

May 2025



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Resident of the Month: Ian P

Written by: Elizabeth Turner

Ian Petrie's arrival in this world 95 years ago is the stuff of storybooks: Ian, you see, was born on the side of a Saskatchewan road in a wagon on May 31, 1930. And, just in case, dear reader, you were to demand some proof, Ian's daughter Roberta has kept a wheel from that infamous wagon. Indeed, it's not a stretch to see how Ian's childhood, growing up on a 240-acre farm in Porcupine Plain, SK mirrors tales told by Laura Ingalls Wilder in her classic, "Little House on the Prairie" and by W.O Mitchell in "Who has Seen the Wind". For those of us living in our temperature-controlled homes with ready access to food from every corner of the world, such stories are a reminder that it hasn't always been this way!



Ian was the youngest son of Scottish immigrants--James Alexander and Anne Petrie. From eldest to youngest, the 5 other siblings were Nancy, Jessie, Mary, James (Cy), and Tom. Ian has long been fond of saying that the "Girls ran the show until the boys came along". No matter who was in charge, the reality was that it took "all hands-on deck" to keep the farm running. From a very early age Ian worked 12 hours a day alongside the rest of the family--caring for farm animals (100 chickens, 10 cows, 50 pigs, 4 horses, 2 dogs, barn cats), working the fields and engaging in work which one might normally associate with adults twice his age. Believe it or not, due to the building efforts of 12-year-old Ian and his 14-year-old brother Tom, the Petrie family was eventually able to move out of their original home--no bigger than a modern-day garage which housed 9 people--into a much larger 2 storey home which still stands today. It seems that Ian has always been exceptionally energetic by any standards!

In addition to performing physical feats beyond his years, it soon became clear that Ian was also intellectually ahead of his classmates at the local one-room schoolhouse. So, it was decided that the next best step was for him to move to town, to live in a boarding house and attend high school. After high school and a stint working for his uncle, Ian opted to join the militia, reasoning that it offered a plethora of perks---a comfortable bed (a step up from sleeping under the kitchen table!), access to a working vehicle, hearty meals, and an opportunity to sleep in. At some point in this whirlwind of activity, Ian attended the University of Saskatchewan, graduating with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. Ever the practical planner, Ian also made a point of obtaining 3 extra years in credits, recognizing the usefulness of further education in advancing his career prospects.



And so it was that, upon his graduation from the U of S, Ian began to work in Saskatchewan as an engineer, overseeing water irrigation and irrigation ditches, a valued profession in a province where farmland needed to be managed to stave off flooding and erosion. Ian's formative years as a hard-working farmboy were, as we shall soon see, the foundation of a life devoted to protecting Canada's heartland and the North. In the meantime, Ian, now a debonair young man, turned his attention to a certain young lady. Her name was Haroldine Armstrong. Ian met her at a mutual friend's home and before the night was through, he seemed to have been smitten. Rumor has it that Ian chased her down the road in the rain—revealing himself to be quite a romantic in that “movie” moment. Ian and Haroldine married in Havre, Montana in 1954. They soon had 3 children—Reg (b. 1955), Rod (b. 1959), Roberta (b. 1961).

Within a short time of Reg's birth, Ian accepted a job with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration or PFRA for short. An agency of the Federal Government, “PFRA began in response to the drought crisis of the 1930s in the Prairies. However, for nearly eight decades (until 2009), it continued to help farmers conserve soil, prevent erosion, develop water resources and manage pastureland”. What began as a “jack of all trades” role---testing produce and acquiring an extensive knowledge of water irrigation and fertilization—in Saskatchewan—eventually led Ian to positions based in Ottawa.



In an interesting twist of fate, while Ian was building his career, John Diefenbaker had become P.M(1957-1963). Thirty-five years older than Ian, they shared something in common. Diefenbaker had also grown up on a farm in Saskatchewan from the age of eight. Perhaps this is why Diefenbaker seems to have had a special relationship with Ian. Apparently, in his many interactions with Ian over the years, the PM, who was known for referring to all others by their last names, chose to call Ian by his first name. Funny how humble beginnings can sometimes be our greatest stepping-stones in life. The Petrie family eventually moved from Saskatchewan to Ottawa where Ian took a demanding position with Northern Development which required him to travel extensively up North. From Ian's recollections, he was responsible for ensuring that hard rock goldmining and placer gold mining (the recovery of stream bed deposits of gold) operations did not endanger permafrost aka nature's runways.

After Ian officially retired from the federal civil service at the age of 55, he was often asked to join departmental trips (including helicopter trips to the Arctic) as his judgement and expertise remained invaluable. One of Ian's proudest accomplishments was, in his words, “writing every inch” of the Territorial Land Use Regulations.



Ian eventually parted ways with Haroldine. While their marriage came to an end, they were blessed for many years to come through their children and extended family. Over the years Ian and Haroldine welcomed 8 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren into the Petrie family, members of whom can be found all across the country-- from BC to Manitoba to Ontario.

