

April 2025



**219 Paterson Street
Almonte, Ontario. K0A 1A0
613-963-5000**

www.orchardviewgardens.ca

 /orchardviewgardens

Resident of the Month: Kyle Robillard

Written by: Elizabeth Turner

The Orchard View lobby was abuzz with happy noise in preparation for St. Patty's Day celebrations when I arrived on a mid-March afternoon to meet with Kyle Robillard. Kyle's broad smile was in perfect tune with the lively scene that greeted me. Soon I was to learn that Kyle and his family have suffered losses and endured considerable struggles. Yet, just like the Irish of yester-year, they have come through them all with their love of life and their love for one another intact. A few minutes with Kyle in the presence of his Mum and Dad is all one needs to see how very much his family means to him.



Kyle Robillard was born on January 2, 1986. He lived with his Mum, Colleen, his 6 year old sister, Kim, and his adoptive Dad, Kevin, in Kanata. Kyle's life changed in a split-second on August 31, 1999. He was 12 years old and just about to enter grade 7. When Kyle hopped on his bike that late summer day he had no idea that his very life would soon hang in the balance. A van hit him and Kyle was rushed to CHEO where he was to spend the first 3 months in a coma. His mother's hair turned grey as she anxiously kept vigil over her first-born and only son. Kyle's uncles and cousins from the West Island of Montreal and grandparents (Rupert and Rita McManus of Almonte) rallied around the Robillard's, flooding them with love and support. When Kyle awoke from the coma, the hard work of post-brain-injury rehabilitation began. Kyle spent another 3 months at CHEO and then with the help of various speech, occupational, and physical therapists, began the long process of re-learning how to walk, talk, and eat again.

Kyle surpassed all expectations when he ran a 100 meter dash a few years later. He was never supposed to walk again. If you want to understand Kyle's approach to life, you need go no further than the words of his Mum who describes her son's attitude as "Don't tell me I can't do it because I will". He praises his physical therapists, describing them as "miracle workers". But, in addition to professional assistance, it was the love of his immediate and extended family (most especially his Papa and Nannie) which made all the difference. A tattoo on Kyle's right arm is of a toolbox engraved with the words "1931 PAPA 2013". It seems that Kyle's Grandpa Rupert told him that if Kyle could take 5 steps on his own before Christmas 2000, he would give Kyle a tool box full of tools. You can guess what happened next!

“Life is simple, just not easy” says a sign hanging on Kyle’s 2nd floor studio wall. Indeed, the years after Kyle’s accident were not easy for him or for his family. However, their load was lightened by the Almonte community’s generosity. Kyle’s Mum, Colleen, explains that a Habitat for Humanity home was built in Almonte in memory of Billie Coughlin and Andrea Ceolin who had passed away in a fire on Main Street. This home was given to the Robillards who in turn assisted in the building of other HFH homes. Out of painful circumstances came a home where Kyle and his family could heal and rebuild their lives together.

And so they did. After attending Holy Name of Mary in Almonte and Notre Dame High School in Carleton Place, Kyle went on to graduate from St. Luke’s High School in Smiths Falls. Kyle also volunteered at Levi’s Home Hardware and the Almonte Hospital. These days Kyle spends several days a week in the community, participating in programs offered by Community Living Association. Kyle also loves animals(cats, dogs, ponies, a horse named Curly)) --though I’m not so sure that his love extends to chickens. He suggested that I name my backyard girls---“Nugget” “Strips” and “Fried Rice”! He plays indoor golf, sledge hockey (hockey adapted for people with disabilities), Tae Kwon Do, darts, bowling, baseball, and indoor soccer. Kyle also loves being an Uncle to his sister’s two children—Maddie (5) and Theo (3)—who live nearby.

Eventually Kyle moved out of his parents’ home into a home for young adults with disabilities but since that home did not have certain safety precautions (i.e. generator for power outages), it was difficult for Kyle’s parents to feel totally at peace with him living there. Thinking outside the box, Kyle and his parents wondered if Orchard View would be willing to allow Kyle to live alongside older residents. It has turned out to be a win-win for Kyle and Orchard View and his parents who “can (now) relax and go away and not worry about Kyle”.



Kyle’s Orchard View studio apartment contains many of his most prized possessions—Ottawa Senators’ memorabilia, Stephen King novels, antique model cars (including his favourite “36 Ford Roadster”), an Irish shillelagh (walking stick) given to him by Father Bill, and a personalized Ontario License plate “RUP RIT” belonging to his grandparents. But, as much as these inanimate objects may mean to Kyle, none can compare with his beloved cat Candy. According to Kyle, Candy likes to give “Candy massages”, and in return receives “a few million kisses”. Not only is Orchard View cat-friendly but Kyle just happens to have neighbours—Nanette and Cairine—who are happy to lend a helping hand when, on the (rare?) occasion, Candy decides that she’s had enough of apartment living, makes a



OUR RESIDENTS GETTING THEIR LUCKY CHARM ON





OUR FIRST SENS BOX EXPERIENCE!





