



**AUTUMN 2013**

Together we improve the well-being of the people we serve

# Between Us

The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre ♦ OTTAWA, ONTARIO



Brant Scott photo

**DISTINGUISHED PILOT:** WWII bomber pilot Albert Martel was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his brave exploits. He completed a dangerous bombing raid even after two engines took heavy flak.

*Perley Rideau air force veteran –*

## Albert Martel completed bomber mission on two disabled engines

*By Brant Scott*

**A**lbert Martel, 92, believes his love for sports in the late 1920s and '30s set the stage for his success as a decorated pilot in the No. 425 RCAF (Alouette) Squadron in Bomber Command.

His astute teachers in an all-boys school in St. Boniface, Manitoba showed Albert the importance of good balance, teamwork, toughness

and the competitive spirit. He grew adept with a rifle, too, and won a provincial shooting sports competition as a teen when he nailed 10 out of 10 bulls-eyes.

When World War II reared its ugly head, Albert considered joining the army, but the prospect of being pigeonholed as a sniper held little appeal. He held a long-standing

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## Our Capital Campaign co-chair Grete Hale is an Ottawa treasure

*By Brant Scott*

**I**t's no coincidence that virtually everyone who meets Grete Hale feels they should do a bit more charity work.

At 84 years young, Grete (short for Marguerite) is among Ottawa's busiest and most enthusiastic volunteers who seems determined to make the city a better place all by herself. She receives myriad requests to share her time and energy with many fundraising campaigns, and she says working on behalf of the Perley Rideau Capital Campaign is among

her favourites.

The campaign is spearheaded by Perley Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation managing director Daniel Clapin, who joins the Campaign Cabinet in raising \$5 million for the 139 independent and assisted living apartments on the Russell Road campus.

Grete's commitment to both the community and the board room has resulted in an impressive collection of awards and honours. She has received the following distinctions

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**Perley Rideau  
Foundation**

fascination with airplanes and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force to help the war effort.

"My father and I were driving up to north Winnipeg to do a job and when we were near the airport I saw the planes coming in and taking off and I said right there that I want to do that," explains Albert. "The war was on, so next day I went in and joined. When I saw those planes I thought flying would be like another sport, and I was right. I was very athletic. We were lucky because we were taught in school by the Brothers of Mary, who were all athletes from Notre Dame University. During my flight training, my instructor saw how quickly I took to the task and he said, what the hell, I've never seen this before."

Albert signed up for the standard eight hours of flying lessons aboard the legendary biplane Tiger Moth trainer, and astounded his trainers when he soloed after just three hours. A pilot was born, and he soon acquired a reputation and nickname to go with it – The Natural.

### **Every flight is recorded**

Sitting in his room at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre in Ottawa, Albert thumbs through a worn book with lined pages covered in neat handwriting. It's his flight log book from the war and he keeps it close by after all these years.

"I went from the Tiger Moth to fly a twin-engine Wellington bomber," he says, pointing to a yellowed page. "I also flew the Oxford and the Halifax. I was lucky



**THE NATURAL:** Albert Martel believes his athletic youth helped to make him a good pilot. He says war was like a contest -- and he always played to win. He was just 23 when his bomber was hit -- but he refused to turn back until the bombs were away.

– I had a lot of good training. You need good training if you're going into a war. We didn't have a co-pilot like the Americans had."

This cool, calm aviator would complete his 30-mission tour and sign on for another tour on the way to being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC). Albert leans in as he recalls a white-knuckle flight to Cologne, Germany one night in his Halifax bomber. Both starboard engines took heavy flak and cut out.

"My Halifax lost two engines about 20 minutes from the target and we were loaded with 8,000 pounds of bombs," explains Albert. "My engineer, the only Brit on our crew, checked the

damage. He said we might be able to use the engines for short periods. I was getting close to the target but losing altitude fast. Soon we were 4,000 feet below the rest of our gaggle that was flying at 19,000 feet and that made us a big, slow target for the German anti-aircraft guns. It was like daylight out there as the flak was blowing up all around us. I had to decide to keep going or turn around and hope we made it to the English Channel to just dump the bombs."

