

# GRAND OPENING THE GRASS HOME

705 COVERDALE ROAD, RIVERVIEW



*The Grass Home*  
Established 1984



NOVEMBER, 2019



# The History of Grass Home

John Grass has many fond childhood memories of arriving home after school to find hot cooked meals and freshly baked cookies lovingly prepared by his dotting mother, Joyce.

A registered nurse by profession, Joyce opted to become a stay-at-home Mom to he and his three older sisters during their formative younger years while their father, Neil, worked as a manager with Electrolux. But, all of that changed in John's final year of high school when she decided to take a refresher course and return to work as a nurse at Spencer's Nursing Home.

Eventually, Neil and Joyce decided to go in a different direction in life and open their own residential care facility on a vacant lot of land they had purchased at 774 Coverdale Road. In her everyday working environment, his mother had recognized the growing need for long-term care for seniors in the community and felt compelled to do something about it.

The couple opened the

custom-designed facility in 1984 which they operated for 14-years. The new home opened as N-Joy Homes Ltd. as Grass Home was already registered as a special care home in Fredericton by John's grandmother and was operated by her until her retirement at the age of 87!

When they decided to retire, they immediately reached out to John and his wife Lynn to take over the family business. The concept was a bit daunting for the couple who were both working and raising their two young children at the time.

John was employed in the transportation industry while Lynn worked part-time as a registered nurse at The Moncton Hospital. However, they decided to take a giant leap of faith and purchase the home in 1998. They approached Nana and were pleased when she gave her blessings to rename their home Grass Home Ltd.

The dynamic duo have operated Grass Home for the past 21 years but have



Owners John and Lynn Grass



John Grass & Lynn Grass RN  
750 Coverdale Rd  
Riverview NB  
506-872-3240  
www.grasshome.com

**ON THE COVER:**  
Lynn Grass and grandmother Evelyn Steeves who is a resident of the Grass Home.



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always wanted to add another home to the family legacy. They had been eyeing a beautiful property at 705 Coverdale Road for a number of years and dreamed of it someday being the future site of their second location. They drove past the lot for years on their way to Grass Home, and although seemingly out-of-reach, it always remained in the back of their minds.

The property eventually did go up for sale about 10 years ago and although not quite ready to move ahead with their plan at the time, the couple considered purchasing it on speculation in hopes of someday doing something with it. They simply didn't want to miss out on the opportunity.

But it was suddenly taken off the market and there were rumours it had been sold. Four years later, they noticed a for sale sign on the lot but were disappointed to learn it was under development by someone else. In yet another twist of fate, three weeks later they discovered the deal had fallen through and the owners were motivated to sell.

After many years of watching and waiting, the couple finally purchased the land in July of 2017. John and Lynn both feel this property was destined for them to develop and was a true answer to prayer.

Construction of the 13,000 square foot home began in August, 2018 and completed just over a year later. It was officially opened on September 23 and immediately, residents started moving in to the stunning new location.

John and Lynn are proud of the finished product and confident it would be Mom approved.



The Grassettes. This group of dedicated singers has been going strong at Grass Home for 34 years, we look forward to them singing in our new home.

## The Grassettes

The Grassettes are a group of people that have, or have had a loved one in our home. The group started getting together to do a sing song about 34 years ago because they wanted to do something for our residents. They came every Wednesday as well for our annual Christmas Party. They have all become good friends and their relationships have enriched their lives as well as our residents over the years.

The Grassettes concept started with three people

that thought it would be a good idea to sing songs at our home that the residents would recognize and be able to sing along with. We estimate that in the past 34 years they have sung over 20,000 songs!

They thank us weekly for the opportunity to get together and enjoy the company of each other, our residents and their fellowship. At Grass Home we truly appreciate what they do and the impact they have made.



Grass Home



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# The Home

Owning and operating long-term residential care facilities is more than just a career for John and Lynn Grass, it's their passion.

As owner/operators of The Grass Home for the past 21 years, the couple officially opened a second home for seniors in

Riverview on September 23. Located at 705 Coverdale Road, the stylish new 13,000 square foot home will complement their other long-term care home operating at 774 Coverdale Road since 1984.

Prior to construction, John and Lynn traveled extensively to other facilities of

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varying degrees of care in order to capture some best practice ideas. They knew exactly what they wanted and worked closely with architects and Avondale Construction to develop drawings that matched their vision to a tee.

Drawing on experience and insight they have gained during their many years at the first home; they were not willing to compromise in any way.

“Everyone who worked with us on this project had to buy into our vision,” says John. “We were adamant that it be a home and not an institution. When clients and their families walk through the front door, we want them to immediately feel this is a home.”

The home is comprised of 36 beds evenly divided between two wings – 3B and 3G. About 40 people will be employed at the home which is specifically designed to be non-institutional in both look and feel.

