

Czorny Alzheimer Centre assists families coping with dementia

The Czorny Alzheimer Centre doesn't look like an institutional care facility. With its three cottage homes, its gardens of lavender and black-eyed susans and setting on a country road in Surrey, it feels more like a rural retreat.



The 36-bed residential care home is tranquil by design: the architecture reflects its holistic, person-centred approach to dementia care. There are communal kitchens, living rooms and fireplaces. Each resident has a memory box to display photos and mementos outside their rooms. A cat and rabbit roam the halls. The centre offers music therapy, recreation, a spa, hair salon and hall with a dance floor and piano.

"It is absolutely personcentred care. That's the lens with which we make all of our care decisions," said centre manager Dorrie Ferster.



Families notice the difference. "We feel really good about Dad being here and it has actually become like a second home to us," said Monica Brabander, whose father, August Achterholt, moved in last winter.

The centre, which opened in 2007, is named for Michael Czorny, the father of benefactor Marilyn Stewart. He battled the disease for nine years, and in his memory provided \$10 million and a 3.2-hectare plot. The facility, part of the Fraser Health network, is being expanded to 72 beds to help meet the need for more care.

The number of Canadians aged 60 and older with Alzheimer's in 2008 was seven per cent. But by age 90, 49 per cent of Canadians had Alzheimer's.