

THE AGE BLOG



Patti presenting at an ORCA Spring Road Show

Patti Boucher, our Executive Director, retires at the end of this month after a successful and rewarding 42-year career in healthcare, initially in nursing and for the last 25 years in senior leadership positions. Will a slower pace be difficult for Patti? It's not uncommon for today's retirees to say they're busier than ever. We suspect this will be the case with Patti. She will continue to use her knowledge and skills to support healthcare organizations, bringing together like-minded people to enhance the care of older adults, within a culture of person-centred care.

The AGE team thanks Patti for her steadfast belief in the importance of dementia education for staff at the point-of-care and her careful stewardship of AGE's growth and success over the past five years. As she begins this exciting new stage in life, we wish her happiness (and enough time to sit down to write that family recipe book she's been itching to start!) A last few words from Patti are included farther below.

It's also a new chapter in AGE's journey as we welcome April Morganti, our new Executive Director. You will learn more about April in her first official AGE blog this Fall.

New Beginnings

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

— Seneca

A Goodbye from Patti Boucher, AGE Executive Director

"It's a bittersweet time for me as I retire from the position of AGE's Executive Director to pursue new avenues of personal growth (as well as a little relaxation!) I would like to give back to the community through volunteer work, perhaps on a not-for-profit board, in addition to enjoying some time with my husband and our children and grandchildren at the cottage this summer.

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THE AGE BLOG *(continued)*

I have had a varied and interesting career in healthcare — the last 25 years have been spent as a senior health care executive. I was passionate about AGE and Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA™) long before I assumed the position of its Executive Director in 2014. In 2004, I negotiated a partnership with the Continuing Gerontological Education Cooperative (CGEC), now known as Advanced Gerontological Education, Inc. (or by the acronym AGE.)

As Vice President of Prevention Services with the Ontario Safety Association for Community and Health, I promoted GPA as a key Workplace Violence Prevention strategy at all Ontario health and community workplaces.

At this point, It's hard to believe I have been with AGE for five years — how time flies! The majority of that time has been spent building a robust business infrastructure to serve the company's mission well into the future. Uppermost in my mind and that of the AGE Board was promoting AGE as a not-for-profit social enterprise. It was an important endeavour and one in which, I am very pleased to say, we have been very successful.

Expanding the AGE Team, implementing standard processes and efficiencies and guiding the reinvestment of revenue into new products and services such as our new blended learning program known as Integrated GPA (iGPA), the GPA Therapeutic Bathing Curriculum, the AGE Research Consulting Services and GPA 4th Edition, have all been top priorities.

During my tenure, we have introduced GPA to six new provinces and territories (AB, BC, MAN, NB, Yukon and Nunavut). I have also secured strong partnerships and relationships with

numerous provincial and national associations that should stand AGE in good stead.

Before I officially hand the torch to the new AGE Executive Director, I would be remiss if I didn't take this final opportunity to thank the AGE staff, our partners and stakeholders and the more than 2,000 remarkable GPA Certified Coaches and 7 Master Coaches. My sincerest thanks to all of you for your passion, dedication and commitment to spreading Gentle Persuasive Approaches' person-centred approach to care.

Research evaluations and the many testimonials we receive (from those at all organizational levels) say it loud and clear. By equipping care providers with the appropriate dementia care knowledge and skills, AGE's programs are having a positive impact on the care of older adults living with dementia.

I leave you with some amazing stats for GPA's expansion over the past fiscal year.

Growth of GPA | 2018 – 2019

- 591 new GPA Certified Coaches
- 7 new GPA Master Coaches
- 37,000+ participants in GPA Basics and GPA Recharged (GPA-R)
- 2,100+ participants in GPA eLearning

I believe that I am leaving AGE in good hands with April Morganti, the new Executive Director. Although it is the end of the official working chapter in my life, I will continue to champion AGE and Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA) in Dementia Care at every opportunity ❤️.