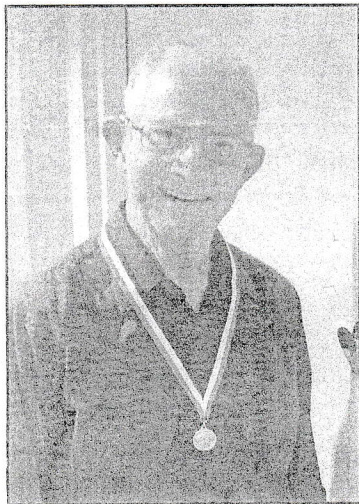


Motherhouse Resident Back on the Slopes

Renee Hiscock, OMA Marketing and Communications Coordinator

For more than 50 years, Motherhouse resident, Father Winfried Kellner enjoyed hitting the ski slopes whenever he had the chance. Taking up the hobby in his 20s, Father Winfried spent time skiing all over the world including Switzerland, Germany, and Italy, to name a few. One of his most daring ski trips, however, took place in Banff, Canada. Father said he and some friends rode in a helicopter to the top of an 11,000-foot tall mountain and proceeded to ski back down to land on the fresh, untouched snow. Following his brave feat, Father remained an avid skier until about two years ago when he had to take a step back due to his Parkinson's disease. Now, at 81 years young, Father was recently back on the slopes thanks to a motivating Motherhouse staff and a local ski program.



Father Winfried wearing the gold medal he won during a ski competition on his final day of the program

In January, Motherhouse Physical Therapist, Marielle Jensen-Battaglia, came across the "Shared Ski Adventures" program through SportsNet. The adaptive ski program helps people with disabilities become independent skiers. Marielle passed along the information to Recreation Therapist Selena Crow who began working with Father on signing up for the program. Once he was approved by the doctor and deemed eligible to participate, Selena helped coordinate transportation to and from Swain Ski Resort where Father spent four consecutive Saturdays skiing for three hours at a time.

During part of the first session, ski instructors worked with Father Winfried on learning new ways of skiing to better adapt with his limitations due to Parkinson's. But it didn't take long for Father to get reacquainted with his decades-long hobby. "Like riding a bicycle," he said when asked how it felt getting back on the slopes after a two-year hiatus.

Although unclear if he'll get another chance to take part in the program, Father said he's just happy he got to enjoy more time doing something he's loved for so long, adding, "I'll continue as long as my body will allow it."



Father Winfried Kellner (right) with one of his ski instructors at Swain Ski Resort