



HOSPICE *Matters*

A Message from The Board Chair



Gerald Tracey, Board Chair, getting help from Santa at last year's Valley Heritage Holly Jolly Radiothon.

My dear friends, another Christmas season has wrapped up – a time of giving and sharing, when hearts are filled with joy and minds are full of wonderful memories from the past. It's an opportune time for me, as Chair of the Board of Directors, to not only bring you New Year's greetings, but to also thank each and everyone of you for your commitment and dedication to Hospice Renfrew, and to the individuals and families who pass through our doors.

Over the past three years, I've experienced Hospice Renfrew, both as a member of the governing Board, dealing with Hospice business, and as someone who has seen, first hand, the love and care, compassion, comfort, kindness and generosity our loving and devoted staff and volunteers provide to residents and their families.

Each one of you is truly special, bringing your own talent to this wonderful facility and to the people who use it.

There isn't one of us who would ever want to be a resident at Hospice, yet for those who have spent their last hours, days, weeks or months here, with their supportive families by their side, there's a special feeling of peace and comfort, serenity and calmness to be found here.

As we begin a new year, I want to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members and the many individuals who sit on various committees for their hard work and commitment over the past year. There's an old saying that it takes a village to raise a child. In this case, it takes an army of volunteers to keep Hospice Renfrew on its mission of providing free palliative care to the residents of Renfrew County.

In closing, may your hearts and homes be filled with all of the joys of the festive season, and I hope that 2018 ended on a cheerful note, making way for a fresh and bright 2019!

Gerald Tracey, Chair, Board of Directors

A Fond Farewell to Maureen

On November 28th, Hospice Renfrew staff and volunteers wished a fond farewell to Executive Director, **Maureen Sullivan-Bentz**, as she begins a new chapter in her professional career. Maureen's contribution to Hospice Renfrew has been significant over the past four years, and everyone will miss her vibrant and warm personality.

Judy Cobus, Hospice Renfrew's Director of Clinical Services, will act as Interim Executive Director until further notice.



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Care · Comfort · Compassion

A Daughter's Letter to Hospice Renfrew



As I sit with my Mom, a gentle snow is falling outside, the kind you like to see Christmas Eve with big flakes gently drifting down to blanket the world, but I know Mom will not see Christmas Eve. Mom took up residence in Hospice Renfrew mid-July. I say, "took up residence" because it really did become **home** for her, and it was life changing.

I have been on the volunteer side of Hospice, and I knew the care and quality of care the staff gives everyone, but to be on the other side, to have my Mom here as a resident, and be on the receiving end of that care is **truly a blessing**.

Some did not think Mom would last the week when we brought her in. The **compassion and care** of the staff, and a steady stream of friends and family soon had Mom realizing her life was not over, and she had some living to do. **And live she did**. From meals at the dining table to sitting outside in the warm sunshine, from deer coming to the feeder outside her window to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren enjoying time with her to being able to venture out to Tracey's for ice cream, from sing song afternoons with friends to her birthday celebration, Mom lived her final, as it turns out, months.

"Thank you to Hospice Renfrew Staff and Volunteers for the compassion and care shown to our Mom, we were truly blessed."

As her family, we were given the **support and blessing** of the staff and volunteers at Hospice to enjoy this time with her. Dr. Bishop answered all our questions. She kept us fully informed of conversations she had with Mom as to Mom's medications, the state of Mom's health, and her overall well being.

All the staff and volunteers always treated our Mother with **respect and kindness**. While treating the symptoms of her disease, they never forgot the woman she is whether making sure she had earrings and lipstick on for visitors, laughing with her, watching a butterfly hatch with her, kissing her cheek after fitting an oxygen tube, making sure her toast was buttered "right to the edges". And no doubt so many **more moments of kindness** that we did not see.

Mom's time at Hospice is coming to an end. She is sleeping now, not showing any signs of the pain that we know is being kept at bay. **Thank you** to everyone (nursing staff, volunteers and administration staff). By bringing Mom here, we were **blessed with time**, time to just be with our Mom, knowing she was cared for and loved.

A letter from the loving daughters of Jean Maves

Susan DeHaan and Lorna Maves

Did you know...

Myth: Palliative Care is for people who have only a few days to live.

Truth: Palliative care can be provided when a cure is no longer possible and it is believed the resident has up to 12 months to live. Unfortunately, many people become engaged in hospice care too late to fully benefit from the many services available to them and their families. There are many hospice supports available to people in the community that will allow your loved one to live at home as long as possible. Residential hospice care is available to the person when they are no longer able to stay at home.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Hike for Hospice Renfrew ~ Sunday 5 May 2019



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SAVE THE DATE! 2019 Annual Edward Jones Golf Classic in Support of Hospice Renfrew

When? Friday August 16, 2019

Where? Dragonfly Golf Links

Mark your calendar! This is your opportunity to enjoy a day on the links with your friends, neighbours and associates, and at the same time support a worthy cause. Watch the Hospice Renfrew website, www.hospicerenfrew.ca, for registration details.

