

Hospice Whitby

ROGER ANDERSON HOUSE

Our Journey

December 2023



In this Issue

- 01 A Message from Eva Reti
- 02 Our New Name
- 03 What Hospice Means
- 05 Handbags for Hospice
- 05 Community Events
- 06 In Memory
- 07 Personal Reflections
- 07 Myths/Facts



A Message from Eva Reti

Chair, Hospice Whitby

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House, I would like to thank the community members, businesses, corporations and community organizations for their contributions and ongoing support for the capital campaign to build the Hospice Residence in Whitby. We've raised a large portion of the total funds needed for Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House. Thank you for your outstanding generosity.

It's a well-known truism of fundraising: the first 80% is hard and we've done it. The last 20% is REALLY hard.

At present, there is still only one hospice residence with ten beds located in the north end of Durham Region, with an identified need for 37 hospice residence beds required to serve the over 600,000 residents of the region. Those with a palliative diagnosis should have the opportunity to die with comfort, care, compassion, dignity and privacy – which is what a hospice residence provides. Many of our population do not have the financial or family support to be able to die at home. This home away from home will help their final days to be spent in a wonderfully supportive environment with medical professionals and highly trained and compassionate volunteers.

It is our goal to go to tender in January 2024 and to celebrate our ground breaking in Spring of 2024.

This project is vital to our community residents and its success is not possible without your help. There are many ways you, our neighbours, our businesses, our corporations and community organizations can help. For more information, please visit our website at hospicewhitby.ca or follow us on social media. We look forward to finalizing this capital campaign with YOU!!

We are close but we need your help to get to the finish line. Help us reach our goal – donate today!

Our New Name

In March 2023, it was announced that the official name of the new hospice residence will be Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House. This naming is the result of a group of 16 Ontario developers and others coming together to raise \$2 million towards the construction of the hospice residence and to name it in honour of former Durham Regional Chair Roger Anderson. Mr. Anderson was an unwavering advocate for Durham Region and was a big supporter of bringing a hospice residence to our community.

This is truly a legacy gift to the residents of Durham Region.

Many of those who contributed to this initiative were on hand for the announcement as was Roger's son Warren Anderson. Speaking on behalf of the family, Warren said "We are very grateful for the recognition of my Dad's devotion to Durham Region and honoring him this way. My Dad chose to end his battle with cancer at home. It was difficult and I know his final days would have been much better for him and our family if he had been in hospice care. On behalf of the entire Anderson family, I'd like to thank the Developers and all involved with this wonderful tribute to my Dad."



[youtube.com/
watch?v=FlsDG84xAkA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlsDG84xAkA)

Roger Anderson House – A place that feels like home

Hospice Whitby will provide the best possible end-of-life experience to individuals who are facing terminal illnesses. It will offer personalized care to each individual and their families at no cost and will be built on land donated by the Town of Whitby.

- + 10 private hospice suites overlooking green spaces each with a private outdoor patio
- + A large cuddle bed, wardrobe and closet to place personal belongings, private washroom, in-suite climate control allowing those in the room to choose their preferred temperature, television, mini refrigerator to store favourite items or for family to store food during their visits, reclining chair and sofa bed for overnight stays
- + Compassionate care 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- + Multi-disciplinary team of health-care professionals including doctors, nurses, social workers, counselors, and volunteers who are trained in end-of-life care
- + Assistance with comfort measures and pain management
- + Unrestricted visiting hours
- + Grief and bereavement support and counselling for residents and family members
- + Emotional and spiritual support, arts, music and holistic practices
- + Meals based on each resident's choice
- + Pets welcome
- + Free onsite parking



What Hospice Means

by Jane Gilbert

A strange thing happened to me recently at Handbags for Hospice. I went home that evening with a lovely Kate Spade purse, strange, because I do not remember bidding on it during the silent auction! **It was meant to be.**

There is a tradition, dating back centuries, of placing a shiny coin in a new purse for luck. I have put something else in my new purse. Let me explain...

In the fall of 2022, my mother was critically ill. She opted for palliative care. In our sadness we found strength in assurances that we would not be alone on this journey. There would be a team-centered approach in place to help us to care for mom at home.

Our tight but naïve little family rallied and almost immediately ran into trouble. The promised 24-hour support line went unanswered. Prescriptions ran out.

