



THE RIDER

Getting seniors where they need to go

What a difference a few months makes! Our last newsletter came out in February. My message was filled with astonishment over how much Drive Happiness had grown over the past year. Almost immediately afterwards, the world turned upside down. With the outbreak of COVID-19, Drive Happiness has changed in ways we would never have planned on. We heard the call that help was needed and we filled needs as fast as we could, learning new strengths and finding ways to improve. We have expanded our scope of service to include deliveries, running errands, doing shopping, transporting medical personnel to and from their jobs, we created a friendly call list to keep track of seniors who may be experiencing social isolation and we have continued to provide assisted transportation for seniors to get them to essential medical appointments. As far south west as Drayton Valley and north east to Vegreville, our amazing volunteers have been hitting the road driving happiness. We made the difficult decision to ask our drivers aged 65+ to put a pause on driving, but they continue to help the organization by connecting with riders over the phone, social distance visits and birthday parades. To fill the gap, the call for volunteers went out through the Government of Alberta and the response was overwhelming. We welcomed over fifty new team members who have been instrumental in all that we are doing.

The Edmonton Seniors' Coordinating Council, SAGE, Westend Seniors Activity Centre and GEF have always been our mainstays of support and we once again have worked even more closely to ensure that seniors remain safe and healthy. We have also built strong partnerships with other provincial stakeholders in the seniors' sector, working together to make sure that we all get through these uncertain times. I have often said that when it comes to non-profit groups, we are stronger together. Never before has this been more true.

I would also like to thank the Government of Alberta, The Edmonton Community Foundation and Alberta Health Services for supporting Drive Happiness at this time. From daily phone calls and meetings, updates from the Ministry of Health, brainstorming on solutions, sourcing PPE, valuable community connection and financial support, these groups were instrumental in helping Drive Happiness scale up service over the past two months. Finally, June 1—7 is Seniors' Week in Alberta. It is traditionally a time of celebration and gathering. This year, we will pay tribute to our seniors in other ways. As we get used to this new way of life, we never lose sight of the fact that seniors are a treasure to society.



Liza Bouchard, Executive Director



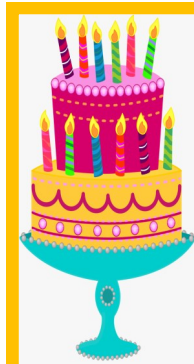
780-424-5438

9916 — 45 Ave. NW | Edmonton, AB T6E 5J1

Toll-Free 888-336-4503 | www.drivehappiness.ca | Charitable number #86242-1310 RR0001

Birthday Celebrations—COVID-19 Style!

A 90th birthday needs to be celebrated! Drive Happiness was happy to take part in a fun-filled parade at Christenson Developments Southwoods Court North. While the pool noodles look festive, they help with social distancing. Blowing out 90 candles on a cake is different now too. Despite all the changes in how we celebrate, the love and admiration remains the same!



Thanks to our volunteer drivers for making this parade a success!



Welcome Home

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GROWING OLDER,
STRONGER
WISER
HAPPIER
#GrowOlderWithMe



To celebrate Seniors' Week in Alberta, Age Friendly Edmonton has been sharing stories of positive aging. Do you have a message to share? Tell us how you participate in healthy, active and creative aging. Share your wisdom by emailing info@drivehappiness.ca, mailing or calling our office!

Looking for something to fill your days? Meet people and have fun!

If you have internet access, there are online classes and activities provided by local seniors centres:



www.weseniors.ca/
[whats_new_cat/classes/](https://www.weseniors.ca/whats_new_cat/classes/)



www.edmontonseniorscentre.ca/program-guide1.html

The Seniors' Centre Without Walls also provides programming over the phone.
Call (780) 395-2626 to register (toll free)

WILLS, ESTATES & NOTARY.

MARRAZZO LAW OFFICE

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****10% off with Drive Happiness membership**

Marrazzo Law Office is currently open and providing mobile will service.

Please call for more information

WENDY'S Errands For Elders

780.916.8916

Enjoy your life, leave the errands to us.



Wendy Moyle
Founder & Errand Expert

Our goal is to support and promote independent living and reduce demands on the families.



wendy@WendysErrands.com

WendysErrands.com



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- ▶ prepare meals for a family member or friend?
- ▶ help someone with finances, personal or medical care?
- ▶ help provide transportation or home living support?



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“A caregiver assists a family member or friend with challenges resulting from illness, disability or aging.”

Need Support? Call us at **1-877-453-5088**
or visit www.caregiversalberta.ca



**During the pandemic,
Drive Happiness is:**



**Providing essential
medical rides**



**Facilitating grocery
and pharmacy
shopping**



**Delivering hampers
and supplies on behalf
of our partners**



**Checking in with
socially isolated
seniors**



**Collaborating with
provincial stakeholders in
the seniors' sector**



**Transporting
employees to and
from work for the
City of Beaumont
and Capital Care**

Call us!

**If you or someone
you know needs
help!**

**DRIVE HAPPINESS
(780) 424-5438**



**Keeping our drivers
and riders safe by
providing PPE and car
sanitation kits**

**Any action you take upon the information in this newsletter is strictly at your own risk.*