

The Louis Brier Home and Hospital - History

Nearly 60 years ago a group of fourteen friends known as the Hebrew Men's Cultural Club contributed five dollars each from their weekly poker game to create the Jewish community's first 'Home' for the elderly. In 1946 a suitable building with a dining room, parlor and sufficient rooms to accommodate thirteen people was purchased. The Home was staffed mainly by a Ladies Auxiliary and support also came from the Vancouver Jewish Community Fund and Council, and many volunteers.

Increased demand led to the purchase of a new building at 54th & Oak in 1959, providing care for 35 residents. In 1968, four acres on the corner of 41st & Oak was purchased and the Louis Brier Home & Hospital was created from a bequest from the late Louis Brier, a Jewish philanthropist, who donated funds for a home for the aged, which housed 109 residents, both Jews and non-Jews.

In 1977, the provincial Long Term Care Program was introduced and the Home and Hospital became a long-term care facility. The financial relief from the government helped and 44 rooms were added in 1978, bringing the grand total to 153 residents. The rooms were filled immediately. In 1992 another expansion was celebrated with a new total of 218 beds; 93 Extended Care residents were housed on the new second floor, and 124 Intermediate Care residents resided on the main floor. In response to the ongoing needs of the community, an Alzheimer's Special Care Unit was included.

A further expansion occurred in 2003 with the completion of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg (of Baltimore) Residence. The Weinberg Residence has 40 private pay and subsidized Assisted Living apartments and 20 private pay multi-level care beds. The Dr. Irving and Phyliss Snider Campus for Jewish Seniors is now a reality, and the Louis Brier Home and Hospital and the Weinberg Residence have flourished to become the only Jewish Homes for the aged west of Winnipeg. The site has a gift shop, hairdressing salon and physiotherapy room. The on-site Synagogue provides daily Shabbat and High Holyday services. The strict kosher kitchens are supervised by a mashgiach. Special holiday observances and other special programs and services provide the kind of Home our residents and their families could never find anywhere else in British Columbia.

Louis Brier Home and Hospital - Details

The Louis Brier Home and Hospital opened its doors at 41st and Oak in 1968. Prior to this date a Jewish home and hospital for the elderly had been in existence since 1946 at two previous sites. The Home is owned and operated by the Jewish Home for the Aged of BC, which was incorporated and registered as a non-profit society in 1950.

Following the completion of an expansion project in 1992, the Louis Brier can now accommodate 218 residents; 124 in Intermediate Care on the 1st floor, including a 17 bed Special Care Unit, and 94 in Extended Care on the 2nd floor.

Louis Brier Home and Hospital is the only Jewish long-term care facility west of Winnipeg. The site has a gift shop, hairdressing salon and physiotherapy room. We strive to maintain a Jewish atmosphere, adhering to Jewish dietary laws and our strict kosher kitchens are supervised by a mashgiach. Our on-site Synagogue provides Shabbat services, and all Jewish Holidays are

strictly observed. Additionally, afternoon services are held daily in the synagogue. Passover Seders and Rosh Hashana dinners are important and special celebrations; 2 family members per resident are welcome to attend and participate in festival celebrations. Special holiday observances and other special programs and services provide the kind of Home our residents and their families could never find anywhere else in British Columbia.

Our vision is to be leaders in the provision of seniors care to the Jewish elderly of the 21st century through developing and achieving standards of excellence in service, clinical practice, education, research, and community outreach.

Care at Louis Brier Home & Hospital is provided by Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and Care Aides. They receive support from a Nursing Manager and a Clinical Nurse Educator. Care is provided at two levels; Intermediate Care level 3 implies that a resident has mobility despite complex care needs, extended Care implies that a resident is not mobile and needs help with all daily living needs, including help with grooming, toileting, bathing, personal care, hygiene and feeding for some residents. Louis Brier is a teaching facility and Nursing, Therapeutic Recreation, Dietary, Rehab and Social Work Students all benefit from practical experience at Louis Brier

Residents are fortunate in that their increased care needs can be met on the Extended Care side of Louis Brier Home and Hospital, and residents need only to move to a room on the second floor rather than a new facility to receive this additional care.

Our Rehabilitation team consists of a Physiotherapist, an Occupational Therapist and a Rehabilitation Assistant. The rehabilitation team works primarily with the residents of Extended Care. We are fortunate that some support is offered to residents on the Intermediate Care level, in terms of an admission assessment, as well as support post injury or hospitalization.

Three balanced meals each day and snacks are provided as requested, and according to care plan, with tea and cake/cookies offered daily each afternoon. There is a fridge stocked with juice and sandwiches at each Nursing Station. Families are welcome to join residents for any meal.

Support from a social worker is available to assist with information about long term care, and to coordinate all aspects of admission and orientation, “problem solving”, liaising with the community, assisting with documents and referrals to community resources.

Therapeutic Activity Programs are available on both Intermediate Care, and Extended Care. Residents are welcome to participate in any programs of interest on both floors at any time. There are monthly birthday parties where each resident’s birthday will be acknowledged and celebrated in the appropriate month.

A Podiatrist, as well as an Audiologist, a Dentist, and a Massage Therapist make regular visits to residents in the Home. There are two hair salons available to residents on the Snider Campus. The Louis Brier salon is located on Hospital East near the Rehab room. The Weinberg Salon is located on the First Floor adjacent to the staff offices beyond the reception and lounge areas. The price lists are posted. Regular appointments are available.

The care team is involved in determining whether a resident would benefit from having a private companion. It is expected that all companions will either be hired through a private agency or

will be connected with the Louis Brier In House Companion Programme. This programme has been designed and implemented by Louis Brier families.

Louis Brier has an active Resident's Council which meets monthly. The council has several committees, and is also responsible for putting together the monthly Resident and Family Newsletter.

A very active Auxiliary hosts two successful fundraising social Teas each year, providing the Home with the money to purchase much needed equipment. We have a lovely Gift Shop, staffed by dedicated community members who have volunteered years of their lives to the Home. Louis Brier Home & Hospital has almost 200 volunteers who assist with all manner of services to residents, including recreation programs, escorts to medical appointments, rehabilitation services and one-to-one visits.

Further expansion occurred in 2002/2003 with the completion of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg (of Baltimore) Residence. The Weinberg Residence has 40 private pay and subsidized Assisted Living apartments and 20 private pay multi-level care beds. The Dr. Irving and Phylliss Snider Campus for Jewish Seniors is now a reality serving up to 278 residents. The 20 bed Multi-level care unit in the Weinberg Residence offers long term stays, respite care, palliative support, out of town stays for visiting guests, and convalescent care. The Weinberg Residence Assisted Living offers a lovely home in a caring setting where you can live with independence in the safety of a secure and monitored building.