### **Keeping his eye on the target**

Albert Martel focused on the job at hand and elected to stay on course. He came to drop his payload on the German industrial targets, and drop them he would.

"I feathered back both ailing engines and powered up one at a time, so we had at least three engines to fly on most of the way," he adds. "We had to keep an eye on our own planes above us to make sure they didn't drop their bombs on us. We finally let our bombs go and then had to stay on a straight line to photograph what we hit. The flak got thicker. That was a long, long minute. We hit what we were aiming for and as soon as we got the pictures, I swung the Halifax around. When we flew over the French border, I started looking for large fields to land in, in case we lost more altitude. She held pretty steady and as we got closer to the Channel, I decide to try to fly across it to one of the

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# Capital Campaign donors help seniors in new apartments

[www.buildingchoices.ca](http://www.buildingchoices.ca)

By Daniel Clapin, ACFRE, Managing Director  
The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation



Community seniors are flocking to the two new independent and assisted living apartment buildings at the Perley Rideau!

The spirited response to fill the 139 brand-new apartments at our Russell Road campus provides ample evidence that this innovative housing concept is long overdue. Building "B" adjacent to Russell Road is already 85 percent occupied with seniors who want accommodations with the option for some personal assistance as needed. Building "A" attached to the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre is scheduled to open this fall and is filling up quickly with 70 percent of the apartments already taken.

The Perley Rideau's sterling reputation for delivering long-term healthcare to veterans and community seniors continues to work as the new apartments are filled with tenants seeking independent and assisted living options. The Perley Rideau is allotting about a third of the new apartments to former members of the Canadian Forces, yet close to half of the tenant applications come from seniors with a military career background. In fact, our independent and assisted living apartment buildings are the first in Canada to set aside a portion of new accommodations specifically for former Canadian Forces members. This natural migration

of former CF personnel to the Perley Rideau Seniors Village is most encouraging.

With the opening of Building B last spring and Building A opening this month, the Seniors Village is well under way. The Perley Rideau Foundation's Capital Campaign urgently needs generous donors to keep the project on an even keel. The apartment buildings have a 40-year mortgage of \$32.4 million, federal and provincial governments are providing \$5.4 million, and our Foundation pledged to raise an additional \$5 million. The Perley Rideau had pledged to offer one-third of the apartments to seniors who qualify to occupy an apartment for below-market rental rates. There is a great need for the Seniors Village and we are appealing to donors to help us meet that need.

With the advent of medical breakthroughs, most people are living longer than previous generations. The simple truth is, if you don't die young, you will get old. The tsunami of baby boomers entering their senior years now is something we must prepare for on both personal and community levels. It stands to reason that everyone who donates to important seniors' causes will reap the harvest of their own generosity later on. It is an investment in yourself, your family and your friends, who will need community-based assistance in

the twilight years.

Most of us can relate to the aches and pains that occur more frequently with age. Flash forward a decade or two and some of us will have difficulty walking, bathing, washing our clothes and making the bed. Many seniors who led perfectly active lives are now facing new challenges that may be as simple as turning on a tap or making a cup of tea.

A donation to the Capital Campaign now may be feathering your own nest later on. At some point we will all need some assistance with the routine activities of living. Your generosity can help make seniors' quality of life better starting today. This is an investment – you can help us now to help you later.

Please take a look at our wonderful Perley Rideau Seniors Village and find out how you can help at [www.buildingchoices.ca](http://www.buildingchoices.ca).

**The Perley Rideau is home to 450 residents, 250 of whom are war veterans**

*We appreciate your support in making a bequest in your will and/or making a donation*

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three emergency air strips on the English coast. That's where we landed, safe and sound. I was just 23 and had a great deal of self-confidence. It's amazing what you can do when you're young.

"I don't think you worry about your own mortality up there because approaching the target there are a heck of a lot of things to watch and do," he adds. "We were approached in the air by fighter aircraft and shot at from ground by anti-aircraft guns. That's all part of the whole thing. When you're over a target during a night raid, the whole sky is illuminated. You see the anti-aircraft tracers flying up past your wings and when the searchlights follow you through the sky, you have to try to lose them. We had good training, but I must confess that some guys turned around when they saw the flak. They were sent home right away. If a guy joined the air force, why would they do that? I had a job to do and I went out and did it. I felt like the whole war was a contest, and I was winning."