In 1983, two years before his retirement, Ian married his second wife, Donna, whom he had met at a neighborhood dinner (Donna had 2 sons from a previous marriage, Brent and Scott Findlay). Following his retirement Ian and Donna moved to Rideau Ferry. This move prompted Ian to buy himself a big boat, spending countless days on the water during the summer. And, throughout his life, when he wasn't hard at work outside of the home, Ian built 90% of his furniture, making everything from a rolling pin to a kitchen table. Eventually he left Rideau Ferry to settle in Beckwith. Donna passed away on August 1, 2015. Ian moved to Orchard View in 2023 for some added support. Just as with the militia which he had joined so long ago, this move came with its own perks—meals and music and in a plot twist that no one may have seen coming...

He was now in close proximity to Haroldine with whom he still enjoys a lovely friendship. From his Lazy Boy in his third-floor apartment, he has a perfect view of Haroldine's townhome. And in the summer, you will often find Ian (and sometimes even Haroldine) perched out on her porch swing...which as everyone knows, every farmhouse must have if it's to be counted as the genuine article! In the end it seems that Ian has come full circle, following his heart back home.



Employee of the Month: Ava & Ella

Two personal support workers (PSWs), Ava and Ella, who work on the memory care floor at OVG, have been recognized as Employees of the Month for their outstanding dedication and compassion. Every day, they go above and beyond to create a safe, comforting environment for residents living on our memory care floor, bringing patience, warmth, and genuine care to their roles. Whether it's through gentle conversations, creative activities, or simply offering a reassuring presence, Ava and Ella make a meaningful difference in the lives of the residents and their families.



FUN FACT

May Day is really two separate holidays: the celebration of the coming summer and fertility, and the celebration of labor day.



Testimonial ~ Family

I have the pleasure of having both my parents here. They have very different care needs so they live separately and receive the care they deserve.

Mom has dementia and lives in the Memory Living Program that provides her the guidance and support to achieve her day. Mom enjoys morning exercises, trivia or word games and a tasty snack.

My Dad lives independently on the 2nd floor enabling him to go to morning exercises, have a coffee with his friends in the bistro and complete errands for the two of them.

The afternoon they spend together going for walks, enjoying a visit with other residents in the bistro, watching their favourite show or just spending time together.

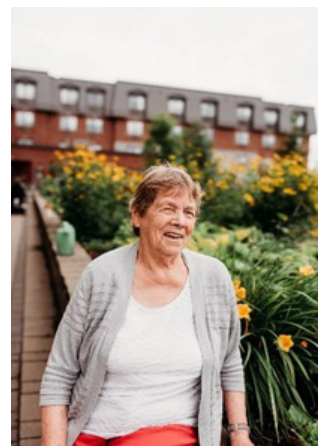
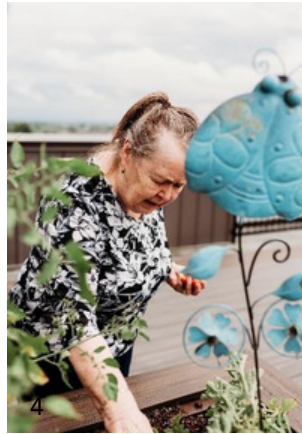
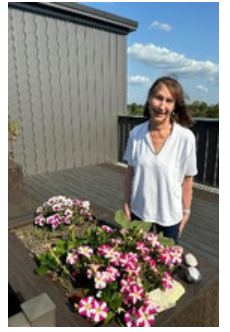
I am so pleased with the balance Orchard View provides for them and the peace of mind it gives me.

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

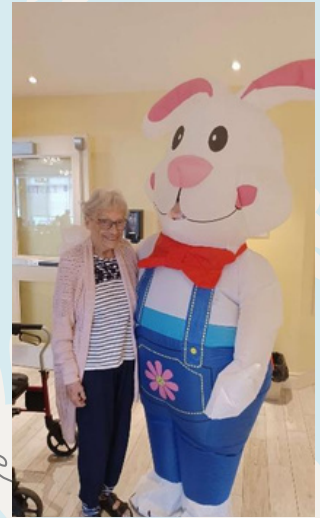
Open Activities

- 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)





HOPPY EASTER



SPRING TULIP FESTIVAL

Sign up at Reception

**Thursday
May 15th**

Departing at 10:30 am

Followed by
Lunch at
Swiss Chalet!

Orchard View
CARE CENTRE
BY THE MISSISSIPPI
ALMONTE

GARAGE SALE

Saturday June 14th 8:00-12:00

Do you have too much clutter? Household goods or furniture you don't use anymore? Let us help you clear some space and raise much needed funds for the Home Hospice all at the same time!

Decide what you want to donate and Drop off in Julie's office OR arrange for it to be moved from your suite before
Thursday June 12th.

We will set up tables on our front lawn to display all the donations, establish prices, and will handle the cash. Feel free to check out the treasures we have, maybe you'll spot something you need!

**Anything that isn't sold will be
donated to The Hub
& The Rebound Centre**

Mother's Day LUNCH

Let's celebrate all Moms

Sunday May 11th

BOOK YOUR SEATING NOW

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

FREE "MOM"OSAS FOR EVERY MOM

AGH RUN FOR WOMEN'S & NEWBORN HEALTH

PRESENTED BY



**RUN OR WALK!
FUNDRAISE!
WIN PRIZES!**

**SCAN TO
REGISTER!**

