. The convenient main street location allows residents to shop and have easy access to all the amenities Gravenhurst has to offer. At Gravenhurst Manor, residents can select the lifestyle that best suits their needs, choosing from a host of services and activities, and letting highly-trained staff take care of the rest.

General manager Gay Pengilly is quick to put the success of the residence down to the staff.

"We have a great team working for us," she said. "From Linda Birmingham, who organizes all our activities such as exercise classes, bingo, cards and country drives, to Richal Singer, who handles medications, checking blood pressure and organizing doctor's appointments. Every one adds to the successful operation we have here. We also have great volunteers from the community who come to assist in reading times, discussion groups, church services, and other activities. Their support is invaluable."

As well as a great staff, Pengilly strives to exceed residents' expectations during their time there.

"It is about going above and beyond," she said. "Last year we won Chartwell's 'Circle of Excellence' award with a 98 per cent resident satisfaction. If residents are



happy here then that feeling goes out to the families and then out into the community. That is important to us."

As well as yearly reviews from Chartwell, the residence is also monitored by the Ontario Retirement Communities Association every two years.

"It is a lot of hard work and a lot of policies to follow, but it keeps us on our toes," said Pengilly. "Every year we know what we are doing well and what we need to do to improve. We can't rest on our laurels. It also means we get direct feedback from our residents and their families and that is important to us. We are more than just a retirement residence. We are a part of the community in Gravenhurst and want to make sure we put our best effort into everything we do."



705-687-3356



Hours: 24 hours -
7 days a week



300 Muskoka Rd., N.,
GRAVENHURST



www.chartwellreit.ca

CHAPEL GALLERY VOTED BEST ART GALLERY/STUDIO - 2008

Vibrant membership is the key to art gallery's ongoing success

With the over 360 members of Muskoka Arts and Crafts to draw on, it's no wonder the Chapel Gallery has garnered the Readers' Choice award for art gallery/studio.

Muskoka Arts and Crafts formed in 1963, but didn't acquire the Chapel Gallery until the fall of 1989, through an agreement with the Town of Bracebridge. The building it is housed in is a reconstruction of the first Presbyterian church in Bracebridge (hence the name). "It's a tranquil setting at the top of the hill, with woods behind . . . close to downtown, but a world away," says Elene Freer, the gallery's curator and co-ordinator.

The permanent collection of visual art at the gallery is augmented every three weeks or so by an exhibition of primarily members' artwork, with the occasional outside artists showcased as well. "When the opportunity arises, we do bring in artists, such as Doris McCarthy, a national treasure with an international reputation. We were privileged to show a selection of her paintings here," says Freer.

She attributes the success of the gallery to the growing membership of Muskoka Arts and Crafts, which consists of a wide range of people engaged in the creative process, including supporters of the arts, hobbyists, people picking up a paintbrush for the first time and professionals that have been in the field for decades. "The diversity really gives the organization its vibrancy," says Freer. Membership fees are just \$31.50 per year and include a host of benefits, such as a free web page, a monthly newsletter, the opportunity to participate in Muskoka Arts and Crafts shows and a discount on fees for their annual Summer Show.

"It's also one of the few arts organizations in Ontario that doesn't receive any grants or public funding," she adds. "It's a testament to our membership that we

are able to do this." All operating costs, including a number of student bursaries, are raised solely through Muskoka Arts and Crafts' initiatives, such as their various shows and the upcoming "Who Art Thou?" art sale.

"We have had people lining up in the dark, in the snow to get in," she exclaims about the popular mystery art sale, now in its fifth year. All paintings are priced at \$45; however, buyers don't know the identity of the artist until after they've made their purchase. "People are buying because they really love the work," says Freer. "Sometimes they have guessed the artist, sometimes not." A preview of the paintings at this year's Who Art Thou? sale runs from Nov. 18 to 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The sale itself starts Nov. 20 from 7 to 9 p.m. and continues Nov. 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The gallery also holds various workshops throughout the year and provides a detailed listing of upcoming shows and workshops on the Muskoka Arts and Crafts website.

On behalf of Muskoka Arts and Crafts, Freer says, "We would like to thank everyone who has visited the gallery and recognized the important contribution we make to the community, and to the arts community, by filling out a ballot."



705-645-5501



Hours: Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m to 1 p.m., 2 - 5 p.m.



15 King Street,
BRACEBRIDGE



www.muskokaartsandcrafts.com

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE... FRIENDSHIP & COMPANIONSHIP



The opportunities for friendship happen every day.

Gravenhurst Manor would like to thank everyone who voted us "The Best". We hope next year to meet, even exceed, your expectations!



GRAVENHURST MANOR
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

300 Muskoka Rd. North
Gravenhurst, ON



Call 705-687-3356

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Muskoka Arts & Crafts

where art happens!

Thank you to the Readers of
the Examiner & Banner
for voting The Chapel Gallery
as the Best Art Gallery/Studio.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Who Art Thou? A Mystery Art Sale

PREVIEW

November 18-20, 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

SALE

November 20, 7pm-9pm

November 21-22, 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

Alloy of Sorts

New Work by Melissa & Matt Church
November 29-December 20

Christmas Show & Sale

November 29, 10am-5pm

November 30, 11am-4pm

Monck Public School-Bracebridge

THE CHAPEL GALLERY

15 King Street in Bracebridge

Tuesday-Saturday

10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

info@muskokaartsandcrafts.com

www.muskokaartsandcrafts.com

705-645-5501



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