

## Family Council at Dom Lipa

The FAMILY COUNCIL at Dom Lipa is a ministry-approved council that was welcomed by the Board and Administration of Dom Lipa in the spring of 2017. The Dom Lipa Family Council advocates for the physical and social well-being of Dom Lipa's long-term-care residents. Its members are a caring and supportive group, each playing different roles in leading or supporting the work of the Family Council, which is looking out for the best interests not only of our parents and/or relatives but of all the LTC residents at Dom Lipa.

Many council members have connections within the Slovenian community, some having grown up in the Slovenian parishes' communities in their youth. Something that makes this caring group exceptional is that many council members stay involved with the council after their parents have passed away. I sit on this council and am in awe of my colleagues' dedication and loyalty.

Under the leadership of Jo Muhic-Pelletier and Betty Petrich, Family Council is in close communication with the DL's Administration and with DL's Activation and Volunteer Coordination staff. Over the past two years, Jo, Betty and others have established beautiful perennial gardens on the grounds of our Slovenian community's Retirement Living and Nursing Home. Council held two successful Christmas Bake Sales in 2018 and 2019, the proceeds used to fund some needed PPE supplies for DL residents. Family Council was involved in discussions around the Butterfly program and a Music program for residents. Jo and Betty attended the Linden Board's virtual "Strategic Planning Meeting" for Dom Lipa, to collaborate with Board members and others on future plans for the Home.

Despite the difficult and restrictive pandemic times since March 2020, Family Council has continued to maintain communication with its members via email and virtual meetings and has embarked on more projects that have made a difference in the lives of residents and staff of Dom Lipa. Betty Petrich keeps council members informed and educated about pertinent information, including Family Councils of Ontario Newsletters and Updates, especially about Covid 19 latest news. Taking after her father Tone Muhic, who once held woodworking workshops at Dom Lipa, Jo Muhic-Pelletier took up wood crafting this past fall. An inspirational leader, Jo's creative skills and those of other council members were on display at Dom Lipa this past Christmas and again in February for 'heart'felt spirit boosting.

In closing, I wanted to highlight how some individuals in our community have gone above and beyond in these pandemic times to make a difference in our community. Under the leadership of Jo Muhic-Pelletier and Betty Petrich, Dom Lipa's Family Council has been making a difference in the Dom Lipa community, spreading good cheer and supportive comfort since its inception.

Well-done!

*Submitted by:* Majda Resnik

## Gardening



- begun in the summer of 2018, with the creation of a Butterfly Garden beside the front patio and a large Family Council garden in the back of the Home.
- Additional perennial gardens were created in the summer of 2019. Tomatoes and beans were grown in 2 wooden raised beds; residents enjoyed fresh salads.
- *Gardeners*; Jo Muhic-Pellettier (with help from her husband, Michael, and her brother Greg Muhic), Damjana Dzeko, Margaret Petrovic, Sophie (Križman) Polenek and Betty Petrich.

## Christmas Decorations:

Dom Lipa Activation Coordinator, Sonja Vidovic reached out to the Family Council to participate in decorating the fences and trees around the Dom Lipa grounds.



## February Valentine Decorations:

To brighten up the long pandemic winter, decorations and messages of love were hung from fences and trees all around the property, visible from every window in the building... brightening everyone's spirits during the month of February!

