

# NEWSLETTER



(L-R): Bill MacKay, Jennifer May-Anderson, Mayor Mitch Panciuk, Mayor Jim Harrison, MPP Todd Smith

## Hospice Quinte Care Centre Breaks Ground!

We are thrilled to share that on September 9th ground was broken for the new Hospice Quinte Care Centre! Joining Hospice Quinte staff and Board members for the celebration were Bay of Quinte MPP Todd Smith, Mayor Jim Harrison, Mayor Mitch Panciuk, and representatives from Peak Construction Group, the successful bidders for the construction project.

"We are both humbled and honoured to celebrate the remarkable success, dedication and generosity of all those who have enabled this dream to become a reality for our community," says Hospice Quinte Executive Director, Jennifer May-Anderson.

MPP Todd Smith said, "Our province is pleased to invest in Hospice Quinte's state-of-the-art residential centre, which will provide a warm and comforting care environment for its residents and their loved ones. Their ground-breaking is a great milestone for our community."

Last year alone, 27 of Hospice Quinte's clients spent their final days in hospital when they would have been eligible to be a hospice resident. Five of our clients were forced to go outside our community to receive end-of-life care in a hospice residence. In a full year of operation, the Hospice Quinte Care Centre expects to provide care to approximately 183 palliative

residents based on an average stay of three weeks. For every palliative care client five family members are also supported. This translates to a total of 915 people who will benefit directly from the Hospice Quinte Care Centre. Hundreds of others will continue to be served by Hospice Quinte in their homes and through our support groups.

"I know people have done the right thing to put this together. At one time we thought about selling this piece of property, but thank God we didn't. This is a great project and Jennifer, I thank you and all of your committee members for all the work you've done," Mayor Jim Harrison said.

"To be able to have a facility and treat people compassionately, professionally in a way that is generous, is so important," said Mayor Mitch Panciuk. "To give people an option of hospice palliative care is as important as anything else we would do as a community, as a city. The \$1M that the City of Belleville have pledged toward this project is something that we are very proud of."

To all our donors and supporters, we send a heartfelt thank you for your contributions which have allowed us to move another step closer to making the Hospice Quinte Care Centre a reality!

# Community Support Continues to Grow!

Our community continues to show its support for the Hospice Quinte Care Centre! Mirmil Products presented Hospice Quinte with a gift of \$20,000! Our sincere thanks for your generous investment in the future of palliative care for our region. The Trenton Legion Branch 110 Ladies Auxiliary also presented a special gift of \$1,500 in memory of John Williams. Thank you for your support, as well as sharing your entertaining stories about John with us!



L-R: Brad Williams, Sarah Walker, Jennifer May-Anderson & Samantha Trotter



L-R: Brad Williams, Glenda Trottman, Charlene Plume, Jennifer May-Anderson & Gloria Johnson

## Palliative Care Needs Better PR Article by Dr. Darrin Cargill



“ For decades, we have known about the benefits of palliative care. First, we learned that when a palliative approach is provided to patients earlier, they live longer. Then, we learned it

improved quality of life for patients facing a life-limiting illness. Then we learned it actually saves the healthcare system money and resources that can be reinvested back into other areas of the system. And most recently, a study in Ontario showed how palliative care can reduce ER visits, and hospital and ICU admissions in patients with noncancer diagnoses (British Medical Journal, 2020). So why are patients not demanding better access to palliative care and why is government not shoveling money into one of the few areas of medicine that actually simultaneously gives better care and a return on investment?

The answer is: *palliative care has a public relations issue.*

People like to laugh, even the dying ones. Some of the best and funniest patient encounters I have ever had have been with patients facing imminent death. Flowing tears, bellyaching laughter. Rather than dwell on the inevitable, they

choose to look on the “bright side of life”. So, you can imagine how I felt when Healthy Debate recently printed my article on hospice funding in Ontario and used the notorious “sad hands” to illustrate the article that have become synonymous with palliative care. Frankly, I can’t think of a more depressing way to promote palliative care, can you?

How do we fix palliative care’s PR [public relations] problem? Imagine this: instead of constantly nagging people that palliative care is “not just about dying,” why not have some fun with it? Imagine if Marvel’s Deadpool decided to do public service announcements about palliative care? Clearly the irony of someone who can’t die teaching us about dying is simply too delicious to ignore.

Let’s be serious for a moment. If caring for patients at the end of life has taught me anything, it is the bravery and grace they model for the rest of us. The vast majority of patients want to talk about death and dying, they just need to know we are open to having these discussions and that we will be there with them through the good times and the inevitable bad times too.

It is often said we live in a “death-fearing society.” If we, meaning the palliative care community, can’t talk about death and dying, then who can? ”

## Bereavement Support Services Expand



We give a warm welcome to Christina Brinklow who is Hospice Quinte’s new Bereavement Support Specialist! This expansion of our grief and bereavement support services is in response to the complex situations surrounding the death of loved ones as a result of the pandemic. This new

position has been made possible due to a generous \$40,000 gift from the federal government’s ‘Emergency Community Support Fund’, procured through United Way Hastings & Prince Edward. Christina, we are thrilled to have you join our team and provide much needed support to our clients and the Quinte region. Welcome!

