Summer, 2015

Chatham-Kent Hospice

HOSPICE HAPPENINGS newsletter

www.chathamkenthospice.com

Help us make the Hospice a home!

Chatham-Kent Hospice HOPE Chest COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

A donation to the Hospice Hope Chest Campaign will be used to purchase furniture and equipment for our new residential hospice. Visit our website (chathamkenthospice.com) or pick up an information package at your local Municipal Service Centre for a list of items needed. There are items at a variety of donation levels so you can pick the item or items that are meaningful to you. What a wonderfully practical way to support people who are dealing with end-of-life!

Looking for a thoughtful gift for a birthday or anniversary? Why not donate in honour or in memory of someone special. We would be happy to send them (or their family) an acknowledgement letter to inform them of your thoughtfulness.

With your help, our residential hospice will be fully equipped to provide, comprehensive, end-of-life care very soon!

Changing moments, changing lives.
Our mission is to provide care that changes how families live the important experiences near the end of life.

Inside:

Page 2
- Construction is Well Underway!
- It's all about the People
- Volunteers make the Difference

Page 3
- Hospice Heart Stories
- Community Events

Page 4
- Message from the Chair
- Torch Run article
- Stay in Touch

Save the Stamp! If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter and have an e-mail address, please send it to us at info@chathamkenthospice.com. We will send you an electronic copy of the newsletter instead. It helps us save money and it is environmentally friendly!

Construction is Well Underway!

The Chatham-Kent Hospice, being built in downtown Chatham adjacent to St. Andrew's Residence, will house 10 residential suites, and also contain space for outreach services to the community. Construction began in early April, with a projected completion in late 2015.

Westhoek Construction of Chatham is the General Contractor, and the site has seen lots of activity. Foundation work and underground connections are complete including sewer and water lines, plumbing and electrical prior to the concrete floor being poured. The heating system will include in-floor radiant heat enabling each resident to control the temperature in their own suite. Walls have begun to be erected and the elevator shaft presently towers over the site at the Wellington Street entrance. Weekly construction updates including photos can be found on our hospice website, www.chathamkenthospice.com.

The building is taking shape as the framing is completed

It's all about the People

As important as the hospice building is, it's the people who will receive care that are the motivation. As a reminder of this, the public are invited to tie a ribbon on the construction fence in honour or in memory of a loved one. The ribbon campaign will continue throughout construction, and it is a beautiful sight to watch the hospice being erected as the colourful memorial ribbons flutter in the wind. Drop by the site to check out the progress and add your own ribbon to the collection. Feel free to personalize your ribbon with the name of your loved one. Ribbons can be found on the Adelaide Street side near the hospice sign.

Volunteers Make the Difference!

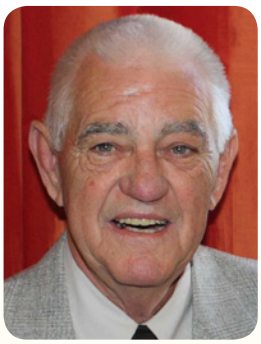
"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."
~ Sherry Anderson

We believe that our volunteers are worth their weight in gold! The wealth of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm they bring contributes to an overall team effort to ensure patients and their family receive the specialized care they need. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available from volunteering in the kitchen, helping at reception or being a bedside companion.

Because we regard our volunteers so highly, we ensure that our volunteers are provided with the tools to feel confident in their role. Training includes the Fundamentals of Hospice Palliative Care Course and orientation/training specific to Chatham-Kent Hospice. We plan on providing continuous education to keep our volunteers up-to-date on the latest palliative care best practices, and equally as important, self-care practices. Visit www.chathamkenthospice.com today to complete the volunteer application or contact Melanie at 519-354-3113.

Hospice Heart Stories:

A Good Death is a Gift


John Coveny

John was born and raised in Dover, worked at Rockwell for 31 years and farmed the family farm. He and his wife were blessed to have a large family with children and grandchildren who all live nearby. They had no idea how much of a blessing that would be until, at age 76, John was diagnosed with lung cancer and within a week, died at home surrounded by his family.

Christine, one of John's five children, shared the story of her dad's life and death and described both as a gift.

"Because we all live in Chatham-Kent, we were lucky to have the support of each other to help Dad and Mom during Dad's final days and to allow Dad to die at home", said Christine. "It also really helped that many of us have a nursing background. That being said, when it's your family member, it's different".

Christine went on to explain that although her father's illness was very short, there was still considerable stress on the family as they tried to figure out what equipment, medications and other supplies were needed to keep their dad at home and comfortable. They also had to support their mom who was recovering from a recent illness and overwhelmed with her husband's diagnosis. "I can't imagine how families cope when the illness is lengthy and/or they do not have family support nearby" said Christine.

Christine remembers her dad as a hard working family man who had a great sense of humour. "Dad's death was beautiful; surrounded by his family, just like he would have wanted".

