



Connections

November 2008, Issue 26



L-R: Kathi Kelly, Leanne Bentley, Evelyn Nagowski, Carrie Osborne, Jan Janssen, Merle Bodenham and Deb Gillard

Happy Holidays from the staff at Hospice Simcoe.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

A Message From Your Executive Director, Jan Janssen

It is tradition in my home to express thanks before sharing family meals. Sometimes it's a simple thanksgiving for the things that seem so basic - for food, for a loving home, for a warm bed at night, for health, for family. At other times, the expressions of gratitude are much less tangible - our oldest daughter Liz says thanks for privilege and liberties. My husband Edo is grateful for the ongoing support we give each other. Our youngest girl Ingrid repeatedly expresses thanks for love and friendships. As for me, I am grateful for the absolute abundance in my life, for so very many blessings - those that I recognize, and so many more I'm sure I never notice. In 2009, my sole resolution is to live more fully present to the silver linings, to seize opportunities for greater kindness, joy, appreciation, and creative expression. Whatever you celebrate this holiday season - whatever you are thankful for and hold dear - may Peace and abundant Joy surround you, now and throughout the new year.

And speaking of absolute blessings, within this current newsletter I have included a beautiful reflection by Al Scarth, a long standing volunteer and faithful friend of Hospice. I was deeply stirred by this piece and I thank you Al for agreeing to share it with our Hospice family.

As you may or may not know, Betty Matos is no longer with Hospice Simcoe. In recent conversation, Betty indicated that she may well take some time to pursue her Masters and that additionally she plans to spend more time with family. On behalf of the Board and staff, I would like to sincerely thank Betty for her passion, hard work, and many contributions to the organization.

In keeping with standard practice for the Holiday Season, the office will be closed beginning Wednesday, December 24th, at 2:00 p.m., and will reopen on Friday, January 2nd, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

May I again take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a most joyful Holiday Season and many rich Blessings for the coming year.



During a lunchtime conversation with Marion she spoke of a childhood memory about the feelings around what it means to be coming "home". Having left her farm home to spend a winter afternoon tobogganing she recalled the return journey in the late afternoon dusk and how, getting closer and closer, she could feel, without truly realizing it, what a promise of comfort there was in that special familiar place.

Later, when I returned home, with that brief conversation in my mind, I sat for a while and looked, with a new appreciation, at a watercolour picture which hangs in our living room. It is a snow-covered scene of a farm at dusk or early evening with a single stark bare tree, a barn and a farmhouse. The only bright light in the softness of this brought to my mind similar childhood memories of home as a place of true sanctuary. Whether it be returning from tobogganing, from hockey, from school or more memorably from cutting the family Christmas Tree. I'm sure those are feelings many can share.

Somehow I was sad for a moment at the thought that as a child I could not really appreciate those feelings. Then I realized and understood that as children we just experience those things as a normal part of our life and we could not possibly realize that they would always be a part of who we are.

It comes much later in life, perhaps three score years and ten later, that these memories, coupled with a lifetime of experience, bring comfort and an understanding of what "home" really means to us and how it is one with those childhood feelings of peace, love and security.

"Home: is our starting out place and our ending up place.

"Home" is our setting out place and our coming back place.

"Home" is our constant through an everchanging lifetime experience.

Al Scarth, Volunteer with Hospice Simcoe



It seems like only yesterday that we had the groundbreaking for Hospice House. The months have flown by and we are well on our way to providing the community with a beautiful home for those individuals requiring end of life support and care.

Construction is on time and on budget with an anticipated substantial completion date of December 31st 2008. We are quite busy reviewing, our Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment requirements while continuing to focus and move forward on our interior design and decorating elements. This is a huge undertaking ensuring that we capture a true "homelike" setting while housing the very necessary and important pieces of equipment that may not be part of a regular home.

When you enter the Hospice, you will be surrounded by warm earthy tones and natural elements like a feature floor to ceiling stone fireplace in the main lobby. While moving through the main core of the building, you will be impressed with the exposed timber beams, gentle water feature, curved walls and skylights allowing natural light to softly filter in year round.

A huge well appointed kitchen with a beautiful fireplace will be the gathering place for many shared meals and quiet moments with family and friends. Ten spacious bedrooms will accommodate residents and family members if necessary. Our spa will be a tranquil place to relax and ease discomforts.

Once construction is complete, we will move in to the operational phase including commissioning of all of the equipment, staff training, and general readiness for our first residents.

We look forward to the day that we open next spring. In the mean time we will continue to work hard on our efforts to make this beautiful oasis for those individuals that come to stay with us

Warmest Regards

Sheri Maynard

Hospice Building Committee Chair

Hospice Board Vice President



We are pleased to announce that we are offering tours Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. of our new Residential Hospice. If you are interested in going on a tour please contact Carrie Osborne, Capital Campaign Assistant at 705-722-5995.

