

Understanding the challenges caregivers face every day

Elaine White is an outspoken advocate for people on the Bruce Peninsula

Elaine White uses her experience as a caregiver to assist other local families.

Caring for her husband Ivan as he progressed through dementia has allowed her to connect with clients and caregivers in the Home & Community Support Grey Bruce (HCSS) program, for which she has volunteered since 2004, said Cindy Zettler, Team Leader, Hot and Frozen Meals on Wheels, Dining Club, Friendly Visiting, and Volunteer Recruitment with HCSS.

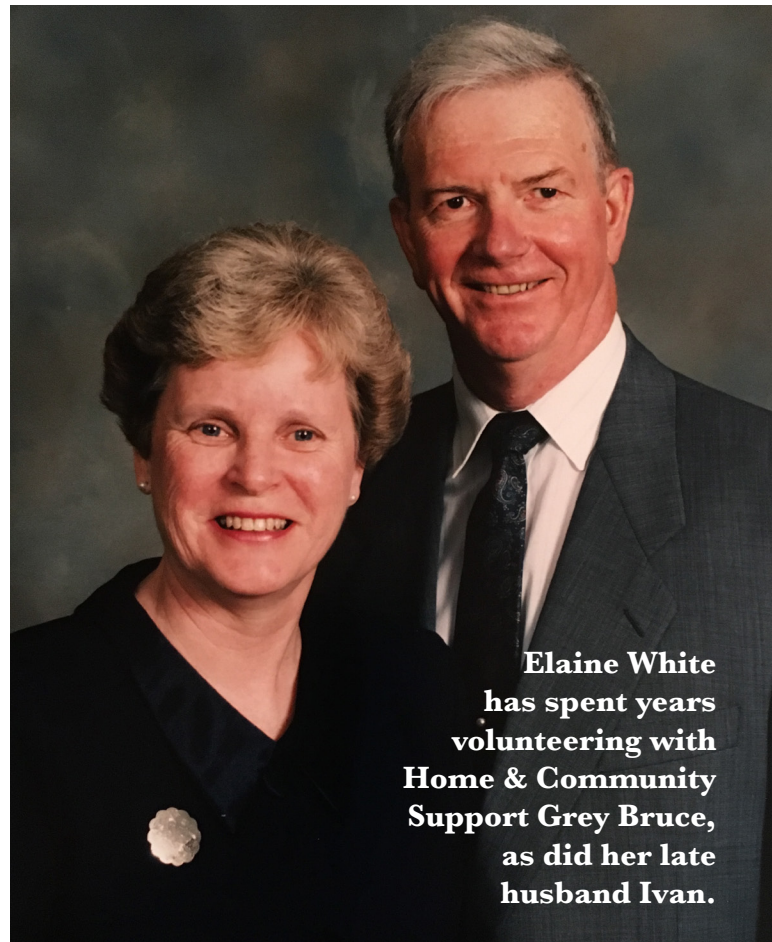
“Elaine has volunteered with Home & Community Support Services since 2004 when she started volunteering as a musician at the Wiarton Adult Day Program,” Cindy said. “Since then she has volunteered as a ‘Movin’ GB’ driver, delivering frozen meals, with our Day Away Program volunteer, and has been a board member since 2014.”

Prior to his diagnosis, Ivan also sat on the HCSS board and was its first chair.

“Both Ivan and Elaine believed in what Home & Community Support Services Grey Bruce does, and Elaine continues this belief by helping out at the Day Away program in Wiarton, where she still volunteers once a week,” Cindy said.

“While at Day Away she brings a sense of community to the program, and her experience of understanding what the clients and caregivers are going through. She knows first-hand the struggles caregivers face as she was Ivan’s caregiver while he progressed through dementia.”

Elaine is an advocate for families and patients, helping them get the care they need, in the community they live, Cindy added.



Elaine White has spent years volunteering with Home & Community Support Grey Bruce, as did her late husband Ivan.

“She is not afraid to stand up to the Local Health Integration Network at community engagement meetings and directly ask the tough questions.”

Even though Ivan has been gone for years, she continues to be an advocate for quality care so that other clients and families receive high quality care, Cindy added. ■

Do you know a Game Changer? Nominate them via email at amy@greybruceboomers.com or call 519-524-0101.