

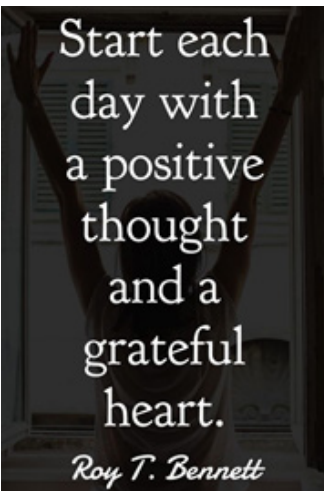
APRIL 2020

Message from the Board of Directors and Hajni Hos, Executive Director

The recent weeks have had a profound and life-changing impact on all of us, locally and globally.

First and foremost, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you for doing your part to mitigate the ravenous COVID-19 disease.

Although there is physical distance between us, you are foremost in our thoughts and in our hearts. We hope you are well and are able to care for yourself and your loved ones while



social distancing becomes the temporary normal.

As the days unfold to more devastating news, we are thinking of how this is affecting all of you, emotionally, personally, and professionally. We will all feel the impacts of this pandemic in unique and varied ways, which are closely woven in

common threads and similar concerns.

Over the next weeks and months, we will continue to share relevant messages, updates, and inform our community of Hospice Peterborough's evolving response to COVID-19.

With your support, Hospice Peterborough is continuing to provide care to our end of life residents, those living with a life-threatening illness, and those grieving during these challenging times.

We are profoundly proud of our frontline staff who are working together to implement relevant pandemic and infection control

standards while vigilantly adapting to new directives from the Ministry of Health, the Public Health Unit, and Hospice Palliative Care Ontario.

We gratefully recognize the commitments of our doctors, nursing team, and front line essential staff who are efficiently responding to keep our residence open, safe and secure, and are having to adapt daily to escalating risks, contingency precautions, and ramped up cleaning to limit infection by this virus.

Behind the scenes, office and community staff are also working from home to continue to support individuals and families at end of life, through life-threatening illness and grief with the common goal of keeping our residents, families, clients and staff, and volunteers safe and supported.

Amidst unprecedented closures, self isolation and social distancing, it is imperative that we continue to fulfil our organization's mission and vision to serve our community - to the best of our ability.

We are continuously monitoring and modifying all of our community and residence programs and services as the COVID-19 outbreak evolves.

Please check our website and social media for updated information.

While our mission statement is our guiding light; you, our supporters and partners, are our beacon of hope in this deadly storm.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we appreciate your continued support and commitment to our care. THANK YOU.

Warmly,
Hajni Hos, Executive Director and
Shelley Barrie, Board President

Happy One-Year Anniversary!



Our Hospice Residence accepted the first two residents on April 8th, 2019. Over the last year we have had the privilege of looking after more than 150 residents and their families.

This is YOUR community hospice, and it wouldn't have been possible without your unwavering support.

Programming Update - Adjusting to the new normal

Hospice Community Programming has been shifting to telephone and web-based programming. With multiple programs and over 150 clients connected with the Palliative Care Community Team, the methods of service delivery continue to unfold and improve over time.

The Palliative Care Community Team continues to receive referrals to match people in the community with Hospice services and the palliative physicians. Intake appointments that once happened in people's homes are now happening by telephone at the direction of the Ministry of Health. Supportive care counselling is also available by phone and clients continue to be encouraged to call in with any questions they may have for the Palliative Nurse Navigator.

Many support groups have begun meeting through Zoom video conferencing. This web based meeting software offers a secure meeting room, where only people invited by Hospice staff can link by internet or phone. While we all miss meeting in the comfortable safety of Hospice living rooms physical distancing is mandatory.

This technology-based alternative allows for social interactions and connection at a time many people are feeling housebound and isolated. Because of the newness of this approach, Hospice has been adding groups each week and contacting group participants

as their group goes on-line. All on-line groups happen at the same time the traditional group would meet. On-line Groups currently taking place include Women's Day Hospice, Caregivers Group and Grief Chat.

Grief groups that were set to start in mid-April including the Grief Recovery Programs and the Children's program are currently on hold as this pandemic interrupted the regular winter schedule.



We are so proud of our front-line staff who are working tirelessly to provide the same high quality of care to our residence and their families through this pandemic.

Happy Retirement Paula!

At Hospice, we get pretty good at saying goodbye, but this farewell is a really tough one. Our dearest Paula, Manager of Volunteer Services is retiring on Thursday March 26, 2020. Because she is so loved and so much a part of the fabric of Hospice, we are sad to say adios but we wish her every happiness.

Paula has worked at Hospice for 14 years, starting as the Coordinator of Volunteers and more recently as the Manager of Volunteers. During her tenure, there have been monumental changes – the program has grown exponentially, we moved into our new home at 325 London St., and we welcomed many new staff as our organization has grown. Throughout all of this – the exciting times and the tough times - Paula remained constant. She is always careful and thoughtful with her choice of words – she stands up for matters that are important to her, and she makes space for others to do the same. Paula’s wisdom and kindness, combined with her caring and her delightfully joyous soul bring a light to our work that will be missed in ways that we haven’t even begun to process yet.

We say our farewell to Paula with tears and also with gusto, as we offer her our most joyful



of wishes for good health, lots of love and laughter, and thrilling new adventures. No doubt in times ahead, we will each, stop for a moment and wonder “what would Paula do?” when a situation is challenging. The lessons of patience, of kindness, of humour, and of presence that she has taught us will remain invaluable as “we all just walk each other home.” Cheers to our dearest Paula!

Excerpt From MP Maryam Monsef’s Letter to Hospice Peterborough

These are unprecedented times, and the dedication that you and your team continue to show in helping our community weather the storm is a virtue that will be revered long after the crisis abates.

We are all in this together, and I know everyone is doing their part to stay safe. Please know that it is because of the work your team continues to do that we will overcome this situation.

Our community stands behind you, just as you continue to stand behind them.

To the health care workers, the first responders, those working in our shelters and food banks, our grocery stores and pharmacies, and all the other essential services that keep our neighbours safe and secure- I see you, and I thank you.

With my warmest appreciation,

Maryam Monsef, P.C., M.P.
Peterborough—Kawartha

Thank you for your kind words!

Message to our Volunteers from Hospice Staff

We miss YOU... more than ever!

You are with us in heart and spirit as we all negotiate these uncertain times and collectively hold our breath as we brace for what is ahead in the coming months.

These past few weeks have been filled with great worry and life-altering challenges for everyone.

As an organization, our strength has always been in the people who surround our work and our care. This time apart is difficult but also necessary for all of us. Most of the community staff are working from home with only essential staff permitted to work in the building.

Absence really does make the heart grow fonder – and as we pause to take stock of your many impactful roles and ways your kindness has enriched the lives of our clients, residents, their families, donors, event

participants, and staff, please know how much we appreciate your kind words, offers of support, and cheery messages.

This is a defining moment in history and while we can't predict the future we will draw our strength and hope from the past. This storm won't last forever and we look forward to the time when we will be together again.

In the meantime, we hold each of you in our thoughts and our hearts. We wish you and yours good health, safety and well-being in the coming days and weeks.

We miss you all. Take care of yourselves and those around you.




Stay healthy, and well.

Hospice Peterborough Staff

New Event Dates!



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