

NEW DIRECTORS join the LABDARA BOARD

The Labdara Foundation Members' annual general meeting (AGM) took place at Labdara Nursing Home on Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 7-9PM. The following members were re-elected to the Board of Directors: Gabija Petrauskas and Raymond Smolskis. Two Directors, having served 6 years each on the Board, did not stand for re-election: Ruta Vaisvila and Ilona Turczyn, but both will continue working for the Nursing Home as members on several committees. Two new members were elected to the Board of Directors: Vytas Valaitis and Ruta Cerskus-Valaitis from Ancaster, Ontario. We welcome them!

Vytas is a Chartered Accountant and financial planner with Assante in Hamilton, Ontario. He works with many aging clients and assists them with long-term planning to ensure their personal long-term care needs will be met in the future. He hopes to contribute to the work of the Board in the area of finances and financial planning.

Ruta Cerskus-Valaitis is a Registered Nurse, currently working as a researcher with the Faculty of Nursing at McMaster University in Hamilton. She is extensively involved in looking into care alternatives and models of integrated care-giving not only in Canada but internationally. She looks forward to making a contribution to quality care of our residents.

OUTGOING DIRECTORS:

Ruta Vaisvila and Ilona Turczyn were presented with bouquets of thanks - not only in words but with roses as well.

RUTA VAISVILA is a retired Phys Ed teacher. She says -I went from working with teens to working with seniors, and found there 's not much of a difference!" Ruta worked on the Second GALA committee and was on the Labdara Board for 6 years - 5 of which she served as Executive Secretary. She enjoyed being a small part of the positive

accomplishments of the Board for the benefit of our mothers, fathers and grand parents. She says: "I enjoyed interacting with the many residents and great staff at Labdara and seeing the growth and change of the Board as new and important issues grew and changed with time. I look forward to working on the 15th Anniversary Committee and look forward to the next challenges out there."

ILONA TURCZYN is a registered nurse with over 35 years of nursing experience. She holds a Masters in Nursing degree from the University of Toronto and currently works as a Clinical Manager at the North York General Hospital. Ilona served on the Board shortly after Labdara opened its doors 15 years ago! After a short leave, she returned and served on the Board for another 6 years. Most recently, she chaired the Board 's Quality Care Committee and has agreed to continue serving the residents of Labdara in this capacity. We thanks Ilona for her commitment. She says "It has been a pleasure to serve on the Labdara Board and to work with such a committed group of Board members and a real privilege to serve our Lithuanian seniors."

