

# CAH CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF PAVILLON OMER DESLAURIERS AT BENDALE ACRES

**1963** **A vision**  
Simone Lantaigne meets Fred Lafontaine and Gérard Bouchard, who specialize in the construction of homes for the elderly.

**1978** **One direction**  
From 1992 to 1996, Gilles Barbeau was executive director of CAH. He will later become an assiduous volunteer at the Pavillon Omer Deslauriers.

**1993** **A catalyst**  
Omer Deslauriers also helped found the Centre médico-social communautaire de Toronto, which will eventually become the Centre francophone de Toronto.

**1993** **Inauguration**  
The Pavillon Omer Deslauriers was launched on September 30, 1994, by Tony Silipo, Ontario Minister of Community and Social Services.

**1994** **Good timing!**  
Bendale Acres was fully renovated in 1994. It was perfect timing to integrate a new Francophone pavilion since the entire building had to be emptied and then relocated.

**2000** **In the senate**  
On March 9, 2009, the "Lavoie case" was discussed in the Senate of Canada during a session on access to long-term care in French in Canada; this will give the Francophone issue a high profile.

**2007** **Strong committee**  
Jean Roy is asked to sit on the Bendale Acres committee to replace the tireless Gilles Barbeau (also an engineer at Imperial Oil), who passed away in 2011.

**2010** **Waiting list**  
It is the priority waiting list that will lead to an increase in the occupancy rate of beds in the Pavillon Omer Deslauriers by Francophones.

**2013** **Excellence**  
As a member of the Bendale Acres Residence Advisory Committee, Jean Roy receives an Excellence in Volunteering Award in April 2018 from the City of Toronto.

**2016** **Continuous innovation**  
A daycare centre with 49 spaces is completed in Bendale Acres, including 24 bilingual preschool spaces and French-speaking staff. It will facilitate intergenerational programs between children and the elderly.

**2018** **At last!**  
Thanks to the analysis catalyzed by Jean Roy and pressure from Francophone organizations, on June 3, 2013, the Central East CCAC (responsible for managing waiting lists for long-term care homes in the Central East LHIN region) agrees to give priority to Francophone seniors eligible for long-term care who apply for Bendale Acres, finally putting Category 3 of the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 to good use.

**2020** **A model to emulate**  
The Santis Health study cites the example of Pavillon Omer Deslauriers in a new Guide to Planning and Delivering Long-Term Care in French produced by the Réseau franco-santé du Sud de l'Ontario, with representatives from Bendale Acres and the City of Toronto, Reflet Salvéo, Entité 4 and FARFO.

**25 years already!**  
An official celebration to mark the 25th anniversary of Pavillon Omer Deslauriers was scheduled for April 2020. As early as February, the 25th Anniversary Committee made the decision to cancel the festivities in order to avoid dissemination of COVID-19. To date, there have been no cases of the virus registered at Bendale Acres Long-Term Care Home, a reminder of the high quality care that has been provided there from the beginning.

**The opening**  
Bendale Acres opened its doors in 1963. It is one of the ten municipal long-term care homes operated by the City of Toronto, before its amalgamation.

**The beginning**  
In order to get grants and funding, twelve signatories form the corporation The Centres d'Accueil Héritage on August 22, 1978: Fred Lafontaine, Gérard Bouchard, Charles E. Arsenault, Roger Arsenault, Alphonse Charette, Omer Deslauriers, Dr Didier Piot, Dr. Robert Potvin, Guy Hamel, Armand Charlebois, François Roy and Pierre Gravel.

**Idea launched**  
Omer Deslauriers, former educator and senior provincial civil servant, is the one who launched the idea of an integrated long-term care centre within Bendale Acres (after founding the Regroupement des intervenants francophones en santé et services sociaux de l'Ontario).

**A team**  
Omer Deslauriers surrounded himself with an impressive team to carry out his project: Andrée Albergaria, Claire Bénézra, Mohammed Brihmi, François-Xavier Chamberland, Anne-Marie Couffin, Jacqueline Dugas-Rozentals, Pierre Fortier, André A. Gagné, Jean-Claude Lesnick, Jacques Liwanpo, Marthe Moliki-Sassa, Anne Rich, Paul Rouleau, Roseann Runte, Michèle Sirois and Rosaire Vachon.

**Open!**  
The Pavillon Omer Deslauriers officially opens its doors on November 1, 1994. Located on the 3rd floor of Bendale Acres, at 2920 St. Lawrence Avenue East, it has an initial capacity of 37 residents.

**Gilles Barbeau**  
No wonder CAH gave his name to its golf tournament! From 2000 to 2006, honours for outstanding volunteerism rained down on its director Gilles Barbeau. In 2006, the City of Toronto honoured him for having enhanced the quality of life of the residents at the Pavillon Omer Deslauriers. Of all the causes he supported, French-language long-term care was his most cherished.

**The 2007 Act**  
The Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 is created, including Category 3 on the waiting list (a category that applies to people with a particular religious, ethnic or linguistic origin). Unfortunately, it will not be used right away to facilitate access to long-term care for Francophones.

**A foundation**  
The Hélène-Tremblay-Lavoie Foundation is co-founded by Jean Roy and Sylvie Lavoie to amplify the message about gaps in long-term care in French in Toronto (well illustrated by the "Lavoie case" involving Hélène Tremblay-Lavoie).

**Accreditation Canada**  
In March 2016 Bendale Acres, which had already been approved by Accreditation Canada organization several years ago, receives a certificate of recognition from this entity for successfully completing the testing of its tools on language access.