#### **Faithful crew sticks with the boss**

When Albert finished his tour of 30 missions, incredibly, he signed on for yet another tour. That same evening he heard a knock on his door. His six faithful crewmen stood there and assured him he would not fly again without them. They would rather stay with their pilot than return home. Some 60 percent of the men in Bomber Command were killed in action, yet this crew stuck together and asked for more. They flew another three missions before RCAF brass decided that

sending them into further action would be tempting fate. After a total of 33 missions over enemy territory, their war was over.

"We tried to bomb factories and everything connected with the military," says Albert. "We were not allowed to drop bombs on a city. If we couldn't see the target, we had to drop our bombs in the Channel. The Channel must have been full of bombs, and I suppose it still is.

"I had the bad fortune to be on the ground in London a few times during the Blitzkrieg, too," he adds. "You had to try to find a place to hide. I remember standing in a doorway once and going into the Underground another time. Unfortunately, I didn't get to London very often, but I was fascinated by it, coming from a place like St. Boniface. The people were so nice to us. As soon as they saw you in uniform, they would come over and thank us."

Albert remained in the RCAF and soon applied to rain bombs down on Japan. He wanted to take part in the allied retribution for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, but soon learned that Canadian airmen were limited to transport duties in the Pacific theatre. He trained RCAF pilots after the war, but the Canadian government was winding down its air force to cut costs.

#### **Grounded by the government**

"I wanted to bomb Japan because I didn't like what they did at Pearl Harbour," says Albert. "I made the mistake of staying in the military too long and couldn't get a job as a commercial airline pilot back in Canada. I was with

Transport Command after the war until they started reducing the people to save money. The pilots who came home first went directly to the airline and got in. After the war, they kicked us all out of the military. It was (former Prime Minister John) Diefenbaker and we hated him for it.

"Once I got back home, I took a job as a passenger agent with Trans-Canada Airlines in Ottawa, which later became Air Canada," he adds. "They said I would do that job until there were openings for pilots. It was supposed to be temporary and I kept asking when I would be getting back into flying. So, I kept turning down management promotions. They kept putting me off until they finally said I was too old, since I was the about the same age as their co-pilots. They had no idea how they were going to grow that airline and were afraid that the first and second officers would all retire at the same time. But, I did okay in the end and went up the ladder to become a general manager. I helped to organize the airline's new international charter division."

#### **Still loves to sing**

Albert settled in Ottawa with his wife, Heidi, and a daughter, who still visit him regularly.

"I like the attitude of the staff here at the Perley Rideau," he says, and points to an activity schedule on his wall. "They like to keep us busy here, and I take part in the sing-alongs. I used to sing solos in the St. Boniface Cathedral choir when I was 16, and I still love to sing. It's so friendly here -- this is a great place to be." **BU**

# New CEO delighted to take the helm at Perley Rideau



By Akos Hoffer, Chief Executive Officer  
The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre

It is a great honour to be leading such a special organization at such an important time.

In my first column in *Between Us*, let me say how grateful I am for the tremendous support I received from our former CEO, Greg Fougère, and the support I am now receiving from my colleagues, our residents, their families and our Board of Directors.

It has been very rewarding to have had the opportunity to contribute to Perley Rideau's accomplishments over the last five years. When I joined in 2008, our new seniors apartment buildings were simply an idea, or (as some said at the time) a dream. Thanks to the hard work of our team and the contributions of our donors, we are on the eve of opening the second phase of 139 new apartments. To name just a few of our other achievements, the last five years have also seen the introduction of our Assisted Living Services program, an expansion of our convalescent care program and a complete energy retrofit of the Health Centre.

So where do we go from here?