Kevin Cherry of Edward Jones Investments in Renfrew, in cooperation with Dragonfly Links, has generously offered to host the **Annual Hospice Renfrew Golf Classic**. This tournament has been successfully sponsored by Aikenhead's Drug Store for the past 12 years. We thank Aikenhead's for their contribution to the financial health of Hospice Renfrew over the years, and we welcome Edward Jones to the team.

Kevin Cherry has assembled an enthusiastic group of volunteers to organize the day, including Edward Jones offices from Pembroke and Arnprior, as well as veterans of the Aikenhead team and representatives of Hospice and the community. In addition to organizing the details of the day, the committee members will be marketing the event to area businesses in order to generate support for this great cause and to make the **Edward Jones Golf Classic** a huge success.

Hospice Renfrew thanks Edward Jones for seizing the bull by the horns, as it were, and contributing financially in support of the many worthwhile community services provided at Hospice.

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



What can we say but thanks for everything, Jo-Anne!

Hospice Renfrew won't be quite the same without the ongoing support and fundraising efforts of long-time volunteer, **Jo-Anne Dowdall Brown**, who is relocating to the Peterborough area.

Jo-Anne has been involved with Hospice since the beginning. She was a member of the original palliative care team, attending as a community nurse, and she worked hard to start fundraising when the capital campaign began. She sat on the Hospice Board for two years and during that time, shared her experience as a nurse as well as co-ordinating all fund-raising efforts.

Over the past ten years, Jo-Anne has organized countless fundraising events, notably the Hike for Hospice, the Aikenhead's Hospice Classic Golf Tournament, and the Hoot for Hospice. She also organized online auctions, quilt raffles, comedy shows, garden tours and much more, raising thousands of dollars.

Ironically, Jo-Anne's father-in-law was the first resident admitted to Hospice Renfrew, so she and her family were able to witness first-hand, the care and compassion that she had worked so hard to organize.

Jo-Anne's hard work and dedication resulted in her being named Renfrew's Citizen of the Year, as well as receiving the prestigious June Callwood Outstanding Volunteer award from Hospice Palliative Care Ontario.

We wish Jo-Anne, Kevin and their family all the best in their new home, and hope they will come back to visit often.



Connie Legg (left) presents Jo-Anne with a token of appreciation for her dedication and support



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Hospice Renfrew welcomes its newest volunteers—From left to right – Linda Hoffman, Karen Payne, Christine Taylor, Maureen Brennan, Mary Anne Harrison, with Hospice Counsellor, Tracey Cummings, Sharron Fillator, Laurie Stoddard and Mona Barber.

If you're interested in becoming one of Hospice Renfrew's great volunteers, please contact Judy Cobus, Director of Clinical Services, at 613-433-3993, ext 2235.

Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign



From left to right: Judy Cobus – Hospice Renfrew's Interim Executive Director; from Tim Hortons – Bonnie Carty (also a Hospice Renfrew Volunteer), Benita Deacon, Kim Ellis, Richard Dean, Evin Baker and Donald Carty

This year, Tim Hortons was happy to partner with Hospice Renfrew for the Smile Cookie Campaign.

Sincere thanks to the staff, managers and volunteers that baked, decorated, bagged and sold over **11,000 cookies**. This, coupled with coffee truck sales at the Renfrew Fair and a few other donations received during the campaign, it raised **record breaking grand total of \$15,002.10**.

Tim Hortons was proud to have partnered with Hospice Renfrew and thanks each and every staff and volunteer at Hospice for what they do everyday.

Everyone here at Hospice Renfrew thanks Tim Hortons for their incredible support with this year's Smile Cookie Campaign.

Holly Jolly Radiothon

Thank you Valley Heritage Radio for their commitment to raise much needed funds for Hospice Renfrew by hosting its annual **Holly Jolly Radiothon and Open House** on December 1st. The Radiothon **raised over \$50,000**, thanks to the generosity of the community.

This partnership with Valley Heritage Radio is extremely important to Hospice because it will contribute to the sustainability of the organization.

Thank you to the donors, businesses and community groups who supported the Radiothon this year.

HOSPICE MATTERS

The newsletter of Hospice Renfrew

Interim Ex. Director: J. Cobus

Editorial Advisor: H. McGregor

Editor: S. Gaudet



To our many donors, corporate sponsors, community partners, volunteers, and dedicated staff, a sincere thank you for your ongoing support. It is because of **YOU** that Hospice Renfrew continues to provide **FREE** palliative hospice care to the people of Renfrew County.

HOSPICE RENFREW

To make a donation or a planned gift, please call:

Tel: 613-433-3993 ext 2236 or

Toll Free: 1-866-751-1685

Or online at: www.hospicerenfrew.ca

Or send your cheque payable to :
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Beginning its 2nd decade of free palliative hospice care to Renfrew County