Case managers changed and did not forward files. Neither public nor private nursing care was available. And as mom's pain intensified, so did our desperation. We discovered a system pushed past the breaking point.

By the New Year mom was too sick for a nursing home, not sick enough for an acute care hospital bed. We were offered a choice: move her to an out-of-town facility away from family and friends, or soldier on at home where our best efforts were no longer good enough. We had waited in vain for the cavalry to ride over the hill, convinced now it was not coming.

What Hospice Means

CONT'D

But not all heroes ride horses. Sometimes they just pick up the phone.

Mom's community is home to a 6-bed hospice where compassion and comfort are free, and the wait list is long. At our lowest point, they called offering a precious bed. It was meant to be.

We walked into a bright, spacious, modern home – a happy place, run for the most part by community volunteers. A place where the focus is on living.

Within a few hours of mom's arrival, she had had her first shower in a week, her pain had been managed, she relished a supper of ice cream and chocolate sauce and was sitting up in bed like a queen. By early evening she was asleep, more comfortable than she had been in months.

The nursing supervisor that evening greeted me with a hug, saying, "Go home. We've got this now. You focus on being a family again." I cried.

From the moment you become the caregiver, you are no longer the daughter, son, sibling, or partner. You become the cook, the housekeeper, the nurse, and pharmacist. I was so focused on staying one step ahead I had given no space to mom's emotional well-being and her end-of-life journey. And no thought to other family members and their imminent loss. Hospice changed that.

“ She lived, every moment, until she could not. And at the end she was comfortable, peaceful, surrounded by family and fortified by her faith. Can any of us hope for anything more? ”

Mom rallied for two weeks. She welcomed friends. She ate her weight in Quality Street chocolates – because she could! She belted out show tunes in the kitchen. She lived, every moment, until she could not. And at the end she was comfortable, peaceful, surrounded by family and fortified by her faith. Can any of us hope for anything more? Several months later I began the dreaded task of cleaning out her closets. The very thought of it felt like erasing her from memory, one garment at a time.

The first piece I pulled out was a jacket and, on the lapel, I found a small pin – a hummingbird. Goodness knows how long it had been there.



Hummingbirds are universal symbols of the hospice movement. They float freely. Their grace reminds us that beauty is everywhere and life is rich and fleeting. There were several paintings of hummingbirds in mom's hospice room. And as I took my first tentative step to begin life without her, here was a souvenir of those precious final weeks of her life and the gift of compassion we received in hospice care.

So, what's in my new handbag (the one I did not know I had bought)? A hummingbird. It was meant to be – this reminder that the end of life deserves as much beauty, dignity and respect as does the beginning.



[youtube.com/watch?v=s_2oF_FDf58](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_2oF_FDf58)

Handbags for Hospice

We are thrilled to share that our signature event, Handbags for Hospice was a tremendous success once again this year. The heartfelt support on October 25, 2023 at Deer Creek Golf made a significant impact in raising over \$80,000 for Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House.

150 guests joined us along with our virtual audience as Layne the Auctionista along with emcee Terry Johnston guided us through exciting Live Auction bidding and introduced our feature speakers Jane Gilbert and Vicki Deighton. Our guests bid on an amazing array of silent auction items. The grand finale was the drawing of the Golden Ticket for the Louis Vuitton handbag.

Thank you to everyone who supported us either by participating, sponsoring, purchasing items or making a direct donation. See you next year.

Thank you to our sponsors:

- + Deighton Associates
- + Ontario Power Generation
- + Bell
- + Mattamy Homes
- + Testforce Systems
- + Thornton Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Centres
- + Jacquelynn Tanner, Sutton Group-Heritage Realty Inc. Brokerage
- + Baker Tilley
- + Organize That
- + Barone Quality Cleaning
- + Jay Kilgannon, RBC Wealth Management
- + Dan Piedimonte, Desjardins
- + Zuber & Company LLP



Community Events

The 3rd Annual Lyndebrook Charity Golf Tournament held on August 20, 2023 raised \$4000.00. It was a great day weather wise, the golf was fun and the food was fantastic. Next year's tournament is already scheduled for Sunday August 18, 2024.

Chip In for Hospice Whitby hosted by Friends of Hospice on Tuesday September 12, 2023 at Royal Ashburn Golf Club was a great success. Our golfers braved the morning rain as they made a positive impact, one swing at a time, raising \$20,000 for Hospice Whitby.