To support seniors in our new apartments and the surrounding community, we will introduce primary care and family medicine services. To groom future generations of care providers, we will develop a geriatric training centre. To ensure we are on the cutting edge, we will grow our commitment to applied

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***“We need to make sure we are delivering on our promise to the people we serve here and now”***

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research. Ultimately, we will become a centre of excellence in dementia care. To meet our objectives, the Health Centre will partner with many other organizations, including colleges, universities and other health service providers. And, when the ratio of our veteran to community residents starts to change, we will be working closely with Veterans Affairs Canada, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Champlain Local Health Integration Network to develop a smooth transition plan.

But to accomplish all this, we first need to make sure we are

delivering on our promise to the people we serve here and now.

Day to day, that means we will continue to listen carefully to the concerns of our residents and their families. We must keep driving a culture of quality improvement to identify the best possible way to meet their needs. We also need to continue to

integrate all the programs and services we offer to truly create a Perley Rideau Seniors Village. We must invest too, not only in our buildings and infrastructure, but also in our people, making sure we provide the best education for our front line staff and

that we continue to develop our current and future leaders.

The challenge for all of us will be to balance our long-range goals with our immediate needs. I know we are up for that challenge and I look forward to working with the community in the future. Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments as we improve the Perley Rideau together.

# New assisted living apartment brings husband and wife together again

By Brant Scott

**A** senior's most painful dilemma looms large when they ponder moving out of their home in favour of a location that offers assisted living services.

That landmark decision was made easier for 85-year-old Thérèse Hotte when the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre introduced 139 new apartment units at its Russell Road campus in Ottawa. She is pleased to be living within easy walking distance of her husband, Hector, who is a full-time veteran resident at the health centre. The new independent and assisted living apartments are part of the first phase of the Perley Rideau Seniors Village.

November 11 will mark the couple's 65th wedding anniversary. Thérèse left her five-bedroom home on Jolliet Avenue in Vanier in June. She agonized over which pieces of furniture would fit into her new apartment in Building B overlooking Russell Road – and she concluded that less is more. Thérèse delights in the apartment's modern layout and amenities, but plans to move into Building A this fall to be closer to Hector, who has a room in the health centre's main building. She has two artificial knees and wants to avoid the hike across the snowy parking lot to visit him during the winter months.

The home that Hector built with his own hands on Jolliet Avenue has been the hub of joyous family gatherings for some 54 years. Hector and Thérèse raised six sons and a daughter in that house who have since left the nest to engage in their own pursuits. The couple had eight children in 14 years (one died soon after birth), and their eldest son is 64. Thérèse said her children agree that living alone was becoming a burden to her and the time is ripe to occupy

an apartment located near her husband's room.

"My children all wanted me to move into the Perley Rideau Seniors Village so we wouldn't need to worry about me living alone," says Thérèse with enthusiasm. "I looked at a variety of seniors' residences, and this one is the best. I am already very familiar



**THE MATRIARCH:** Thérèse and Hector Hotte will have been 65 years married on November 11. Thérèse loves her new Perley Rideau Seniors Village apartment because it brings her closer to her husband who lives nearby in the long-term health centre

with the health centre and many of the people here from visiting with my husband who came here last March.

"I will admit that I was sad to move at first, but it didn't last long," she adds. "It can feel a bit lonely until you see how many activities there are and start making new acquaintances. It does get better. And, I still use ParaTranspo to take me over to Vanier to play bridge with my old friends."

Thérèse says her children are pleased to have both parents living at the Perley Rideau because it makes staying in touch so much easier.

Thérèse is planning to host the family for special events at the Perley Rideau Seniors Village common rooms. The Perley Rideau can provide catering services for family gatherings, which could mean feeding 40 Hotte family members including grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Thérèse has a handsome collection of family photos on her living room wall hanging beside a page from an Ottawa Citizen story printed in the year 2000. The story describes how researchers worked with the Hotte family to procure blood samples for studying Parkinson's disease in genes across the generations. Hector – a mail carrier for 37 years and Vanier city councillor for 22 years – has Parkinson's, as well as diabetes and a pacemaker.

"My husband was a very active man who could fix almost anything," says Thérèse proudly. "He built our first house and then built another when the first one became too small. Hector served with the Régiment de la Chaudière in World War II and we married when he returned from the war. He remembers being bound for Europe and watching torpedoes in the water barely missing the ship he was on.

