



Hospice Whitby

ROGER ANDERSON HOUSE

Our Journey

December 2025



Use this code to check out our time lapse video of construction progress!

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A Message from Eva Reti

Chair, Hospice Whitby

As you have seen from our messaging and social media posts, construction on Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House is progressing! Thankfully, the cold and snowy weather has been holding off so that the construction workers can continue work on preparing to close in the roof and outer walls. This will certainly make it easier for work to progress inside the building throughout the rest of the winter. I attend on-site, bi-weekly construction meetings and it really is awesome to be there to watch our hospice residence rise from foundations. If you have a chance, please stop by to take a look in person. Together, we are building something very special for our Durham Region community.

We recently welcomed Andrea Russell, our new Director of Development-Major Gifts, to our team. Andrea will continue to lead our Capital Campaign to raise the remaining construction funds, and then the funds necessary to furnish our hospice residence with everything needed to make it a "home away from home."

And once again, our community never ceases to amaze us with its financial support. Our signature event, Handbags for Hospice, had another wonderful year, and we are so grateful to the volunteers, sponsors, and attendees who helped make it such a success. You'll find more details about the event in this newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to get us to this point in our hospice residence construction. Every dollar makes a difference, and continuing donations will help us reach our Capital Campaign goal by early next summer, so that we can open our doors next fall.

On behalf of our board of directors, thank you very much.



Our communities. Our hospice.
Our time to build. Donate today.

Holiday Appeal: **Some gifts can't be wrapped**

This holiday season, you can give a gift that truly matters: the gift of comfort, dignity, and compassionate care to people at end-of-life and the families who love them, helping them find the peace and support they need, close to home.

Imagine a place where families gather and feel fully supported during one of life's most difficult, yet precious moments, a place guided by compassion, dignity and care.

Every detail of the new Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House has been thoughtfully and carefully designed to make this vision a reality: cozy rooms where loved ones can share meaningful moments together, peaceful spaces for quiet reflection, and welcoming areas where hospice staff and trained volunteers offer guidance, comfort, and support.

Your year-end gift helps create these spaces, ensuring that families can access the care they need

and turn their focus to what truly matters most: being together with their loved ones. Every donation moves us closer to opening the doors to this vital hospice residence and ensuring compassionate, holistic care is available to every family who needs it.

You are not just supporting a building; you are helping create a legacy that will serve generations of families in Whitby, Oshawa, Ajax, Pickering and the broader Durham Region for years to come.

Help us make Hospice Whitby - Roger Anderson House a reality.

Donate now to help us open the doors. Visit our website at hospicewhitby.ca/Donate for more details or to make your gift today!

Thank you from all of us at Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House.

Happy Holidays!

**Donate now to help us open the doors.
Visit our website at hospicewhitby.ca/Donate
for more details or to make your gift today!**





Our time to build

From vision to reality, Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House is steadily taking shape. Construction crews are transforming blueprints into tangible walls and spaces that will soon welcome families from across Durham Region.

Since our groundbreaking in November 2024, our journey has been defined by meaningful milestones: securing permits, clearing the site, laying the foundation, framing the walls, raising the roof, and carefully integrating mechanical systems.

Today, we are ready to enclose the structure, allowing work to continue inside through the winter months. The building's silhouette, now visible, stands as a symbol of the sanctuary it will become – a place of peace, dignity, and support for residents and their loved ones.

Every detail is designed with care: private rooms filled with natural light, warm and inviting family spaces, and tranquil gardens that offer reflection and comfort. **This is more than a building; it is a haven where families will find solace during those challenging yet precious moments, where lives are honoured and memories cherished.** Compassionate care is at the heart of Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House.

None of this progress would be possible without you. Every gift brings us closer to opening our doors in late 2026 and to providing exceptional end-of-life care to those who need it most. Your support is helping us build not just a hospice residence, but a legacy of compassion that will touch countless lives.

Join us in celebrating these milestones and in making the vision of Hospice Whitby - Roger Anderson House a reality. Together, we are raising walls that will shelter a caring place, providing comfort for all who enter.



