



## Interim President's Message – December 2022

by Peggy Hawthorn

### Seasons Greetings from your USCO Board members.

It has been good to be able to get back to almost normal and focus on business again to help our Ontario seniors. The Board has been meeting monthly to get fully on track again and try to access financial resources so that we can address our seniors concerns and also be able to hold our 2023 Annual Convention, I am pleased to be able to inform you that we have been successful in receiving just over \$35,000 in grants from 3 sources and have 1 application in process for an additional grant. Thank you to those who support our efforts.

We are still waiting to hear from some Clubs as to their membership in the USCO. I encourage them to continue their support because we are still here and continue to work for you. There are many areas of concern for seniors today and we are a voice for you – health care, housing, transportation, pensions, inflationary costs, etc. are all affecting your lives and we need to speak out for a better quality of life for seniors.

*Happy Holidays*



It is hard to believe that we are almost ready to say goodbye to 2022 – it has been another interesting year as we try to find our way out of our experiences with Covid 19. Wonder what 2023 will have in store for us? If we lived in a perfect world, then December would be “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year” as the song goes - we would see magical snowfalls, icicles dripping from the eaves, lights glimmering, family assembling over holiday meals, and everyone joyful.

BUT...the world is not perfect – too many seniors (and others) do not experience these things. We have many who struggle and go without – the homeless, the hungry, the lonely. Food Banks are serving more seniors than any other time in history. People have to choose between medications and other items they need. Social isolation has never been worse.

Fortunately, there are those who are still able to reach out and share what they have been blessed with – sometimes it is money, sometimes it is a helping hand, sometimes it is time, sometimes it is a phone call or a visit...no matter what you have or can give – you are able to make a difference for someone. This holiday season, please take time to make a difference in one person’s life. You may be surprised that the person who gets the most out of it will be YOU.

*Happy Holidays!*