From the desk of Deb, Service Coordinator

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of our client care volunteers and facilitators for their important and valuable service this past year. It has been a pleasure working with each and every one of you.

If you have yet to receive a call to work with a client, please know that I am doing everything in my power to match you up. Feel free to get involved in other Hospice volunteer activities in the meantime. It is a great chance to meet other volunteers, get to know our staff a bit better, and to represent Hospice Simcoe in the community. We value you and your contribution!

Remember you are always welcome to join us for our monthly volunteer drop-in sessions. This is a great opportunity to network, share with other volunteers, and learn together.

I would like to wish you all the blessings of this holiday season, and a wonderful 2009!

Deb Gillard
Service Coordinator



KATHI'S KORNER

We just had our Christmas staff picture taken this morning at the House. Some of you reading this newsletter are responsible for making this dream come true. Thank you. Some of you reading may come to live at the House, or volunteer there. Thank you. While it's likely practical, the fireplace is the first homey feature installed. The hearth-the heart, I think. It's an exciting time to be connected to Hospice Simcoe, I'm grateful.

Our Memorial Service was wonderful and thank you to those who brought music, stories and open arms.

It's Teen Buddy recruiting time and if you know of a teen who is willing/able to donate energy in support of another teen, please Call.

Thank you to Stuart and Jan for facilitating the Spousal Support Group this term. Thanks to Mike and Helen for bereavement phone follow-ups and again to Mike for the Bereavement Walk.

In January we will be readying for the Advanced Bereavement Course if you are interested. We will be doing this program with Hospice Orillia and Huronia.



Be well and stay close.

Kathi Kelly

Season's Greetings from the Volunteer Coordinator

As the holidays fast approach, I'd like to wish you and your family the very best. Hospice Simcoe volunteers have been extremely busy and generous with their time and assistance they bring to our clients and the organization.

This month, we will complete our Fall Palliative Care Training sessions. I'm thrilled to announce that we have 17 newly trained volunteers from Sandycove Acres in Innisfil, and another 12 graduates from our Barrie training. A warm welcome to all of you!

This past October, I was presented with five hand-crafted quilts from the Ladies Crafter's Group from Sandycove Acres. These extremely talented ladies have painstakingly designed and sewn beautiful quilts which will be used by our residents at Hospice House. As well, the Helping Hands Group, also from Sandycove Acres, keep astonishing me by the beauty and quantities of knitted and crocheted items they have made for our clients. They have inspired many existing and new volunteers to also get involved with this very satisfying form of volunteering. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting, please give me a call and I can give you the patterns. The fun thing is that they are designed for all skill levels and your imagination is the only limit to what you can create.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly for the Harvest Moon Gala, BINGO, community awareness events, baking or driving for the Scotiabank "Buy a Brick" campaign, facilitating or participating in client groups and training, and of course, those of you who are doing client care. Please remember that we collect volunteer hours at the beginning of each month for the month prior. It is critical for us to capture this information as we report it to many external agencies.

Do you shop at Zehrs or Sobeys? If so, please keep your cash register receipts and donate them to Hospice Simcoe. This is one of the easiest ways for us to fund raise! Receipts can be dropped off to Leanne.

Thank you again for all that you do for our clients and Hospice.

Leanne Bentley
Volunteer Coordinator



Upcoming Events

Tree of Remembrance locations

Zehrs Markets (Big Bay Point) Nov 28-Dec 7

Georgian Mall Dec 2-5th

Sandycove Acres Nov 29—Dec 23rd

If you can volunteer some of your time at one of the above locations, please contact Leanne Bentley, Volunteer Coordinator at 705-722-5995

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Takes place December 10th at the St. John's Ambulance room at 80 Bradford Street. Pot Luck Lunch is from 12-2pm. We ask that you bring an item, unwrapped, for a teen. All items will be donated to Youth Haven. Please RSVP your attendance by December 1st.

Coin Collection for Hospice Simcoe

We are very excited to announce that during the month of January, 2009 all 4 Barrie locations of the LCBO will be collecting change in support of Hospice Simcoe's Capital Campaign.

Hike for Hospice

Mark Sunday, May 3, 2009 on your calendar as it is the National Hike for Hospice Day. More details to follow in the New Year

December 2nd Nylons and Amy Sky Concert

Poster on next page.....

HOLIDAY BENEFIT CONCERT FOR



Tuesday, December 2, 2008

Start time: 7:00pm

TICKETS ONLY \$50

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Photo by Roger Lemoyne



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