**Groundbreaking
November 15, 2024**



**Services Installed
September 22, 2025**



**Framing Begins
October 9, 2025**



**Trusses Installation Begins
October 20, 2025**



**Enclosing the Structure
November 18, 2025**

Handbags for Hospice Whitby

Our Biggest Event Yet!

We are thrilled to share that Handbags for Hospice Whitby was a phenomenal success on November 5, 2025! Over 250 guests gathered at Deer Creek for an evening full of excitement, generosity, and community spirit, **helping us raise over \$106,000 for Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House.**

The evening was brought to life by Layne the Auctionista and emcee Terry Johnston, guiding guests through thrilling Live Auction moments and introducing our inspiring speakers. Attendees also bid on an incredible array of silent auction items, with the night culminating in the Golden Ticket draw. This year's draw had everyone on the edge of their seats — and both winners were there to celebrate! Congratulations to Kathleen, who went home with Louis, and Coreen, who took home Christian.

A highlight of the evening was the Fund-A-Need portion, which **exceeded the \$60,000 goal, allowing Hospice Whitby to purchase three cuddle beds** to provide comfort to residents and their families.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, sponsored, volunteered, donated, or purchased auction items. Your support continues to make a profound difference in the lives of those who will be cared for at Hospice Whitby.

Here's to another amazing year.

Event sponsors:

Deighton Associates
Durham Spinal Decompression Centre
Kelly Greenway Bruce
Testforce Systems
Davidson Cahill Morrison
PR Engineering Ltd
HMA
Thornton Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Centres
Barone Quality Cleaning
Jay Kilgannon, RBC Wealth Management
Jacquelynn Tanner, Sutton Group-Heritage Realty Inc. Brokerage
Balcom Real Estate
Durham Spine & Sports Clinic
COBS Bread – Folkstone
Mack Group Construction
Dino Tyrovolas, BMO Nesbitt Burns
Bonnie Fraser, Fraser Ford



Circle of Care

Compassionate hospice care offers comfort and hope during life's most difficult moments.

Kim Juchau, manager of Mount Lawn Funeral Home and Cemetery, has seen firsthand how hospice support helps families heal—both as a funeral director and as someone who supported a loved one through their final days.

"My sister-in-law chose a hospice residence for her final days. When she died, I had the opportunity to bring her into our care at the funeral home. As we left the hospice, the staff paused in the lobby. Our family shared words, lit a lamp and held a small ceremony. It was a sign of respect for a life lived, and a very touching way for the family to begin grieving," she says.

Bridging hospice and funeral care

The alignment between hospice and funeral home services has inspired Arbor Memorial, parent company of Mount Lawn Funeral Home and Cemetery in Whitby, McEachnie Funeral Home and Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens in Ajax, to generously support the construction of Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House.

To date, the three branches in the Durham Region have contributed \$41,000 to the capital campaign through corporate gifts and by sponsoring community events whose proceeds go to Hospice Whitby. Staff have been avid supporters of the Handbags for Hospice event and also continue to contribute annually through the Arbor Memorial

Foundation. This year, the Mount Lawn team held a hospice services appreciation dinner and plans to make it an annual event.

"I believe there is a connection," says Kim Juchau. "Hospice provides compassionate care during a person's final moments, as well as support to the family members. We then continue caring for the family as they memorialize their loved one. It's all part of end-of-life care, and I see value in that."

Impact of hospice support

In her experience, families who support a relative in hospice are in a much more peaceful state as they cope with loss. The province of Ontario recommends seven to 10 hospice beds for every 100,000 residents. Durham Region, with only 19 beds currently, falls well short of the target. Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House will begin to fill the gap, especially in Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, and Oshawa.

"We understand that fundraising is necessary to provide hospice care to our community. We are honoured to support these efforts," says Kim Juchau.

Join the Circle

The need for hospice care in Durham Region is clear, and community support is essential. We are grateful to amazing community partners like Arbor Memorial. By working together, we help ensure that every family will have access to end-of-life care.



Board Chair Eva Reti with board members Jane Gilbert, Joyce Marshall, John Rycroft, and Chris Burns, along with Andrea Russell, joined by Mount Lawn representatives Michelle Osborne, Devon Sweny, Francine Hackshaw, Tamara McKinnon, and Kim Juchau.

