



Introduction

Durham Region Hospice is a partnership between Durham Hospice and VON Durham Community Corporation that was formed to bring residential hospice care centres to Clarington (nine beds) and Whitby (ten beds). At present, the main focus of the partnership is to raise the funds necessary to build these two centres. After a brief hiatus while we supported community efforts to contain the COVID-19 virus, we are turning our attention back to raising the funds we need to begin construction of our two hospice buildings. Fundraising remains critical to our success and donations are still being received and we are thankful. We are also hopeful that our donors and future donors are still supportive of residential hospice and will soon be able to give to our campaign.

Project Updates

The community has been hugely supportive and committed to this project and through their generous ongoing support, we are very close to being able to start construction. With the current COVID-19 pandemic, the expected timelines have had to be delayed, as we want to be sensitive to the more urgent needs of the



community. We hope to begin construction within six months. The required 90% design development drawings have been approved by the Ministry of Health and Site Plan approval has been obtained from the Town of Whitby, and Clarington approval is expected shortly. The Architectural team is advancing the final drawings contingent on Ministry approval to move to the Procurement Phase. Residential Hospice is an essential health service which means that it falls within the exclusion for healthcare construction during the COVID-19 pandemic. In other words, once we have the approvals and sufficient funds in place we can go to tender.

Our Fundraising Efforts

The Province of Ontario has provided some funding for the construction of the hospices, however, much of what we need has to come from the local community. To date, the Region of Durham has made a financial commitment and both the Municipality of Clarington and the Town of Whitby have donated land for the hospices as well as providing other support. We have received generous donations from many organizations and associations, companies, unions, foundations, church groups, service clubs and individuals. We are now closing in on 75% of our goal.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please contact us to make a donation or to get more info. You can also donate through our website.

Milestones

Provincial government approves four additional beds for the hospice in Clarington.

A generous family in Clarington commits an additional \$50,000 to the Clarington hospice. Watch for a formal announcement soon.

Fund raising efforts resume in earnest to get us to the finish line.



The COVID-19 pandemic puts many of our fundraising efforts on hold as communities rally around the urgent needs of frontline and essential workers as well as our most vulnerable community members.

Whitby Mayor's Community Development Fund allocates \$25,000 to the Whitby hospice.



Snapshots



Eva Reti

Whitby Hospice board member generously donates \$50,000. Eva became involved in bringing residential hospice care to Durham Region after experiencing the ARCH hospice in Sault Ste. Marie when her mother passed away. Thank you, Eva, for your donation, constant work and ongoing commitment to hospice.

DRH Awareness Day

On Wednesday January 29 Regional Chair John Henry proclaimed the day as Durham Region Hospice Awareness Day. Many of the local and extremely



supportive politicians and members of the community joined hospice representatives from Port Perry, Clarington and Whitby to celebrate the occasion.



Lloyd Johnson

of Newcastle has supported residential hospice by organizing a number of Kitchen Parties at local restaurants with each one always including a delicious Newfie option. Lloyd arranges the music for the parties as well as for many other community events that support hospice.

“ Why I Give

By Rod McArthur
Retired dentist from Newcastle, Ontario
Member of the Clarington Hospice Board

My wife, Melanie, passed away in November 2017 after a 19-month struggle with cancer. Melanie and I were fortunate that she was able to die in our home with her loved ones close by. However, many people do not have this opportunity.



For many, as the end of life approaches, although they are receiving excellent palliative care in a hospital there are limitations. A residential hospice will provide a supportive, flexible, home-like environment staffed by health care professionals and volunteers. Residents will have private rooms with unrestricted visiting hours and all kinds of support. Pets will be welcome and the residents and their families will enjoy a peaceful, caring environment for their final time together without the stresses of personal care or lack of privacy. It's the next best thing to being at home.

Once I heard about Durham Region Hospice and the work being done to bring residential hospices to our communities I wanted to get involved. That's why I agreed to sit on the Board of the Clarington Hospice and that's also why I've decided to donate monthly. This is a great way to give as it is easily done through my credit card. Every donation makes a difference. I look forward to the day that the doors open and residential hospice care is available to everyone in Durham Region.



Did you Know — What is Hospice Care?

Hospice care, otherwise known as hospice palliative care or palliative care, is a philosophy of care that offers care and compassion at the end of life. It focusses on the individual's desires, goals, options, worries and planning; it supports caregivers; it provides pain and symptom control; it explores and focusses on living life well and to the fullest extent possible.

When an individual receives a palliative diagnosis, it can be a confusing, overwhelming and isolating time. Often individuals and families don't know where to turn to get information, support and the compassion they need. That's where VON Visiting Hospice Services can help. Their focus is to provide the services that ensure individuals are receiving the benefits from a hospice approach to care. Visiting Hospice Services has been supporting the Durham Region for the past 60 years, providing the community with Hospice Palliative Care services, programs and education, and supporting individuals and their families in the place they call 'home'. The new residential hospices in our community will augment our existing visiting hospice services.

Hospice Residences offer an important alternative and choice for end of life care in the last few weeks and days. Durham Region Hospice is working very hard to build two residential hospice care centres — nine beds in Clarington and ten beds in Whitby — to ensure this care exists for those residing right here in Durham Region. At the same time, Oak Ridges Hospice is building an eight-bed residential hospice care centre in Port Perry.



Upcoming Event to support Hospice Services

Join VON Durham staff, volunteers and community members to raise funds for the Visiting Hospice Services being provided in Durham Region!

The Virtual Walk, Run, or Roll for Hospice is happening June 21 to July 1, 2020.

Registration is just \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 for a family.

For more information or to register, go to www.vondurham.org or on Facebook @vondurhamregion.



In Memory Donations

We are grateful for those families who have chosen to honour their loved ones by donating to Durham Region Hospice. We are very appreciative of this acknowledgement and support of the work being done while families are going through a difficult time.

Alexander McGill

Janis Walker

John Murray

Arnold McLellan

Joyce Coles

Ron Borchuk

Carmela Provenzano

Karen Soraya Ferrio

Sandra Oleen Blake

Eva Eifenhoffer

Marianne Sellick

Susan Curry

Jane Smith

Mary McCrae



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