"Now Hector loves spending time in the Perley Rideau art studio making all kinds of artwork for family and friends," she adds. "He has always been a man who needs to stay busy. He was even the bingo caller at our local parish for 22 years. He just never stopped. I'm very glad to be living so close to my husband again."

For information on the Perley Rideau apartments and how to donate to the Capital Campaign, please see [www.buildingchoices.ca](http://www.buildingchoices.ca).

**BU**

# Col. John Gardam at Government House – Our Former Foundation chair receives Order of Canada from Governor General

By Brant Scott

**T**he dedicated and hard-working former chair of the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation has received the Officer of the Order of Canada medal.

Colonel John Alan Gardam, O.C., O.M.M., M.S.M., C.D. (Ret'd) received the award in May from His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. It was the third honour of distinction Col. Gardam has received from a Canadian

chair in 2008.

The Order of Canada medal was accompanied by a keepsake booklet with the following inscription: "John Gardam has spearheaded initiatives to commemorate and care for our country's veterans. Following a distinguished military career, he has dedicated his time to honouring the service of his fellow soldiers. He has served as the project director and curator of the Peacekeeping

was selected for officer training the following year and commissioned to the Royal Canadian Dragoons. He later commanded the Officer Candidate School at Canadian Forces Base Chilliwack and was the first Director of Cadets at the Royal Military College at Kingston who was not an RMC graduate.

He was made an Officer of the Order of Military Merit and has been a Royal Canadian Legion member for more than three decades. After retiring from the Canadian Forces in 1984, Col. Gardam was appointed to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Canadian Agency for five years and appointed project manager for the Canadian Peacekeeping Monument until 1992. The Deputy Minister of Defence appointed Col. Gardam as Program Director for the *Canada Remembers* program for 1993-95 and he received the Meritorious Service Medal for his work on that program.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs asked Col. Gardam to organize the 1998 veterans' pilgrimage to Ortona, Italy. He was appointed adviser by the Department of National Defence for the Unknown Soldier, awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in 2002, and received the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation in 2003. He has written 10 books that reflect his experience as a soldier, author and historian.

The Order of Canada is one of the country's highest civilian honours. It was established to celebrate Canada's centennial in 1967 to recognize a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to community and service to the nation.

Congratulations, Col. Gardam! **BU**



**ORDER OF CANADA FOR DEVOTED VOLUNTEER:** Col. John Gardam received the Officer of the Order of Canada this year from His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston at Government House. Col. Gardam volunteered at the Perley Rideau for 14 years and served as chair of the Foundation Board of Directors. He has enjoyed a distinguished military career and has written 10 books on military history.

Governor General.

Col. Gardam, 82, was recognized for his volunteer efforts on behalf of peacekeepers and veterans, following his retirement from a decorated career in the Canadian Forces. He spent 14 years volunteering at the Perley Rideau and has garnered a reputation across Ottawa as a volunteer who works tirelessly on behalf of others. He retired as Perley Rideau Foundation

Monument, and had authored several books recounting the experiences of Canadian military personnel. In his community, he championed effective medical care for veterans as chair of the Perley Rideau Veterans' Health Care Foundation."

Col. Gardam came to Canada from England in 1946 and enlisted as a trooper with Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) in 1951. He

# Akos Hoffer selected by board – New Perley Rideau CEO is ready to take Seniors Village into an exciting future

By Brant Scott

If you walked along Norway Bay before breakfast this summer, that hard-working paddle boarder you saw offshore was probably Akos Hoffer.

Akos, 42, is the new Chief Executive officer (CEO) at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre who replaced outgoing CEO Greg Fougère this summer. Akos arrived at the health centre in early 2008 to occupy the newly minted position of Director, Organizational Performance. He has since ascended the executive ladder as Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Operating Officer and finally, CEO.

The Board of Directors that made the hire concluded that the right person for the job was already in the building.

"In recruiting a new CEO, the board undertook an extensive search that saw over 60 applications from across the country," explains Michael Jeffery, Chair of the Perley Rideau Board of Directors. "After a rigorous selection process, Akos Hoffer was appointed as the CEO.