A message from Sam Souchi, Executive Director Orchard View Gardens

A Year at Orchard View Gardens Reflecting on the Journey

As I reflect on my first year here at Orchard View Gardens, I am filled with gratitude for the welcoming and vibrant community we share. From the first day I arrived, I was embraced by the kindness of both residents and staff, and it quickly became clear that this is a special place.

The warmth and hospitality of the residents have been a constant source of inspiration. Every day, I'm reminded of the wisdom, humor, and resilience they bring, and how each of them has contributed to making Orchard View feel like a true home. The sense of community here is unlike anything I've experienced, and I'm proud to be part of such a thoughtful, caring environment.

Our dedicated staff members are the heart of this place, always going above and beyond to create a safe and nurturing atmosphere. Their commitment to the well-being of our residents, and to making each day enjoyable, is something I deeply admire.

As I look ahead, I feel so fortunate to be part of this wonderful family. I am excited for what the future holds and the memories we will continue to create together. Thank you to each and every one of you for making this first year at Orchard View Gardens such a rewarding and memorable experience!

Sam Souchi
Executive Director



Employee of the Month:



Evan & Connor (The twins)

An industrious duo, going about their tasks with kindness and humor. Always ready to lend a hand to everyone.



A special thanks from the library ladies, we couldn't operate without their help.

Testimonial ~ Family ~ Roberta Petrie

My mother is living her best life in one of the independent residences on the property. She has a busy social calendar—whether it's shopping or dining out with friends that she's made there, or enjoying the variety of activities within the community. Plus, she no longer has to worry about outdoor chores like shoveling snow or cutting grass, as the staff takes care of it all, giving her the freedom to enjoy her days.

My father lives within the main building, where he receives great care. The staff keep a close eye on him, ensuring his needs are met with kindness and attention. I've often seen the staff offering him big smiles, warm hugs, and even sneaking him an extra snack or dessert. It's clear they truly care.

Orchard View has given both my parents a wonderful quality of life, tailored to their individual needs.



Amenities & Services

- 24-Hour Nursing Staff
- Theatre & Chapel Services
- Wellness Centre—Physio
- Multi-purpose room for games & gatherings
- Library, Tuck Shop
- Outdoor Raised Flower Gardens
- Duck Pond & Atrium Pond
- Gazebo and outdoor activities
- Emergency Response System
- Full Service Dining Room & Snack and Beverage Bistro
- House Physician, Foot Care Nurse, Hearing Aid Clinic, Hair Salon, Esthetician, Dental Hygienist
- Wheelchair Accessible Bus
- Weekly Bus Shopping/Lunch Trips
- Weekly live entertainment
- Full recreation programming
- Weight & Blood pressure clinics

Open Activities

- Bistro • Puzzle Tables • Joe on Piano
- Wellness Centre Bike and Walking Bars
- Adult Colouring • Reading • Quiz booklets • Pool & Shuffleboard Table • Massage chairs (Wellness Centre / 2nd Floor Lounge / 3rd Floor Lounge)



★ WHERE RETIREMENT LIVING BLOSSOMS

Orchard View
GARDENS
BY THE MISSISSIPPI
ALMONTE

APR
26th
2-4 PM

*Cruise at
The Mississippi*

**OPEN
HOUSE**

- 🍷 APPETIZERS & ENTERTAINMENT ON DECK
- 🎟️ RECEIVE A PASSPORT FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A FANTASTIC PRIZE!

613.963.5000

🌐 orchardviewgardens.ca

★ **RSVP:** OVGADMIN@OVL.COM

★ 219 Paterson St. Almonte, ON

Easter
LUNCHEON
SUNDAY APRIL 20, 2025

FIRST SEATING 11:30AM - 12:30PM
SECOND SEATING 12:45PM - 1:45PM

MENU
TURKEY
SERVED WITH POTATOES,
FRESH VEGETABLES,
CRANBERRY SAUCE & GRAVY

DESSERT
APPLE PIE

RESERVE YOUR SPOT WITH
RECEPTION AS SEATING IS LIMITED

Orchard View
GARDENS
BY THE MISSISSIPPI
ALMONTE

Poppy Project Returns

We are once again going to support the creation of beautiful poppy banners. If you are interested to contribute you can pick up the pattern by reception. Drop off basket is available now. We will begin in late April in tying them together.

