

# The Palliative Platform

Serving Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, Prince Edward, Hastings, Lanark, Leeds and Grenville

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ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE IN PALLIATIVE CARE

## A Show Piece of Community Spirit

*In September of last year the volunteers, staff and Board of Hospice North Hastings were considering the idea of a residential hospice for our area. How would a rural area with a scattered population of just over 16,000 accomplish this grand undertaking you ask? Well, we talked...*

to doctors, nurses, clients and residents of North Hastings. It was unanimous; everyone agreed North Hastings needed a place for people to go for end of life care.

We investigated funding from the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Long Term Care and were informed that they were only funding residential hospices that would provide 8-10 beds. Our local hospital has 10 beds, so this requirement was completely unrealistic for our area.

Ten minutes after this deflating conversation with the MOH, the Board of Hospice North Hastings voted unanimously to go ahead with the Hospice House for North Hastings. We *could* and *would* raise the money needed.

We talked to Jackie Redmond, CEO of the Community Care Access Centre for Hastings and Prince Edward Counties. She commended us for championing end of life issues in our community and informed us that they would treat the Hospice as any other home; we would be entitled to the same services as any other client. In fact, the Access Centre would save money as they would be able to pro-

vide shared care. As in the community setting, our volunteers would be part of the team of persons providing care.

We approached one of our local doctors to be the Honorary Chair of the Hospice House Fundraising Committee giving a good boost to our credibility with the community. Thank you Dr. McEnery!

We felt that people could understand and identify with an idea better if there was a concrete location attached to it, so we went

looking and found a wonderful house in the centre of Bancroft.

The owner accepted our offer conditional on raising the money - she believed in Hospice! The house would provide space for an office for our Visiting Program,

Lending Library, Medical Equipment Loan Cupboard, Bereavement Coffee Drop In and evening courses, have two rooms for end-of-life care and accommodate out of town guests.

We then went public. We needed \$200,000 to purchase the house and set up. We spoke to a number of local residents

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individually and presented to local groups. It was a truly exciting time for all of us associated with Hospice. The response from the community was astounding! Everyday there were tears, laughter and hugs. Local papers reported our progress publishing pictures of donors and testimonials – they were so supportive.

Local trades people, artists and businesses came to the party! Renovations on the house, materials, decorating and art work were donated. What can



you say...it was truly amazing! The Hospice House for North Hastings is a show piece of community spirit.

For on going financial support, we expect that any guest/family will name Hospice in memorial donations. With public awareness developed through our campaign we have already shown a marked increase in donations.

The secret to making this all happen? Live in a rural community like North Hastings!

If you are considering a rural residential hospice in your own community, here are a few tips. Be enthusiastic- have a goal that a small community can achieve in a reasonable amount of time. Be enthusiastic - get the press on your side. Be enthusiastic - respond immediately to inquiries and to donations and...**be enthusiastic!**

But most of all, **believe!!!**

Heather Brough, Program Coordinator,  
Hospice North Hastings

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*doctor. This client is hard of hearing and was having difficulty keeping up with the conversation which seemed to frustrate the staff member as well. After several minutes the appropriate paper work was located and the client was escorted into the emergency room for her transfusion.*

*Now turn the clocks ahead a few weeks, and the same client is being escorted to the hospital with her Travelling Record in hand. We proceed to triage and hand the nurse the record immediately. The nurse greets the client with a friendly smile and a cheery hello. The information she requires is clearly written out for her, thanks to her VON nurse Anne Robinson, and the process takes five minutes. The staff member was appreciative and met the patient with a positive attitude and the client noticed the difference right away. The client was able to begin her procedure with ease and this set the tone for the entire day.*

*We all need to work together to promote the traveling record!*

As results from the evaluation become available the Travelling Record will be re-evaluated & changes made based on feed-back from the evaluation process. Great work team!

Melanie Kavanaugh, Pat Cyr ,  
Michelle Hutchison & Bonnie Delaney

### The Rose Beyond The Wall

A rose once grew where all could see,  
sheltered beside a garden wall.

And, as the days passed swiftly by,  
it spread its branches, straight and tall.

One day, a beam of light shone through  
a crevice that had opened wide.

The rose bent gently toward its warmth  
then passed beyond to the other side.

Now, you who deeply feel its loss,  
be comforted, the rose blooms there.

Its beauty even greater now,  
nurtured by God's own loving care.

Author Unknown