"The Board believes that selecting Mr. Hoffer as the CEO will position the Perley Rideau to face the challenges ahead and realize its vision as a Seniors Village. He has the strategic skills and operational experience to lead the health centre through its transformation and we look forward to working with him to achieve our goals."

Akos Hoffer is a health science professional with expertise in administration, yet he plans to continue helping some of the residents with their midday meal when his busy schedule permits. He subscribes to a hands-on approach for running the seniors' health centre

and has built a great rapport with many residents. Now as CEO, Akos is preparing to work on a team-building exercise with his management team.

## Team-building time

"I want to pursue a coaching culture to put in place a solid team to get us through the next five and ten years," explains Akos. "I will be looking at creating a CEO's action plan over time so the right people have access to the right building blocks. This will help to put a really solid performance management system in place.

"Of the 450 residents at the Perley Rideau, 250 of them are veterans who served in WWII and the Korean War," he adds. "This ratio will change as time goes on and it triggers many issues that need to be discussed. We need to bring to the table Veterans' Affairs, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) for future planning. I'm hoping to bring these agencies together soon to start the discussions, as noted in the Perley Rideau's Strategic Vision. We will engage with our funding sources to ensure we make the best decisions as we grow in so many different ways."

The health care landscape has been evolving in recent years and the new Seniors Village initiative launched at the Perley Rideau anticipates the changes required in seniors' health care. That evolution includes the two brand-new assisted and independent living apartment buildings located at the Perley Rideau campus on Russell Road in Ottawa. This spring, 45 apartments became available in the completed building near Russell Road. The second building attached to the health centre is opening in the fall to bring the grand total of new

apartments to 139.

## Proposed seniors' medical clinic

"We've got some very interesting additional initiatives under way, too," says Akos. "We're proposing to establish a satellite location here for the Southeast Ottawa Community Health Centre. We started talking with them a couple of years ago about establishing a seniors' medical clinic at the Perley Rideau to serve the community, including the tenants of our new apartments. It would provide local seniors with primary care providers, physicians, nurse practitioners, social workers, and comprehensive programs that focus on the social determinants of health for seniors. We're seeking approval for the medical clinic right now, and if we are successful, it would be an excellent complement to the Perley Rideau. It would help expand the services we offer within our Seniors Village."

The Community Health Centre concept will prepare for the imminent increased demand for health care by baby boomers coming into their senior years. And, there's more, says Akos. The Perley Rideau Seniors Village could feature a geriatrics training centre designed to groom and educate staff in seniors' health care needs. The geriatrics training centre is in the planning stages and discussions are taking place to assess how the training facility could be integrated into the Perley Rideau campus.

## Seniors Village – a hub of excellence

The Seniors Village also aspires to create a home for an applied research centre and a specialized dementia care centre of excellence. All of the



proposed initiatives are considered plausible within the new Seniors Village because the Perley Rideau is already widely recognized as one of Ontario's premier seniors' residences.

"We have our work cut out in defining what the investment would be and what we could offer to show for it," explains Akos. "These programs are really exciting and I intend to see them through as CEO. This can work very well in Ottawa if we can make the most of potential partnerships with our universities, community colleges, specialized dementia organizations and state-of-the-art hospitals.

"I also intend to develop the things we've started that aren't finished yet," he adds. "We have made some great strides in the last few years by increasing our quality of service and safety for residents. We are improving and will continue to improve.

"We have every intention of becoming a provincial hub of excellence," continues Akos. "To date, we have been primarily involved in long-term care. We have close relationships with our residents and their families. It makes sense to become a hub not only for our current residents, but for our future residents. We can start taking care of them before they need the long-term care we offer. Perhaps some seniors will stay healthier and active by visiting our new seniors' gym. If they live nearby and start having trouble with bathing and other personal care, we can help them at home or in our new apartments that provide an alternative to living in isolation. To be a hub of excellence, we must offer the whole spectrum of health needs to seniors."