In Memory

We appreciate families and friends who, during challenging times, have chosen to honor their loved ones by contributing to Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House.

Roger Anderson	Ken MacEachern
Alice Margaret Barron	Noel Marshall
Ralph Ronald Beer	Terrance J McCarl
Billie Benson	Liam McGee
Margaret Burdett	Francis Elizabeth McKenzie
Ian David Cassidy	Corinne & Earle Miller
Neil Church	Nan Moffatt
Ross & Joan Church	Raymond A. Mroz
Jack Churchill	James Nesbitt
Wilf Clark	Jim Paterson
Norman Cochrane	Walter Rogers
William Cochrane	Jeffrey William Rousell
Kevin Dashney	John D Roy
Richard Deighton	Mary Elizabeth Rycroft
Millar Drummond	Justice David Salmers
Nancy Dunnigan	Justice Bryan Shaughnessy
Isobel & Les Finnerty	David Sims
Shirley Fisher	Jane Smith
Bruce Robert Gilbert	John Spratt
John Glover	Diane Stackhouse
Joe Hakkaku	Randy Stewart
Joan Marie Hoskin	John Truchan
Sandra Kinsman	Kenneth Walker
John & Alyce Kunetsky	Justin Yelle
Zinnia Lewko	



Rebrand

With a new look and feel, we are particularly excited to share the story behind our new logo.



Hospice Whitby
ROGER ANDERSON HOUSE

The dragonfly is often associated with transformation, adaptability, and change. Its ability to move swiftly and gracefully through the air signifies agility and a sense of freedom. There is a hidden heart within the wings of the dragonfly which signifies care and compassion. The simple house shape represents comfort, shelter and a home-like environment. It emphasizes the importance of creating a nurturing environment that helps individuals and families find stability, comfort, and solace during difficult moments in their lives.

Personal Reflections

“ Once he was admitted to hospice, I wasn't just his caregiver, I became his wife again. ”

“ Jenny died peacefully encircled in the warmth, comfort and support of her family and a few very close friends, of which I felt privileged to be included. She reaffirmed in me the importance of living life to the final moment, for she died as she had lived, with peace in her heart. ”

“ Mother slipped away peacefully with her family at her side. Her beloved companion, Max, was curled up at the foot of her bed... with her to the end. ”

“ Entering hospice, we felt the heavy weight of responsibilities being lifted off our shoulders. Our family could go back to being the wife and children to Dad and not be responsible for his personal care, which also gave back the dignity that Dad so deserved. At hospice, we were able to spend quality time with Dad, sharing stories, praying with him, and creating new memories! ”

“ I wish we had known about hospice sooner. ”

Myths/Facts

MYTH I can only receive hospice care in a hospital.

FACT Hospice care can be provided in a hospital, home or hospice residence.

MYTH Hospice residence must be expensive.

FACT There is NO COST. Hospice Whitby will create an environment where individuals and their families can focus on emotional, spiritual, and physical comfort during the end-of-life journey without the added burden of financial stress.

MYTH Hospice residence is only for seniors

FACT Care at Hospice Whitby is for adults of all ages.

MYTH Hospice residence care is just good nursing.

FACT Hospice care is delivered by a multidisciplinary team, including physicians, social workers, counsellors, nurses and volunteers.

MYTH Hospice residence is just for people with cancer.

FACT Hospices offer high-quality end-of-life care services to individuals facing a variety of illnesses, extending beyond cancer.

MYTH Hospice residence and other palliative care programs are the same.

FACT Hospice residence differs from palliative care programs in other settings in that patients come to live at the hospice where their full end-of-life needs are met including pain and symptom management, nutrition, additional therapeutic services, and support for family or loved ones both during the illness, and after death.

MYTH Hospice residence is just for the patient.

FACT Support services are provided to the family members of patients in a hospice residence both during the illness, and after their passing.



Hospice Whitby

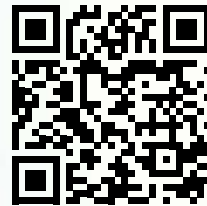
ROGER ANDERSON HOUSE

1615 Dundas Street East
Lang Tower West
Suite 304
Whitby, ON L1N 2L1

E info@hospicewhitby.ca

W hospicewhitby.ca

T 905.240.4522 ext. 243



**DONATE
TODAY!**

