



May 2022

## ‘Suddenly Everything Becomes So Uncomplicated’

**As she marks nearly three decades of volunteering with Hospice Peterborough, Peg McCracken reflects on why working with clients on end-of-life journeys is an ‘extraordinary experience’**

Everything on her to-do list disappears. She stops planning and worrying. Stops thinking about how she could’ve handled a difficult situation better or about the next move for the business she owns.

In fact, when Peg McCracken enters the front doors of Hospice Peterborough to volunteer with people on an end-of-life journey, she says she has one objective: ‘Simply to be.’

“My busy life gets left at the door,” she says. “I’m simply here to be of service and to be totally present whether that’s listening to clients’ stories, getting them an extra blanket or helping them write a final letter to their family. Suddenly everything becomes so uncomplicated.”

Peg is now our longest-serving active volunteer after recently marking her 29th anniversary of volunteering with Hospice Peterborough.

Peg says she first started volunteering in hospices when she was in her early 20s, primarily in Toronto and Vancouver, before moving to Peterborough in 1993 and joining Hospice Peterborough.



*Through changes, moves, and expansions, McCracken’s longstanding commitment to Hospice Peterborough has never wavered.*

Ever since, she has prioritized this volunteer work along with her busy life of raising two boys, being business manager for Peterborough Singers, as well as selling musical instruments in her family-owned business with her husband Steve.

“It’s a huge part of my life because it’s such an extraordinary experience to travel that road with someone in palliative care,” she says. “I always thought I was giving of myself, but I was really getting so much more.”

Many clients love to sit and talk about their past – funny or heartwarming stories – as well as discuss their perspectives on dying and the afterlife. She enjoys incorporating her love of singing: Sometimes singing along with a client to a favourite song, to help them better process emotions, or

singing a meaningful old hymn at a client’s bedside.

When Hospice Peterborough opened its end-of-life residence in 2019, Peg started visiting residents and supporting staff whether that was clearing dishes, folding laundry or making coffee in the family room.

*(Continued on next page...)*

(Continued from page 1)

“Whenever I come into the residence, I introduce myself to all residents and ask if there’s anything they require,” she says. “Sometimes it’s an ice cream with caramel sauce, or a warm blanket, or they ask if I can reposition them in bed. My motto is to always keep my feet moving. I come in that door to serve and there’s always something I can do.”

After three decades, and having worked with dozens of clients, she says some people mistakenly believe this type of volunteering might have become depressing.

“The opposite is true,” she says. “My work here has made me very aware that life is simple, to get my priorities straight and to cherish every moment. It has made me more alive.”

## A Night at the Theatre for Hospice Peterborough

Theatre-goers will be supporting hospice palliative support and programs in the community



Hospice will be hosting an event at 4th Line Theatre on Aug. 10. The performance of Wishful Seeing starts at 6 p.m. and tells the story of a saddlebag preacher who stumbles upon a murder mystery on the shores of Rice Lake in 1853. The historical thriller offers a colourful cast of characters set against the backdrop of a rapidly growing pre-Confederation Canada.

A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales for this event will support Hospice Peterborough.

Tickets cost \$40 and will be available soon through our website [hospicepeterborough.org/support-us](https://hospicepeterborough.org/support-us)

## Hospice Welcomes New Finance Manager

Andrew Graham says he’s excited to start next chapter of his career

Hospice Peterborough has welcomed Andrew Graham as its new Manager of Finance and Administration.

The 34-year-old Chartered Professional Accountant comes from Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) where he worked as an accounting supervisor.

“I am happy to be at Hospice,” he says. “It was important to me to continue working in the healthcare field, where I can continue to challenge myself from an accounting perspective but also continue to help make a positive impact in our community.”

Andrew, who is originally from Niagara Falls, Ont., first came to Peterborough in 2006 to study Business Administration at Trent University. He met his future wife at Trent and they settled in Peterborough after she secured a job as a special education teacher.