Music and *Memories*

Is there a soundtrack to your life? For Diana Parsons, there is, and it will always include "Joanna" by Kool and the Gang.

Just a few notes from that soulful ballad, "Joanna, I love you...You're the one, the one for me..." instantly transports Diana back to the final days she spent with her beloved mother, Joanna, at Matthews House Hospice in Alliston in 2024.

A journey of compassion

When Joanna's health declined, Diana faced a difficult decision: keep her mother in the hospital or move her to a hospice. A hospital nurse gently encouraged her. "Trust me. You do not want your mother to pass away here. Hospice is beautiful, and I promise you she will have the best care." That advice changed everything.

Unexpected kindness

From the moment the family entered hospice, they were met with warmth and support—a fresh cup of coffee, help with laundry, and even a staff member who spoke to Joanna daily in her first language, Italian. The hospice became a home away from home, where family, including their dog Mimi, could be together. "Every single person opened their arms and their hearts for us," Diana recalls. "I felt an unexpected calm wash over me, like I knew it was exactly where Mom needed to be." Joanna spent her final four weeks in hospice, surrounded by love and dignity.

A farewell to remember

Even at the end, the care continued. "As we accompanied her out of the hospice, her special song played. "Joanna." Staff and families stood in doorways, at desks, and along the hallway honouring her final journey. It was a moment of profound respect. "They all saluted my Mama. I will never forget that moment," says Diana.

From grief to action

This experience inspired Diana to share her story and playlist at the Handbags for Hospice event recently, turning her grief into a call to action. Diana encouraged others to support Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House and to donate to help build a place where more families can experience the same compassion and care.

A lasting memory

Now, whenever "Joanna" plays, Diana remembers her mother and the people who entered their lives as strangers and became their angels.



“Every single person opened their arms and their hearts for us.”

In Memory

We are deeply grateful to family and friends who, during difficult times, choose to honor their loved ones with a donation. Below are the latest In Memory donations since the last newsletter.

Ed Adams	Mike & Sal D'Andrea	Maria (Mia) Lamers	Muriel Peister
Kenneth Arscott	Joe Dickson	Janice L. Lee	Barry L Prout
Mario Barrettara	John Duffy	Bonch Loomans	Marlene Reardon
Prabha Bhargava	Tom & June Edwards	Rose Mary MacLean	Luzia Ribeiro
Bertram Bicknell	John Elliott	Noel Marshall	Evelyn Robins
Valerie Brady	John and Mary Fox	William McIntosh	Doug Roxborough
Allen Budd	Allan W Furlong	Donald McMillan	Mary Rycroft
Rev. Dr. Gerard Bylaard	Joe Hakkaku	George Meadows	Ann Maree Sandiford
William Clarke	Jason Holmes	Stanley and Nan Moffatt	Ed Shane
Mary Colleran	Ruth Hooker	Des Newman	Jane Smith
Karyn May Cornakovic	Maria Julia	Sharon Nicholson	Amelia Vence
Doug Cosburn	Bert Klompmaker	Marjorie Dorothea O'Dwyer	Joe Williamson

A Legacy that Keeps on Giving

As Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House nears completion, you have the wonderful opportunity to leave a lasting legacy through a planned or estate gift. These gifts – such as bequests, charitable gift annuities, or other planned arrangements – help ensure that our hospice will provide compassionate care and support to individuals and families for years to come.

By including Hospice Whitby in your estate plans, you contribute to a future where every resident experiences comfort, dignity, and support at life's most difficult moments.

Planned gifts also offer both flexibility and potential tax benefits, allowing you to create a meaningful legacy in a way that fits your personal and financial goals, extend your legacy and have a lasting impact.

Your generosity today ensures that Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House will continue to serve our communities with excellence, long after its doors open. Every gift strengthens our mission and extends the reach of care for those who may need us in the future.

For more information, please contact Andrea Russell, Director of Development – Major Gifts at andrea.russell@hospicewhitby.ca.



Hospice Whitby

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**Donate
today!**

