

because you care Community Update

SPRING 2020

“This is your home now”

I have been a visiting palliative volunteer for 25 years in Stratford and am also a volunteer at the new Rotary Hospice. Personal experience also taught me the immense personal impact hospice care can have on a family.

My husband Tom was diagnosed with aggressive terminal stage four lung cancer. As treatments were not an option, the doctor suggested assembling a palliative team immediately. Even though he was still very active, Tom died within one week of that tragic diagnosis.

Our short journey was a whirlwind of activity. As the Rotary Hospice was still in the planning stages, my husband, family, and I, were received at Sakura House in Woodstock. Although the arrival was overwhelming emotionally, our reception was so welcoming, warm and calming.

I experienced such a weight being lifted as now I could totally focus on being Tom’s wife knowing that his health issues were being fully met by the professionals.

The staff worked as a skilled team. They seemed so calm, no rushing, never judgemental, and never short on giving hugs. The peaceful atmosphere was apparent at all times.

One of the many touching moments that is instilled in my Sakura memory bank...my granddaughter wanted to play the beautiful grand piano, so I asked the nurse



“Please join my family and me as we HIKE for Hospice on the Tom Orr Trail, Sunday, June 7th at the Stratford Perth Museum”.

Connie Orr, wife, and Sammie Orr, granddaughter, volunteers, and HIKE for Hospice participants

if that was possible, as I didn’t want us to disturb any of the other residents. Her answer “Connie, this is your home now, you do as you would in your own home”. I remember thinking how touching that was – and now I hear the same at our Rotary Hospice.

Hospice comforted Tom and our family in his final life cycle during one of the most intense, emotionally charged times we have faced.

As a volunteer now with Rotary Hospice, it gives me comfort knowing that other families are exposed to the same beautiful experience our family received.



Why HIKE for Hospice?

Last June more than 250 people participated in the 5th annual HIKE for Hospice, raising \$70,000 (net!) to help build the Rotary Hospice. Since then – thanks to their support and that of many others – more than 50 individuals from our area have called the Rotary Hospice home for their last days.

One of those residents was Anne McAuley, whose daughter Sandra will participate in HIKE for Hospice on Sunday, June 7th at the Stratford Perth Museum. Like many, Sandra will be raising funds so that others can experience the same level of care and compassion that she, the McAuley family, and her mother experienced in their time at Rotary Hospice.

We are thrilled this year to be hosting the 6th Annual HIKE for Hospice at the Stratford Perth Museum!

Hike the Tom Orr Trail, visit exhibits, and wrap up the morning with a BBQ lunch! Most importantly, spend quality time with special people honouring lost loved ones.

On Sunday, June 7th join us at HIKE for Hospice.
Together, we can ensure quality end-of-life care in our area.
To register visit rotaryhospice.ca.



“It was 1949, and my Mom, Anne, had landed a job at Westinghouse in Hamilton.

She met my Dad at a dance at the Rose Hall. This handsome guy walks over, sits down and starts chatting her up ... right in front of her date! His name was Leo and he stayed at their table the entire night. From that day on, every time my Dad saw my Mom he did the same thing. It didn’t matter who she was with – Leo was smitten, but he didn’t think she was the kind of girl that would ride on a motorcycle. He was wrong...”

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(continued from front)

“My Dad died at home in 1994 before hospice was an option. I was young, angry and in denial about what was happening. By the time I accepted reality, it was too late.

My Mom continued to live in the home they built together for another 25 years. In November 2018, a stroke forced her to move closer to family. Anne was enjoying life, staying connected to old friends and making new ones ... until a terminal cancer diagnosis changed everything. I decided to make every day count.

Hospice creates a peaceful environment to celebrate life. The end is not the focus. Mom was able to relax and reflect on a life well lived. We laughed every day. The photo of my Mom and Dad (see over) is one of hundreds decoded while spending time with my mother at Rotary Hospice.

Your generous support makes these special moments happen. Thank you.

Hospice is not a sad place. It is a peaceful place with a dedicated team that cares for people at the most vulnerable time in their lives. It is full of beauty, compassion and kindness. I am grateful a place like this exists”.

Sandra McAuley, daughter, HIKE for Hospice participant



SAVE THE DATE
October 29, 2020
Stratford Country Club
Visit rotaryhospice.ca

WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Did you know that in any given week, there are 70-80 volunteers helping out at the Rotary Hospice and in the community? That's equal to six full-time staff. We could not offer the same level of care and compassion without their support. As we approach National Volunteer Week, April 19-25, we wish to extend our thanks to these unsung heroes!

thank you!

Interested in volunteering?
Visit rotaryhospice.ca.



Donor Spotlight MONTHLY GIVING

“My Dad spent his final few days in a hospice. While it was sad to see him pass away, his last days were a good experience. Hospices have a very calm, welcoming, home-like atmosphere. The best thing for me was that my Mom was able to do nothing but spend time with her husband of 60-plus years.

When the Rotary Hospice opened, I decided to donate monthly to their ongoing operating costs. I want to help fund a place where families can go knowing not only that their loved one had a good life but also a good end-of-life. My donation comes off my credit card automatically and I really don't notice it anymore. But I know it's put to good use”.

David Yates, Hospice supporter

Donations of \$2,500+, will be acknowledged on the annual giving wall, to be updated annually and cumulatively.

Did you know?

Annually the Rotary Hospice is required to fundraise more than \$900,000 to cover the portion of our operations budget not funded by the Ministry of Health.

By becoming a monthly donor, you are giving the gift of security to our Hospice while also making it easier on your budgeting. Every donation has an impact on those who have – and will – call Rotary Hospice their final home.

For more information, contact: Lucie Stuart, Fund Development Manager, 519-508-4900 x720 or lucie@rotaryhospice.ca

Donations can be made securely on our website at rotaryhospice.ca

Sometimes a picture says even more than a thousand words...
THIS is hospice!
Thanks for making this moment with mom possible!
♥ The Redshaw Family

DONATION FORM

I/we would like to donate to the annual operating campaign

Donation amount: \$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

I/we would like to make a general donation to **HIKE for Hospice** \$ _____

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more. **Total Donation** \$ _____

I am interested in becoming a monthly donor, please contact me.

I am interested in leaving a gift in my will, please contact me.

Donor Name: _____
Address: _____ Prov: _____ Code: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment by credit card Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp / CVV _____

Payment by cheque Please make cheque payable to Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation



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Please mail this form with payment to:
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