#### **CEO sees value in Foundation**

The new CEO believes that the Perley Rideau Foundation is an integral part of the health centre's outreach, above and beyond its fundraising efforts. Akos acknowledges that the Foundation depends upon community relationships to succeed, which is also



**AKOS HOFFER AT THE HELM:** The Perley Rideau Veterans' Health Centre has a new Chief Executive Officer. Akos Hoffer replaced former CEO Greg Fougère this summer. Akos joined the management team in 2008 and is already well-known at the health centre. Standing in front of the new apartments, he is excited about bringing the Perley Rideau Seniors Village into the future.

a cornerstone of the health centre's success.

"The Foundation's relationships work for the entire health centre," says Akos. "The money raised by the Foundation makes it possible to mount new projects, like the apartments we have just built. Without the Foundation's effort to raise five million dollars in the Capital Campaign, we couldn't have put shovels in the ground. The year-to-year fundraising is very important to us, too. There is crucial spending to do each year that the health centre can't do without help. Many people would be surprised to see what we wouldn't be able to finance without the good graces of the Foundation donors.

"This year, we're hoping the Foundation can help us purchase new Point of Care technology," he continues. "It is important technology that can make residents' charts

accessible to our entire care team, including personal support workers. It helps every team member see what each resident needs and what action has been taken at any given time. We need centrally located kiosks with touch-screens to make it happen. It's basic information and this technology would fulfill our need. I hope donors understand that it will have a direct impact on the quality of care we provide. The Foundation furnishes residents with real life necessities."

If providing for area seniors doesn't take enough time, Akos Hoffer and his wife, Sarah Murray, are raising three boys aged 4, 6 and 8. Akos says his own parents, Ivan and Catherine, have helped to provide him with a close-up of seniors' health issues. Ivan, now 86, flew a Messerschmidt Bf 109 fighter plane in Hungary during World War II. Ivan and Catherine reside in Stittsville. **BU**

## Capital Campaign co-chair Grete Hale... continued from page 1

among others: The Order of Canada, Senator in the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, Woman of Distinction-Mayor of Ottawa's Award for Community Service, YM-YWCA Lifetime Achievement Award, the Ottawa-Carleton Philanthropy Award, Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, Canadian Women Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Lifetime Achievement Category, Ottawa Community Builder of the Year Award, and honorary doctorates from the University of Ottawa, Carleton University and Algonquin College. She is also the current Honorary Colonel for the Governor General's Foot Guards.

Grete jumped at the chance to co-chair the Capital Campaign with Barbara Ann Scott, who won a gold medal for Canada at the 1948 Winter Olympics. Chief of Defence Staff General (Ret'd) Rick Hillier is also co-chair of the Capital Campaign. Fans of Barbara Ann Scott were deeply saddened when she died a year ago at 84.

"I had the privilege of meeting Barbara Ann Scott for the first time in August 2011 to discuss our roles in the Perley Rideau Capital Campaign," says Grete Hale. "There was a wonderful photo taken of us and we both had our hats on, like bookends. She was such a wonderful person and we got along like a house on fire. Even though I didn't know her for very long, I miss her. She was just lovely."

Although Grete is active in several charities in the National Capital Region, she has an on-going soft-spot for seniors' housing projects. She

is very supportive of the new independent and assisted living apartment buildings at the Perley Rideau. Her own home on Fuller Street is the famous Bayne House, built in 1828 and the oldest house in Ottawa. Grete and her sisters – former M.P. and National Capital Commission chair Jean Pigott and popular food columnist Gay Cook – moved into the stone home in the 1920s with their parents.

Her father, Cecil Morrison, created a family dynasty when he opened the Morrison Lamothe bakery in Ottawa. Now 75 years later, Morrison Lamothe Inc. is based in Toronto and distributes frozen food products throughout North America. Grete Hale was company president from 1978 to 1989 and remains Chair Emeritus.

