



Bruce and Kathy Burwell

Ladies & Gentlemen, let me introduce to you two of the biggest hearted people I have ever had the privilege to call my friends. Bruce and Kathy Burwell.

Kathy was raised in Penticton and had a sister who lived in Vernon so when she and Bruce were ready to retire, they decided that moving to the Okanagan from Prince George would be a great idea. A realtor brought them to the Cove to see if it would be an option and they loved it. They found the only house in DC that was for sale after selling their house of 39 years in Prince George, put an offer on it, bought it and moved to the Cove in 2016.

They both have been qualified LPN's [licensed Practical Nurses] for many years and to this day even though they are both 'retired' they continue to share their knowledge, skills and tender loving care with the residents of Desert Cove whenever and wherever it may be needed. Besides their health-related volunteering, Kathy helps with the Coffee Corner for the Craft and Bake Sales as well as the ladies morning coffee group, they help to organize Hallowe'en parties, and are avid participants in many Cove functions including some of the card game groups. Kathy held the position of President of the Desert Cove Homeowners Association during two very challenging years, but managed to always maintain her sense of fairness and equality along with her ability to deal with any person or situation God or Man threw at her. BTW it was a pleasure to serve as her Secretary on the DCHA Board of Directors.

Bruce took over the monthly Blood Pressure Clinics from another nurse shortly after he and Kathy moved to the Cove in 2016 from Prince George. Kathy helped out when needed and they still offer their services every month; even Covid didn't stop them from helping to keep us Covians healthy. They have both been known to drop whatever they are doing at moments notice to offer first aid, personal care including toenail clipping, visits and meals to shut ins or even just a willing shoulder to cry on whenever anyone in the Cove needs it. Bandage changes, advice and help with any health issues, a place to come and talk about your worries or just a helping hand or a friendly chat are always available from the Burwell's in your home or theirs.

Kathy met Bruce at Penticton Senior Secondary after he and his family moved there, they fell in love and got engaged just before their Grade 12 graduation. Kathy completed her nursing training in 1975 in Kelowna. Bruce, after trying the medical field out as an orderly took his LPN training at the College in Victoria which was the only one accepting male nurses at that time. Although Kathy had a job at Penticton Regional Hospital, Bruce convinced her to move to New Westminister where he had obtained a position in the urology department at St. Mary's Hospital; which has since been demolished. Kathy, unable to obtain employment at Royal Columbian, Burnaby General or Surrey Memorial, then tried St. Mary's, but due to their rule that spouses could not work together unless they both were employed there before marriage, she took a secretarial job at the Clorox Company on Annacis Island, thus her great organizational skills were encouraged and enhanced.

They lived in New Westminister for awhile but then friends who had moved to Prince George convinced them to apply for jobs there; they were successful at finding employment and they moved. Initially, Kathy said, for 2 years only, but after having children and settling into their new jobs and city they decided to stay and they raised their son and daughter there.

Desert Cove benefits from Prince George's loss as we now have these great people as DC residents.