



DOM LIPA

SLOVENIAN LINDEN FOUNDATION

July 22, 2022

Dear Dom Lipa Families, Friends, Employees and Supporters,

In this communication, we provide an update on the cooling systems in Dom Lipa; a Donations Appeal for Family Council Gardeners' expenses and to install a new doorway to the gardens; a BIG thank you to Family Council Gardeners; the new wave of Covid-19 cases in the community; Dom Lipa's continuing Covid-19 safety measures; and introduce our newest Director to join the Board, Catherine Pepevnak.

### **Cooling in Dom Lipa**

We strive to maintain the room temperature to under 26 degrees Celsius during the summer months in all parts of the building. Staff walk around the building twice a day to record temperatures, and record these as required by the Fixing Long-Term Care Act 2021.

This week, a faulty roof-mounted air conditioning unit ceased working, affecting six rooms in the original Kastelic wing, which is the east wing of the building.

We have installed seven portable air conditioning units in the Kastelic wing and in the lobby area where windows permit easy insertion. There will be six more portable window air conditioning units delivered on Wednesday, July 27th that we will install in the six affected rooms using custom fitted plexiglass around the unit.

Another three more powerful hallway air conditioning units will replace some less powerful air conditioning units currently installed in the communal areas to keep the communal areas cool.

Dom Lipa continues to use 35 HEPA filter air cleaning units in the appropriate sizes to clean the air adequately in all communal areas. They are carefully positioned around the building to avoid blowing air from one resident to another.

Residents are invited to come during the day to the cooler communal areas like the lobby, Erculj Auditorium, and the basement dining area.

Fans are not permitted by the Ministry as these may blow any viruses around from person to person.

The Facility Committee had arranged for replacement of several aging roof-mounted HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) units back in 2021 but there were delays in getting the equipment. We have been promised that these HVAC units will be replaced this fall.

### **Your Donations Needed for Family Council Gardeners' Costs and a New Doorway to the Back Gardens**

We need your help to raise funds for the plants, materials and equipment needed to help our Family Council Gardeners maintain our lovely gardens. Several Dom Lipa families have also proposed a new wheelchair-accessible door with a swipe card, in the basement to open directly to the back gardens. This would make it easier for Dom Lipa residents and their loved one to enjoy the colourful gardens and extensive walkways.

**How to Donate for Garden supplies and the new doorway:**

Your help to pay for these expenses is greatly appreciated. Make an online donation at <https://www.domlipa.ca/donations> and note in the Comments that it is for Garden supplies and door. Or leave your cheque in the Garden Donations Box by the front entrance of Dom Lipa.

Just the gardening plants and equipment come to approximately \$1,500.00 per year. The installation of the swipe card on the basement door is approximately \$8,500. We also need to install an electric door opener, which is required by accessibility legislation and will allow easy use of the door.

Family Council has many expenses each year as they buy:

- annual flowers
- replacement perennial plants and shrubs which died over the winter
- fresh organic vegetable soil and fertilizer as well as herbs, vegetable seeds and plants to maintain the popular vegetable-growing beds and planters
- compost, triple mix soil and tons and tons and tons of mulch for continual maintenance of the numerous perennial gardens
- maintenance and replacement of tools, tap splitters, leaking 200-foot hoses, sprayers, and sprinklers.

**Thank you to our Volunteer Gardeners!**

Our Family Council volunteer gardeners have been hard at work to renew and plant the gardens around Dom Lipa.

By the middle of July, Family Council gardeners had spent a total of over 90 free, labour-intensive, volunteer hours working at Dom Lipa. Many people, who see these gardeners working on the gardens, assume they are being paid by Dom Lipa because they cannot imagine anyone working so hard for free!

Family Council is always looking for more people, who love to spend time outside with flowers and plants and are willing to come a few hours weekly or even occasionally to Dom Lipa. Please email [DomLipaFamilyCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:DomLipaFamilyCouncil@gmail.com) to join this amazing team.

Dom Lipa has some of the loveliest gardens of any Retirement or Long-Term Care Homes in the Toronto area because of the hard work of the Family Council gardeners. We are so grateful for your hard work and dedication, which brings enjoyment to residents and families, as well as staff members.



### **Start of a New Covid-19 Wave**

We are disappointed to report a recent increase in COVID-19 cases in Toronto communities and in hospitals, which mirrors the increase we are seeing across Ontario. This increase is mostly attributed to the BA.5 Omicron subvariant, which is more transmissible than earlier Omicron subvariants.

On July 14th, the Chief Medical Officer of Health confirmed Ontario is entering its seventh wave of the pandemic, which is estimated to peak over a two-week period.

As we continue to work hard and to address this next wave and prevent transmission inside Dom Lipa, we strongly urge everyone to:

- Remain diligent in self-screening and reporting symptoms/illness. If you have COVID-19 symptoms: DO NOT come to Dom Lipa (even if you test negative on a rapid antigen test), please stay at home.
- Always wear a mask and maintain rigorous hand hygiene. Staff and volunteers may eat and drink only in break rooms. Essential caregivers and visitors may not eat or drink inside the home.
- Follow capacity limits. This includes following capacity limits posted in break rooms and in elevators to avoid crowding.

- Get vaccinated. The Ontario government stated that starting July 14th, individuals aged 18 and older are eligible to receive their fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

To get your COVID-19 vaccine, find a clinic or pharmacy near you, using the Ontario booking system: You may call to make an appointment using the provincial booking system online or by calling 1-833-943-3900 or by calling your local pharmacy.

### **Dom Lipa Continues with Safety Measures**

Dom Lipa will continue the following public health and safety measures:

- Proof of vaccination remains a mandatory requirement of employment at Dom Lipa.
- Masking remains a requirement for all individuals in Dom Lipa.
- Daily staff, essential caregiver, and visitor screening: self screening and a rapid antigen test before entering the home.
- Rigorous hand hygiene - Help keep yourself, residents, staff and loved ones healthy by washing your hands, which reduces the spread of COVID-19, viral infections, and other communicable diseases.
- One of our best defenses after masking, is maintaining regular use of HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters on our units. This is especially important for us at Dom Lipa, as like with many older buildings, we have an older ventilation system. Using HEPA filters allows us to ensure that we always have clean air circulating in our halls.

### **Welcome to Catherine Pepevnak, new Director**

The Board of Directors welcomes Catherine (Kati) Pepevnak. Catherine is currently a Program Supervisor with the Toronto Regional Office at the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

In her current operational role, she collaborates with transfer payment agencies, which provide services and supports to adults with developmental disabilities. Catherine's thirty-plus years of work experience with the Ontario Public Service has led to her having extensive knowledge of public program administration, decision-making processes and key legislative initiatives in the social services and health fields. She is a respected professional, able to produce results in complex and challenging environments, with excellent stakeholder management skills, political acumen, and judgement.

Catherine holds a Bachelor of Science from Queen's University and a Master of Health Administration from the University of Ottawa.

Catherine's parents were both Slovenian immigrants to Canada and supporters of Dom Lipa since its beginning, contributing to fundraising activities, and providing behind-the-scenes help with the banquet 'banket'. She maintains a friendly connection with a few current Dom Lipa residents.

We look forward to working with Catherine!

The Directors, Administration team and staff wish you a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Slovenian Linden Foundation – Dom Lipa

The Slovenian Linden Foundation – Dom Lipa

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