"My father told me and my two sisters on his deathbed that all he asked of us was to be community contributors," says Grete. "He slipped away the next morning. Isn't that a wonderful thing for a father to say to his children? He cared about people who needed a helping hand. In the early 1950s, Ottawa Mayor Charlotte Whitton asked my father to help find a way to provide housing for veterans who returned from overseas. She asked for his help because he was a businessman and City of Ottawa health officials were going to condemn 4,000 homes and leave families with nowhere to go. My father told her he was a baker, not a builder. But, he accepted the challenge and started an Ottawa low rental housing project called Ottawa Lowren Housing that built 750 homes over the next 20 years

for Ottawa families earning less than \$5,000 a year with at least two children under 16. He also built the first seniors' low rental housing in Ottawa and during the 20 years he ran the project, he never took a penny for his service.

"My mother held garden parties to raise money for charitable organizations," adds Grete. "She started by using our own heritage home set on an acre of beautiful gardens for special events. When we got home from school, my mother would send us out into the garden to do the weeding for the annual fundraising garden party. We counted how many people attended during the garden party season from mid-May to the end of June. One year there were over 10,000 visitors, and all the proceeds went to deserving local organizations. I saw my parents caring deeply for others as I grew up, and here I am today using the lessons I learned from them.

"When I was asked to serve by the Perley Rideau Capital Campaign team, there was no hesitation for a simple second," she continues. "And I have enjoyed every minute. When I spoke at the Perley Rideau Annual Donor Reception in the spring, I enjoyed meeting veteran Guy Robitaille, who told me that he could not ask for a better place to live than the Perley Rideau. He said he was so grateful to have this blessing in the last stage of his life in the company of his friends. That says it all. I was very touched by this fine gentleman."

Grete Hale was herself married to a World War II veteran. Her



Brant Scott photo

**GRETE HALE IS ALWAYS ON THE JOB:** Perley Rideau Capital Campaign co-chair Grete Hale gratefully accepts a beautiful scarf from Tamar Fortier, who was a Royal Canadian Air Force nurse during WWII. Grete Hale received the gift for her speech at the Perley Rideau Annual Donor Reception in June where she encouraged everyone to participate in giving and volunteering. Grete is helping the Foundation raise \$5 million to help finance the new Seniors Village apartments at the Perley Rideau on Russell Road. See [www.buildingchoices.ca](http://www.buildingchoices.ca) for details.

husband, Reginald, was born in Australia and moved to Britain where he joined the Royal Sussex Regiment. He travelled to the United States before the war and was disappointed at not having served with his regiment at Dunkirk, although it may well have saved his life. When the U.S. joined the Allies in WWII, Reg joined the war effort with the United States Air Force and was assigned as an assistant to renowned U.S. aviation pioneer and commander, General Jimmy Doolittle. Reg Hale received the coveted Bronze Star from the USAF for his talent and dedication. General Doolittle would make history when he executed a plan to bomb Tokyo at a time when

other military experts said it couldn't be done.

#### **Visiting the Cenotaph**

"The only time my husband wore his Bronze Star was when I would bundle him up and take him down to the Ottawa Cenotaph on November the 11th," says Grete. "The same day I returned home from Reg's funeral in 1993, there was a letter waiting for me on the hall table. It said he was qualified to move into the Perley Rideau Veterans' Health Centre that was soon to be built.

"I was thrilled to be asked last year to serve as co-chair with Barbara Ann Scott and General Rick Hillier," she adds. "I hope I can help to build decent accommodations for our veterans

and community residents. I was so thrilled to see the apartment plans on paper and during a recent tour of the buildings themselves, I can see what an excellent job everyone had done. They are magnificent. The Board of Directors and the Capital Campaign committee are part of a great team. I thank the good Lord for the privilege to be able to help in some small way."

Of course, anyone who has met Grete Hale knows she doesn't do anything in a small way. Her dedication to the community is remarkable, and the Perley Rideau Foundation is very proud to have this grande dame as an ambassador, mentor and friend.

**BU**

# The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation

## Memorial Tributes

June 14, 2013 to September 11, 2013

Honour someone special with a donation to  
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Perley Rideau  
Foundation

Together we improve  
the well-being of  
the people we serve

The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre is a 450-bed long-term care home with 250 beds designated for veterans

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Foundation Board Chair

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[www.buildingchoices.ca](http://www.buildingchoices.ca)

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