

May 18, 2013

## Long-Term Care Program Helps Patients Recover and Return Home

### Part 1 – Gena Olson’s Story

Two stories have been brought to our attention; both focused on patients who have visited [Trillium Villa’s](#) convalescent-care program and have seen significant improvements in their quality of life - so much so that they are leaving long-term care and returning home. This LHINfo Minute presents part 1 of 2: Gena Olson’s Story.

#### Gena Olson’s Story

It has been a trying two and a half months, but Gena Olsen will soon be returning home after Trillium Villa’s convalescent-care program helped her regain her mobility.

She had acquired cellulitis brought on by a staphylococcus (staph) infection, which caused severe inflammation and pain in the joints in her feet and left hand.

Olsen is going home May 13. She arrived at the Sarnia long-term care home’s convalescent-care unit on April 8. Before coming to Trillium Villa, Olsen was being cared for by a health team in Strathroy, Ont., where she had been taken after being air-lifted from the U.S. to Canada.

Olsen was holidaying with her husband in the U.S. when she acquired the infection, which sent her to a Valdosta, Georgia, hospital for more than two weeks in mid-February.

Once Olsen was at Trillium Villa, the restorative-care team continued her treatment by working to help her regain her strength while the cellulitis was treated. “They have a wonderful staff here,” Olsen tells *S&R Today*. “The staff is very helpful and very cheery and the rehab part of it (is excellent).”

Olsen also commends Trillium Villa’s homey environment. “The whole atmosphere here is different than a hospital,” she says.

***'We are lucky to  
have this,'***

**says Gena Olsen of Trillium Villa's  
convalescent-care program**



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That said, Olsen underscores the importance of being an advocate for one's own health and well-being — which is exactly what she did when she came to Trillium Villa. She listened to advice from the restorative-care team and followed through with her exercises.

When she first came to Trillium Villa Olsen was immobile, but things soon changed. "I am now walking to the dining room and back for every meal," Olsen says.

Based on her success at Trillium Villa, Olsen says she wishes there were more convalescent-care programs offered at long-term care homes. Aside from providing people with top-notch care, such programs keep hospital beds free, she adds.

"We are lucky to have this, and it's too bad there aren't more," she says.

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Thank you to [Deron Hamel, story author](#); Trillium Villa and The Steeves & Rozema Group, for providing excellent patient care; and Jennifer Allison, for bringing the stories to the attention of the ESC LHIN.

### LEARN MORE

For more information about the Erie St. Clair LHIN, please visit: [www.eriestclairhin.on.ca](http://www.eriestclairhin.on.ca)

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### ABOUT THE ESC LHIN

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The Erie St. Clair LHIN is a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care agency that plans and pays for health care services totalling a billion dollars a year in our region alone – everything from hospitals to Meals on Wheels.

The Erie St. Clair LHIN strives to make the health care system better by understanding and responding to local needs and by getting services to work together more efficiently. That's how we'll all get better health care, while saving money and making the system sustainable for our children and grandchildren.



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