

Diamond jubilee

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It is doubtful that the women of the Ezras Noshem Society, who opened the Toronto Jewish Old Folks Home on Cecil Street in 1918, foresaw the world-renowned geriatric care complex which would grow from the seed they planted. They simply saw a need, and filled it.

But it was this very simplicity which led to the growth and development of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, now celebrating its diamond jubilee year. Each of the five health care facilities, which together make up Baycrest Centre, was opened in answer to a need.

The present Jewish Home for the Aged is the direct descendant of the Cecil Street home. In its cheerful, climate-controlled surroundings, some 360 well-aged men and women receive the medical, nursing and social service care they need, plus kosher meals, the guidance of a resident rabbi, and a full program of social and cultural activities.

Baycrest Hospital is a 154-bed chronic care and rehabilitative hospital under the auspices of the Ministry of Health. Baycrest Hospital works closely with Mount Sinai Hospital (also founded by the Ezras Noshem Society), and the medical staffs are jointly appointed. The special services of the hospital — the audiology clinic, eye clinic, podiatry clinic and dental service — allows Baycrest to provide its residents with all necessary health care services.

Baycrest Day Care Service was begun in 1959 to help people who had been accepted for admission to the home, but for whom no

bed was yet available. The service includes door-to-door transportation and two meals-per-day, plus a full day of activity. Today, many day care members are able to continue living in their own homes because of the support they receive through day care. The need for institutional care is often delayed for a number of years.

Baycrest Terrace was opened in 1976. It is a minimal care institution for able elderly who are capable of taking care of many of their own needs, but who require some help. Each resident has a private, self-contained suite with a kitchenette, but eats the main meal of the day in a communal dining room. All of the medical facilities of the centre are available if needed.

And finally, the Joseph E. and Minnie Wagman Centre provides residents of the Terrace with the facilities of a complete senior adult centre. Membership in the Wagman Centre is also open to anyone 55 or over in the community.

As more and more people continue to live longer and longer, new needs will arise. Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, working in conjunction with other community agencies will meet these new needs as they have met those of the past.

The Toronto community is to be congratulated on having the vision to develop Baycrest Centre and the commitment to support it. It is only 6.2 miles from Cecil Street to 3560 Bathurst St., but it's a long way from the Toronto Jewish Old Folks Home to Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. You've come a long way, Baycrest!

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