Hospice Peterborough is so excited to welcome Andrew as the new Manager of Finance and Administration and lending his talents to the organization.

After graduating from Trent, Andrew first worked as an Accounts Payable and Inventory Analyst at Weetabix Canada in Cobourg and then as a Financial Analyst at PRHC. In 2015, he was promoted to Accounting Supervisor at PRHC and oversaw the hospital’s billing functions for accounts receivable.

Andrew saw the move to Hospice as a logical next step as he aspired to a managerial position with an organization that aligns with his values.

At Hospice, he will be in charge of all financial matters including payroll, accounts receivable, and overseeing an operating budget of more than \$3 million.

“I’m very happy to be embarking on this next chapter of my career,” he says.

## Top 5 Reasons We Love Our Palliative Doctors Doctor Appreciation Day— May 1

To: Dr. J. Beamish, Dr. N. Whiting, Dr. C. Blake, Dr. J. Mallory, Dr. B. Webster, Dr. A. Morelli, Dr. J. Heidman, Dr. C. Matheson and Dr. L. MacMillan-Jones.

1. You’re kind and professional. We know this personally and from comments from community members.
2. You’re team players. Hospices across the province envy Peterborough’s team-based palliative approach.
3. You mentor others and share knowledge.
4. You cover great distances. Peterborough County is large yet you ensure all clients receive quality care.
5. You’ve overcome COVID challenges. Despite masks and PPE you have found ways to convey warmth and comfort at an end-of-life journey.

## Celebrating our Amazing Nursing Staff During National Nursing Week 2022

Thanks to all of our nursing staff for providing expertise, dignity, comfort and a better quality of life to clients in the community and on an end-of-life journey while also providing care and comfort to family.

We consider ourselves so fortunate to have a team of caring, committed people.

Thank you for all that you do!



Residence manager Jeannette Larsen stands here with, from left, Jen Sager RPN, Sarah Yeomans PSW; and Sebastien Deuchars RN.

**Fowlers Corners and District Lions Club**  
*Presents*  
  
**Cruise Night**  
 At CraftWorks  
 NEW LIVE MUSIC  
 JUNE - JULY & AUGUST  
**THURSDAYS**  
**At CraftWorks (weather permitting)**  
**MAY 19th - SEPT 15th • 5 PM TO DUSK**  
 124 Lindsay Road, Selywn ON, K9J 0C5  
 (1 Km east of Fowlers Corners)  
**IN SUPPORT OF:**        
**NO ADMISSION FEE**  
 Donations are encouraged to cover event costs and assist in the work of the Lions.

Cruise Night is back at the barn!  
 Every Thursday you can find vintage cars, live music, fun in the sun while supporting some amazing local charities, including Hospice Peterborough. Check our Cruise Night at CraftWorks every Thursday (weather permitting) from May 19th—Sept 15th.

We extend our humble gratitude to the **Fowlers Corners & Districts Lions Club** for supporting our work!

Keep in touch:

-  @hospiceptbo
-  @HospicePeterborough
-  @hospiceptbo

## How you can help

**YES, I want to support vital hospice palliative care!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount:

\$50     \$75     \$100     \$200     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make my gift by:

Cheque (payable to Hospice Peterborough)

Visa

MasterCard

AMEX

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be an anonymous donor

This gift is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please contact me to discuss my legacy gift to Hospice Peterborough.**

For your safety, and the safety of our residence and staff, please consider donating online, or through the mail. We appreciate your understanding.

**Registered Charity No. 11947 8964 RR0001** Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

**Donate online at [hospicepeterborough.org](http://hospicepeterborough.org) Or mail to 325 London St Peterborough, ON K9H 2Z5**

**THANK YOU! Donors make our care possible!**



325 London St  
 Peterborough, ON K9H 2Z5  
 705-742-4042  
 admin@hospicepeterborough.org