“Creating a home-like environment is very important to us, which is why we’ve created a space where we are the guests and not the other way around,” he adds.

They consider themselves an

extension of the families who have loved ones living there; always eager to help out and provide support in any way possible.

“We work hard with families to understand their needs and will do whatever is in the best interest of our residents,” explains John. “Our philosophy is this is their home. You won’t find a Grass Home sign by the road. There is no sign at Mom and Dad’s home so there shouldn’t be one here. If my mom was here, what would she want?”

The couple chose the Town of Riverview as the site for the new home because of its quality of life and sense of community. As a long-time residents of Riverview, John and Lynn have come to love the community in which they have lived, worked and raised their family for many years.

Celebrating over two decades in business this year, John and Lynn have been married for 30 years and have two children – Ben, age 26, and Sarah, age 29, who also happens to be a registered nurse.

They also have two fur kids. Teddy and Lexy are their Golden Retrievers who come to work with them each day.



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# The Amenities

The warmth and attention to detail is strikingly obvious from the moment you step through the front entrance of the newly-opened Grass Home residential care home located at 705 Coverdale Road. In fact; the layout, high-end finishings, fixtures, and furnishings at the home are exactly what owners John and Lynn Grass would expect to find in their own home.

The 13,000 square foot single level home officially opened on September 23 and is already home to about a dozen residents. It is a fully secure care home; providing superior 24-hour care and supervision provided by qualified personal support workers.

There are 36 beds in total - 18 in a 3B wing and an additional 18 in a 3G wing. Each private room is about 200 square feet in size; some equipped with Jack & Jill bathrooms while others have private baths. All furniture is included but residents are encouraged to bring along their own chairs, photos and other personal affects to make their stay more home-like and comfortable. Laundry rooms and small sitting areas are located in each wing as well as an in-house salon.

A warm and inviting sunroom at the front the building has large windows, comfy recliners, and a wall-mounted television where residents can sit and relax. The large living room, meanwhile, boasts a 53-inch linear fire place and a 55-inch television with large windows over-looking the courtyard.

The dining room seats 36 while an adjacent private dining room (furnished with a dining room table that once belonged to Lynn's grandmother) is a versatile space; designed to be used by



residents who need a little extra attention at meal time as well as families during the holidays, special occasions, and private functions as well as meetings.

A well-stocked drink station and pantry is conveniently located off the main dining room for visitors along with a nurse's station with security monitors. The large open-concept kitchen is inviting and specifically designed to encourage resident interaction, just as John's mother had always wanted.

Fresh old-fashioned home-style meals are prepared in the state-of-the art kitchen on high-end stainless-steel appliances including two wall ovens, two microwave ovens, one large refrigerator and a 45-inch Viking electric cooktop.

John personally shops locally and hand-picks only high-quality ingredients in keeping with the Canada Food Guide. All meals are served piping hot from stove-to-table and desserts baked fresh from scratch. Specialized menus are provided as well as customized snacks.

It also features a 4,900 square foot fenced in courtyard with a breathtaking

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12-foot Colorado Blue Spruce as the focal point in the centre. Vegetable and flower gardens will be added to the courtyard next spring as well as trellises with vines.

A great deal of forethought and effort went into insulating the walls of the home against external noise as well as an insulated cat walk in the attic which provides easy access to air conditioning units installed there rather than on the rooftop so residents don't see or hear them. There's also a separate staffroom where employees can take a break and read their notes in their own personal space.

A full-time activity director is on staff to plan fun-filled activities and outings of interest to residents. Music is very important to seniors and every Wednesday, members of the Grassettes singing choir pay a visit to both Coverdale Road homes. The Grassettes started as a

singing group of sons and daughters of the residents one year after the original home opened. Now, 35 years later, they have become part of the Grass family and continue to sing and socialize with the residents.

John and Lynn envisioned a piano in the heart of the home that could be seen and heard by everyone. They purchased a 1905 Victoria upright grand piano from a neighbor made of solid black walnut which they incorporated into the design of the home. It was exactly what they wanted so they customized an area near the entrance to incorporate it into the design.

Other special features include in-floor heating, luxury flooring, a large propane fired back-up generator which can be used during power outages, and a paved parking lot with 36 spaces including two designated disabled.



## Our favourite Cookie Snicker Doodle Cookies

1/2 cup margarine

1/2 cup of Crisco or butter

2 eggs

1 1/2 cups of sugar

2 3/4 cups of flour

2 tsp cream of tartar

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp salt

Mix the wet ingredients together beat well, mix the dry ingredients together and combine the two. Roll into balls then roll into a mixture of 2 tbsp sugar and 2 tbsp cinnamon.

Bake on an ungreased pan at 400° for 8-10 minutes.



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November 2019

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