

6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Service Awards for  
 Geriatric  
 Excellence**

The 2009 Service Awards for Geriatric Excellence (SAGE) was one of the largest events in the program's six year history.

It's hard to imagine that in 2003 we started with approximately 100 attendees and have grown to a huge event with over 90 nominees and 560 people attending the Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 28th at the Liuna Station in Hamilton.

As you can well imagine, coordinating an awards program and event of this magnitude requires many, many volunteer hours and generous support from corporate and community partners.

The Regional Geriatric Program central (RGPC) and St. Peter's Hospital extend sincere thanks to the Planning Committee for their hard work, to Shalom Village for partnering to produce this year's program, and to all of the 2009 SAGE sponsors.

The RGPC and St. Peter's are pleased to announce that the 2010 SAGE program will be hosted in Niagara with local leadership from Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre.

A list of all nominees, the event program, slideshow and photos can be accessed from the RGPC website at [www.rgpc.ca](http://www.rgpc.ca).

## Congratulations to the 2009 SAGE Award Recipients!

### INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY



**Inspector Jeff DeRuyter,**  
 Guelph Police Service

As a member of the Seniors at Risk Community Response Network since 2006, Jeff has become a key resource to members of the network as well as the broader community serving older adults.

*"Jeff promotes partnerships and has an inspiring vision that has positively impacted the health and well being of seniors within our community...his dedication to ensuring that the Police understand the care needs of seniors in our community is exceptional."*



**Dr. Linda Lee**  
 The Centre for Family  
 Medicine Family Health  
 Team, Kitchener

Dr. Lee established an inter-professional and evidence-based Memory Clinic program within her Family Health Team and has established a sustainable training program to assist other

Family Health Teams to establish Memory Clinics within their practices

*"With the recent investments and developments in primary care reform, it is extremely timely to showcase and celebrate a peer leader who can inspire a new generation of passionate and knowledgeable primary care providers."*



## EXECUTIVE CATEGORY



**Paul O'Krafka**  
CEO, St. Joseph's Villa,  
Dundas

Paul has a long history of involvement with projects and committees related to long term care and health and social service programs for seniors, demonstrating a strong dedication and commitment to improving care for older

adults and overall to giving back to the community.

*"Paul is not only the face and voice of the organization, but gives freely of his time to guide and direct those who seek counsel...one of his great strengths is the ability to allow others to flourish..."*

## VOLUNTEER CATEGORY



**Carole Ward**, Volunteer  
Halton Oral Health  
Outreach, Elder Services  
Advisory Committee,  
Hamilton Niagara  
Haldimand Brant CCAC

For over a decade Carole has worked collaboratively to help build the mechanisms and linkages that allow people in need of home

and community care to access and navigate the array of community supports and health services.

*"She has been committed to improving the quality of life of individuals with physical, cognitive, and medical compromises in our region and throughout Ontario... her engagement within her community as a volunteer has and continues to be exemplary in her commitment to helping others."*

## STUDENT CATEGORY



**Jane Rufrano**  
CEO, Hotel Dieu  
Shaver Health &  
Rehabilitation Centre

Jane has strived to meet the needs of patients and their caregivers through the establishment of innovative programs and partnerships and by

spearheading significant changes to the hospital's physical environment.

*"Jane is an outstanding executive and has been an exceptional change agent. Jane has created a culture and environment where seniors feel safe, respected, valued, and engaged in the world around them."*



**Kelly Bashak**  
Gerontology Graduate,  
McMaster University,  
Hamilton

Kelly took the initiative to introduce Montessori-based activities for patients with dementia, made adaptations to the program to meet the needs and interests of specific patients and

has trained new volunteers in Montessori activities.

*"Kelly went above and beyond and created tools that we will use for a long time. her confidence and eager attitude will allow her to do great things in her career...her ability as a future educator and leader in the field are evident."*

## TEAM CATEGORY



**Dr. John Yang & Maria Boyes**  
Geriatric Medicine Team, Cambridge Memorial Hospital

John and Maria are leaders in implementing best practices and outcome measurement, and often provide geriatric training to colleagues in other settings and disciplines.

As a team they have a strong understanding of the health care system as a whole and are always present at planning tables to help improve health and community services for older adults.

*“The clinical services they provide demonstrate a holistic approach to service delivery and they maintain strong partnerships with their colleagues.”*

## ORGANIZATION CATEGORY

**Haldimand-Norfolk Community Senior Support Services Inc.**



In spite of the many challenges of serving a vast rural area, and delivering services with limited resources, the organization has maintained its commitment to serving the needs of a growing senior population.

*“This is a unique organization with many facets but it follows one very important mandate, to enhance independence and quality of life...”*



### *The SAGE Image*

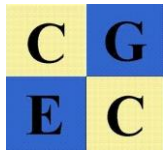
*The symbolism behind the water and mountains of the SAGE image are drawn from Japanese culture. For centuries, the Japanese people have embarked on pilgrimages to sacred mountains for spiritual enlightenment, peace and power. Ascents of the mountains were conceived as metaphysical ascents on the path of enlightenment. The sight and sound of the inexorable flow of water reminds us of the relentless passage of time – hence experience. This journey represents wisdom from experience.*

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