

Ontario's new Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) takes effect July 1

The HST, which combines the existing 8 per cent PST and the 5 per cent federal GST into a single 13 per cent sales tax, comes into effect **July 1, 2010**. To help ease the transition to the HST, some transition rules take effect May 1.

Seniors will benefit from the measures aimed to help with the transition to the HST:

- 93 per cent of Ontario taxpayers will get a permanent income tax cut.

- Eligible families (including senior couples) earning less than \$160,000 will receive three payments totalling \$1,000. Individuals earning less than \$80,000 will receive three payments totalling \$300.

- A new refundable sales tax credit, similar to the GST credit, will be provided for people with low incomes.

- The HST will not be charged on some items, including basic groceries, prescription drugs and

medical devices.

Enhancing Ontario Property and Sales Tax Credits for Senior Couples

As announced in the 2009 Ontario Budget, the Ontario Property Tax Credit and Sales Tax Credit will be enhanced to better reflect circumstances facing low-income seniors. Senior couples receiving the guaranteed minimum level of income from governments will be able to receive the full benefit from these credits for 2009.

Doubling the Senior Homeowners' Property Tax Grant in 2010

The Ontario Senior Homeowners' Property Tax Grant is an annual benefit to help offset property taxes for seniors with low and moderate incomes who own their own homes.

For 2009, the maximum grant is \$250. For 2010 and subsequent years, the maximum grant will be \$500.

It's been a busy year at The Elliott Community

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core services and to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of our operations.

- A new accountability agreement was reached with our Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) In addition, there were new provincial regulations for long-term care facilities.
- A new Telephone Integration System that is still posing some challenges for us as we work

through difficulties with the existing providers.

This probably represents the most amount of change that our organization has experienced since the completion of our redevelopment project in 2005. For this reason, your input and participation in this year's satisfaction survey is even more important. Please take the time to share your thoughts and insights.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

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Elliott EXPRESS



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Mark your calendars!

Dressing Room for Seniors
July 2, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Auditorium

Guiding Mosaic
July 9, 12, 14, 16
Visits to The Elliott from Girl Guides from across Canada as they come together at Guelph Lake for their annual national jamboree. Stay tuned for details.

Want to share this newsletter with distant friends and family? *The Elliott Express* is now available for viewing on the Elliott Community web site. Just go to www.elliottcommunity.org and click on "Information for Residents / Info."

A year in review at The Elliott Plus, it's time for our annual survey

From the desk of Trevor Lee, CEO



Each year, The Elliott Community circulates a Satisfaction Survey to all of the Residents as part of our Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Program. This is an integral component for our Board of Trustees and the Leadership Team to understand what we are doing well, where there are opportunities to improve and where specific areas of concern are developing. The Elliott has appreciated the level of response from our residents and their families, varying around the 60% response rate. We value this input; it guides the decision-making areas of the organization.

For this year, we are encouraging resident/families to complete the survey and feel confident your comments are valued and appreciated. The Survey will be circulated during the summer giving everyone plenty of time to review and complete it. It is confidential and the responses are carefully assembled in a report to the Quality

Assurance and Risk Management.

The Elliott Community has implemented several changes in its operation in the past year; some of which we were involved in, others we were required to implement by regulations through various provincial ministries. To name a few, we have experienced the following:

- Our Alternate Level of Care (ALC) Transition Program was wrapped up after nearly 2 ½ years. It offered extended care services to Residents awaiting placement in a long-term care facility.
- We created 12 additional interim (temporary) long-term care beds within the Fountain resident home area.
- We have developed a fourth level of care called Retirement Plus. It provides care to individuals who require more assistance than traditional Retirement living but may not need the level of care that would be available on a long-term care facility.
- Significant changes in the delivery of care brought about by an Operational Review that we did in 2009. It is intended to strengthen the organization's commitment to our

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Father's Day Social a big hit



At least three generations were on hand to celebrate this year's Fathers' Day at the Elliott. It was standing room only as the event drew a large crowd.

The first ever observance of Father's Day is believed to have been held on June 19, 1910 through the efforts of Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington. After listening to a church sermon at Spokane's Central Methodist Episcopal Church in 1909 about the newly recognized Mother's Day, Dodd felt strongly that fatherhood needed recognition, as well. She wanted a celebration that honoured fathers like her own father, William Smart, a Civil War veteran who was left to raise his family alone when his wife died giving birth to their sixth child when Sonora was 16 years old.

Beta Sigma Phi Hawaiian Tea Party

Beta Sigma Phi sorority is an international women's social, cultural and service organization. On June 27, the local chapter dropped by and brought with them strawberry shortcake and even more strawberries! Entertainment was provided by the Overtones and a great time was had by the packed room of residents. Thanks Beta Sigma Phi!



Elliott donations recognized

The Elliott recently received a certificate from the Christian Blind Mission, Canada, in recognition of our donations to them of walkers and wheelchairs.

These items will eventually end up at the Grace Children's Hospital in Port au Prince, Haiti - the area hardest hit by the massive earthquake last year.

cbm Canada Mission is, "...to break the cycle of poverty and disability. We work together with Canadians, international Partners and our clients - those we serve - to set people free for life."

