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March 5, 2021

To my Rideau Park Family:

I have taken some time to compose this letter, as I had such profound emotions upon opening the wonderful folder Judy presented to me recently, on behalf of the UCW and all of you!

So many beautiful cards, all with personal messages inside! I don't feel "thank you" is a big enough, wide enough, loud enough word to express the depth of my emotion to this wonderful gift you all took the time and trouble to participate in!

A wonderful goodbye party would have been terrific, had times been different, as we all know. Seeing the generous, compassionate, caring Rideau Park people I have had the honour to know, work with, and come to love with *all my heart*, all of us *together*, would have been very special indeed. It would have been so fantastic to collect all those hugs – and return my own! But Covid, of course, changed that.

When I greeted Judy at my door on Valentine's Day, and she handed me that beautiful silver folder with a red silk ribbon tied around it, I just knew that THIS was something truly special!

After all was quiet in my house that evening, with Doug soundly sleeping in his room, I tucked into bed to open the folder with curiosity and wonder.

I was overwhelmed at the love that poured out of every card, every letter – and SO many of them!!! Three pages of printed emails, full of hope and best wishes!

Thank you all as well, for your generous monetary gifts, and the UCW for organizing it all. We will be selling our house very soon and downsizing to an apartment, so this will be such a big help to us!

All of this made me realize how very much you ALL mean to me, and how much I MISS you all!!! Your smiling faces and warm greetings whenever we met warmed my heart EVERY day! I felt the appreciation and affection shown to me, and I was delighted at our interactions, always.

Our path these days has been made a little easier for the wonderful PSW care Doug receives every morning. These generous, warm gentlemen have become our friends, and they treat Doug with great respect and kindness.



They have a booklet of excersizes they do with Doug each morning, prepared by a Physio Therapist from Champlain LIHN who assessed Doug again just recently, and updated them.

I can leave and visit my Mom (we are a "bubble"), which is very good for both of us! Or drive to see Lauren and Willow which is such a balm for my heart and soul, just to be with them for even an hour.

We try to walk every day to help alleviate some of the pain in Doug's legs. I often go for long walks of my own, when Doug is being attended to, with my CBC in my headphones!

We have wonderful neighbours who have been generously bringing amazing meals to us! Friends who will help with picking up prescriptions or groceries, or who will fix the odd problem with such good will. And, of course, we have our girls who are wonderful support as well. Doug and I feel truly blessed!

Our amazing granddaughter Willow, who at 2 ½ is already learning to print her name, knows the whole alphabet, can draw recognizable faces, and speaks in paragraphs, is our constant joy! Thank goodness for FaceTime!!!!

I wish to acknowledge the UCW who have been so generous to Doug and I. It means so much to me to have been able to assist when I did, and to see all the wonderful work you do for RPUC and the communities beyond.

Elizabeth, Steve, Georgina and Debi: Thank you all for your support, your generosity and patience, your strength and kindness. I miss our staff meetings! Jeff, I miss your music in the mornings, and our gardening chats, etc.

In conclusion, I am so lucky to have had these 6 years with Rideau Park, and I have fond memories of you all. When things open up again, I will visit – as I can.

Hugs, love and THANK YOU!

Debby and Doug

xo

