

WHAT IS A RETIREMENT COMMUNITY?

Retirement communities typically provide rental accommodation with care and services for older adults who can live independently with minimal to moderate support and are able to fund the lifestyle on their own. You can choose your own retirement community and wait lists depend on the individual property. There is flexibility to choose your type of suite, the services you need and the recreation and leisure services you want to participate in.

A retirement community is different from long term care. Long-term care homes (formerly nursing homes) are designed for people who require the availability of 24-hour nursing care and supervision. They are funded by the government, with residents paying a co-payment. Availability varies and you may not be able to move in to your first choice of home.

Retirement communities may be able to provide you with an interim solution while you wait for admission to a long term care home.

BENEFITS OF LIVING IN A RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

- Freedom from maintaining a home and preparing meals
- Enjoying privacy while knowing someone is aware of your well-being
- Belonging to a community of peers and participating in that community
- Enjoying hobbies and activities with others in the community

RETIREMENT HOMES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Retirement communities in Ontario are regulated by the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority (RHRA) in accordance with the Retirement Homes Act (RHA). The RHRA is responsible for licensing and inspecting retirement communities, enforcing the RHA and responding to calls about harm or risk of harm to residents. The RHRA can be reached at 1-855-275-7472.

DISCOVER HOW RETIREMENT LIVING COULD BE RIGHT FOR YOU



Ontario Retirement Communities Association (ORCA)
202-2401 Bristol Circle, Oakville ON L6H 6P1
www.orcaretirement.com • 1-888-263-5556

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HOW TO GET STARTED

A) Get informed

What kind of services do you need and want? Learn about the options that are available to you in the seniors housing market.

B) Decide where you want to live

Do you want to stay close to your town or city or would you prefer to move closer to family? Once you know what area you'd like to focus on, the ORCA Home Finder can help find the right option for you. Check out www.orcaretirement.com.

C) Determine your priorities

What is most important to you? Thinking about your needs and wants can help you narrow down your options. In particular, consider the services and amenities you desire.

D) Make some calls and book a few tours

You do not need a referral to live in a retirement community, so go ahead and make some calls. Most communities will provide tours so that you can get a feel for the community and amenities and will also allow you to enjoy a meal to sample the food. If possible, bring someone with you to help you evaluate the options and determine what is most important to you. If you would like to “test out” a residence, ask the marketing team if you can arrange a trial stay.

E) Visit a retirement community

When you visit a retirement community, you should get a sense of the services offered, the suites available, the amenities and programs you can access and the “feel” of the residence. Here are some questions to consider:

Is this community an ORCA member? Are they ORCA Accredited? Do you feel welcome when you enter the building? Is the residence clean and odour-free? Do residents and staff appear engaged? What is nearby in terms of parks, shops, older adult centres, churches, libraries etc.? Is there a variety of recreation and leisure services? Do they offer evening and weekend events? What kind of menu is offered? What times are meals served?

ABOUT THE ONTARIO RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION

The Ontario Retirement Communities Association (ORCA) is a voluntary, non-profit association that represents operators of retirement communities in Ontario. Since 1977, ORCA has set the standard for operational excellence through its leadership in education and advocacy and its commitment to member service. ORCA supports members to meet provincial regulations, adopt best practices and promote quality and excellence in all areas of operation.

