

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH 2009

MARIE M. SMITH

Here it is March and we are seeing the beginnings of spring. I have been searching the seed catalogues looking for some different plants and am getting ready to plant my container gardens. I'll probably end up with nearly the same flowers but it is fun to look.

Be sure to do something special at your club for St. Patrick's Day and send us pictures. A reminder to all clubs that the Resolutions are due by April 10, 2009. Please get your resolutions in on time. It is important that each club be able to have their say at the convention on August 17 – 19, 2009.

The Ontario government is trying to ensure Ontarians receive the highest quality of home care service with a new strategy that includes province-wide quality measures and a public reporting system.

The strategy is to strengthen the way Community Care Access Centres make arrangements for home care service, provides information and referrals to community related services and authorize admissions to long-term care homes. (News release December 15, 2008.) Highlights of the strategy include:

- 1) Strengthening accountability for home care service among service providers and CCACs by implementing quality measures and a public reporting system.
- 2) Improving the current CCAC competitive bidding process to ensure consistency, quality care for clients and to enhance transparency and fairness in the selection of service providers.
- 3) Enabling CCACs to provide clients with care teams suited to their medical condition.



- 4) Expanding the role of CCACs to include placing clients in adult day programs and supportive housing, providing services such as diagnostic and respiratory therapy and offer nursing and other treatment services in group settings.

Hopefully we will see improvement with CCACs if they hire more staff and the government gives them larger budgets to work with. Time will tell us if it is working or not. If you know you are going to need CCACs assistance after an operation, etc. I suggest you get the help set up at least a month before you require their assistance.

Quick Fact:

- Currently, about 600,000 people receive home care services in Ontario which represents about 60 percent of Ontarians over 65.

In 2007, the government launched Aging at Home, a four year, \$1.1 billion strategy designed to support seniors to live healthy independent lives in the comfort and dignity of their own homes. Find out more about the services currently provided by CCAC. Read more about the governments Aging at Home Strategy. We would like to hear from anyone who has been helped by this strategy.

In 2006 Stan Buell of the Small Investor Protection Association (SIPA) spoke at our convention in Kitchener. Since then, the USCO has worked with SIPA on several presentations and submissions. Last summer we made a joint submission to the Expert Panel on Securities Regulation which included recommendations for a national regulator, an authority with power to order restitution for victims of investment fraud and wrong doing, and an Investor Protection Fund to pay compensation to victims. The Expert Panel issued their Report on January 13, 2009 and their recommendations included:

- 1) The establishment of the Canadian Securities Commission to administer a single securities act for Canada.
- 2) A securities regulator with the power to order compensation in the case of a violation of securities law so that the investor would not be required to resort to the courts.
- 3) Establishment of an investor compensation fund funded by industry to allow the securities regulator to directly compensate investors for a violation of securities law.



The government budget for 2009 includes provision for implementing a national securities regulator as recommended by the Expert Panel. Since there is a trend to move from Defined Benefit Pensions towards Defined Contribution Pension Plans, it means the risk of investment is being transferred from the Pension Plans to the Pensioner. Therefore it is even more important that Ontarians have adequate investor protection. We are writing the Finance Minister to show our support for this initiative (three recommendations) and we ask each of you to write or talk to your Member of Parliament asking him/her to support the three implementations of the Expert Panel's recommendations for investor protection. Our seniors and investors need more protection so we are asking for your help.

You probably already know that scientists have found that the more friends you have, the healthier you'll be. So spend more time with upbeat friends and you'll not only be healthier, you'll be happier too, according to a new British Medical Journal. "You will do something right today" so often we focus on what we didn't get done or what we could have done better – on the things that went "wrong." But we all make little mistakes and missteps – and yours only seem huge to you. So today – right now- start a mental list of all you do well. It'll be miles longer that you think!

There are 1440 minutes in this day. Spend some of them on yourself.

*Enjoy each day
and
God bless.*