Christine currently volunteers for the VON Palliative Care program where she visits with people in the community who are dealing with a terminal illness. Unfortunately, she has seen too many situations where, for one reason or another, people have little or no support from loved ones. Having gone through her own situation, she cannot imagine how they coped. "That's why a residential hospice will be such a benefit to our community" said Christine "Patients will be supported and families can spend time with their loved ones as a family and not as a caregiver."

To help support families that will need residential hospice care, the family chose to support the Hospice Hope Chest Campaign with memorial donations collected in John's memory. The funds will be used to purchase furniture for the Spiritual Space. Christine is also planning to become a Hospice Volunteer and is looking forward to continuing to support patients and families at end of life.

If you have a story to share, please:
- Email it to info@chathamkenthospice.com
- Mail it to 99 Park Street, Chatham, ON N7M 3R5

And we may include it in a future edition of "**Hospice Happenings**".

Community Events

Bill Rivers Memorial Dinner

Yvonne Rivers didn't want to spend the first anniversary of her husband Bill's death alone. Instead, she, along with friends and family, celebrated his life with a party! They held a dinner at the Central Tavern in Pain Court and raised $2,100 for Chatham-Kent Hospice's Hope Chest Campaign. The money will go towards the purchase of 2 automatic life recliner chairs. Yvonne and Chatham-Kent Hospice are very grateful for everyone's support! THANK YOU!

Cut for Katherine

Thank you to Melissa Garton and everyone who supported the "Cut for Katherine" event. To honour her good friend, Katherine Voets-Keating, who lost her battle with breast cancer 10 years ago, Melissa collected pledges and cut off her hair. She raised over $1,200 to support the Chatham-Kent Hospice Hope Chest Campaign.

Suds Car Wash

Thank you to everyone at Suds Car Wash, 43 Keil Drive South in Chatham for hosting a car wash and barbecue on Saturday, July 11th to support Chatham-Kent Hospice. Suds Car Wash has been serving Chatham-Kent for over 35 years and believes in supporting those who support their business by raising funds for local charities.

Here is the list of upcoming events in support of Chatham-Kent Hospice. Visit our website for more information.

Saturday, August 8
McLeod Memorial Moustache Golf Tournament with part of the proceeds to support Chatham-Kent Hospice.

The Beach Boys Concert – Tecumseh Park, Chatham, proceeds to support Chatham-Kent Hospice – Tickets available at cktickets.com

Friday, September 25
St. Clair College Golf Tournament with proceeds to Chatham-Kent Hospice and St. Clair College Student Scholarships

Saturday, November 21
Say Yes to the Dress Again Gala in support of Chatham-Kent Hospice. Tickets will be available in September

We are grateful to ALL the individuals and community groups who have organized an event to benefit Chatham-Kent Hospice – Thank You!

If you have an event idea, please contact us or visit our website to learn more about how we can help you.

Message from the Vice Chair

I am pleased to be able to provide the message from the Board for the summer edition of the "Hospice Happenings" Newsletter. I have been Vice Chair since the Board's inception and amazed at the progress to date! This project has gone from a dream to reality in a very short period of time thanks to a strong collaboration with St. Andrew's Residence, many dedicated volunteers and a very generous community!

While the construction of the residential hospice, adjacent to St. Andrew's Residence, is under way, we are simultaneously building an organizational culture that will provide the best experience for hospice patients and family as well as staff and volunteers. This includes solid governance and operating policies and procedures that aspire to surpass health industry standards.

With all the work involved in growing a new organization, we don't want to forget the WHY – to provide compassionate, end-of-life care in a home-like setting to our family and friends. Honour a loved one by dropping by the construction site and tying a ribbon on the construction fence or make a donation to the Hospice Hope Chest Campaign to purchase the necessary furniture and equipment needed.

Thank you to all who have made this venture happen thus far. We look forward to opening our doors by the end of 2015 and continually working together for the betterment of those in our care.

Barry Fraser
Vice Chair, Chatham-Kent Hospice Board

Chatham-Kent Hospice represented in Pan Am Games Torch Relay

On June 16th, the 2015 Toronto Pan Am Games Torch Relay passed through Chatham-Kent. Michelle O'Rourke, Director of Hospice Services, was proud to represent the Hospice as a torch bearer. Many supporters came out to cheer, and it was a great opportunity for the hospice light to shine brightly. The events of the day included a festive gathering in Tecumseh Park where a large caldron was lit after the flame, which originated in Mexico, was carried through the streets, up the Thames River in a dragon boat, and to the bandshell area. Local and provincial dignitaries were in attendance and the hospice has been gifted with a commemorative torch, compliments of their sponsor, CIBC.

Contact us to learn more or donate

Chatham-Kent Hospice

Compassionate end-of-life care in a home-like setting

You can donate:

Online: www.chathamkenthospice.com

By mail to:
Chatham-Kent Hospice
99 Park Street
Chatham, ON N7M 3R5

Or call: 519-354-3113

We are grateful for your support of Chatham-Kent Hospice. If you would no longer like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please email info@chathamkenthospice.com or call 519-354-3113 and ask that your name be removed.

Charitable Status #: 843944430RR0001