



Together we improve the well-being of the people we serve

Between Us

The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation ♦ OTTAWA, ONTARIO

OSAA and The Perley Rideau

By Peter McKinnon

10 NOVEMBER, 2017

"If you have no home to go to, come here. The staff spoil us. In fact, it's a little embarrassing, you know." These were the opening remarks of Maj. (Ret'd) Gerald Bowen, a resident of the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, during the reception hosted by the Ottawa Service Attachés Association (OSAA). OSAA, an association of Defence Attachés posted to Ottawa from around the world, has taken the Perley Rideau under its wing and raises money to make life a little better for the Veterans who live there.

This year, OSAA secured 43 sponsors, mostly defence contractors, and collected personal contributions during the reception. In all, OSAA raised a total of \$33,549.43, enough to completely renovate a Perley Rideau dining room. This marks OSAA's largest fundraising effort to date and will continue under the auspices of Project Perley.

The reception was well attended by military and diplomatic envoys (including the Ambassadors of Korea and Latvia), defence attachés, sponsors, and Veterans residing at the Perley Rideau, along with members of their families. Among those to deliver addresses: Col. Thad Hunkins, Defence Attaché of the United States of America (on behalf of OSAA); Akos Hoffer, Perley Rideau CEO; and Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Ron Buck, Chair of the Perley Rideau Board of Directors. Speaking from his wheelchair, Maj (Ret'd) Bowen seemed to stir the assembled dignitaries most. "We're happy here because of you," he stated. "I don't think there would be any other place on this earth where we can be as well treated as we can here at the Perley Rideau. They're so good to us."

Along with the cheque



presentation, Ms. Louise Mercier, Foundation Board Advisor, was honoured with OSSA's Angel Heart Award for her fundraising efforts and assistance over the years. The Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, was unable to attend but sent a note of thanks and to express her hope that OSAA's actions would "inspire others to do the same." OSAA has had the note framed.

© Richard Lawrence

Originally published <http://www.richardlawrencephotography.ca/>

The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre is home of 450 residents, including 250 Canadian Veterans, most of whom served in either the Second World War or the Korean War. The Government of Canada provides additional funding for the care of Veterans, but donations to the Perley Rideau Foundation improve their quality of life in direct and significant ways. In May 2017, Veterans Affairs Canada, the province of Ontario, and the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre celebrated the announcement of 25 Specialized Veterans beds for Veterans who served in Canada for a minimum of 365 days and are income qualified, as well as to Canadian Armed Forces and Allied Veterans.

We appreciate your support in making a donation at www.perleyrideaufoundation.ca.

The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation | 1750 Russell Road | Ottawa | Ontario | K1G 5Z6
Telephone: 613-526-7173 | Email: foundation@prvhc.com | <http://perleyrideaufoundation.ca>