



Maj (N/S) Dorothy A. Macham, ARRC, 1989 Harry Palmer © 1996

Dorothy Macham

Ms. Dorothy Macham was a member of the Nursing Sisters Association of Canada and was in the service for six years (1939 to 1945). She was an operating room nurse in the 15th General Hospital, a Toronto-based unit. She was subsequently sent to the #5 Casualty Clearing Station Unit in Italy and moved to different locations with the Canadian Army. She then became Assistant Matron at a 600-bed hospital in England. In July 1944 Ms. Macham went to France, Belgium and Holland. She was promoted to Matron in Antwerp and in early 1945, she was posted to a convalescent hospital back in England.

Shortly after the war ended, Ms. Macham became the Administrative Superintendent at Women's College Hospital, retiring in October 1975. Her retirement lasted four months. She was offered and accepted the position of Executive Director at West Park Hospital where she worked until she again retired in 1980. She received the Order of Canada in 1980.

For more information about the Dorothy Macham Home, please contact the Veterans Centre, Admissions Specialist at 416.480.6182.

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Veterans Centre

The Dorothy Macham Home

A resident and family-centred therapeutic environment for behaviour-focused dementia care, education and research

Construction of the Dorothy Macham Home was funded by Veterans Affairs Canada



when it matters
MOST

Mission

The Dorothy Macham Home is committed to enhancing the quality of life of residents with special needs due to dementia through innovation, research, and collaborative and creative approaches to care in a home-like setting.

Environment

The Dorothy Macham Home (DMH) is an innovative care and research facility for 10 residents who have challenging behaviours due to dementia. The unique design of the DMH is the result of extensive consultation with both national and international experts specializing in the care of dementia patients.

The DMH is designed to be home-like as this is a familiar environment to most people. It is small enough for appropriate supervision but large enough to allow residents to wander or participate in activities/programs. The home has a secure garden so residents have the freedom to wander outside without being at risk of getting lost. All locked doors are disguised and have an unlocked door close by to minimize frustration that can be experienced by residents who feel confined.

Dorothy Macham Home Care Team

The staff of the Dorothy Macham Home include registered nurses, registered practical nurses, recreation therapists, a music therapist, creative arts, patient service partner (PSPs), a patient administrative associate, a patient care manager, an attending physician, a consulting psychiatrist, and a pharmacist. The consulting team includes: physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, audiology, social work, and spiritual care.

Program

The Dorothy Macham Home program focuses on enabling residents to reach their full potential and achieve a higher quality of life. Each individualized program is designed collaboratively with the resident, family and care team. Each resident's schedule balances appropriate stimulation with security and retreat. There are also flexible programs and spontaneous activities that occur on days, evenings and weekends. Families are encouraged to participate in their resident's program.

Admission Criteria

All residents admitted to the Dorothy Macham Home must be eligible veterans with moderate to severe dementia. These residents will be admitted to the DMH because of ongoing challenging behaviours that put others at risk of injury or that significantly disrupt the lives of other residents. Prior to admission, potential residents will be assessed by the DMH Care Team to determine their suitability for the unit and priority for admission.

Discharge

Each resident admitted to the Dorothy Macham Home will stay until the DMH Care Team establishes that the resident is able to function safely in his/her previous unit or facility. There is no predetermined duration of stay in the DMH. In order to promote successful discharge from the DMH, discharge planning begins on admission and is part of the ongoing care planning.

