



Hospice Whitby Roger Anderson House

Comfort, care and dignity for all in Durham Region

Our Journey

March 2026



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

There's an old saying you've probably heard: if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

I think about it often when I drive by our hospice construction site. I think about the work of the construction team building Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House. I also think about the small army of volunteers, donors, and community partners who stand with us, helping us to go far.

Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House is being built by people coming together to support compassionate care for all in Durham Region. One of the most inspiring ways this happens is through organized local events, known as third-party fundraising.

These events are organized by generous individuals, businesses, and groups who create and promote their own initiatives to raise funds and awareness in support of Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House. You can read about some of our valued partners in this newsletter.

From shared meals to golf tournaments and bracelet sales, we are deeply grateful for all the creative and generous ways people are stepping up to support hospice care.

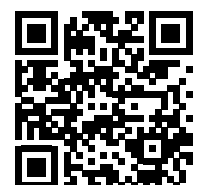
If you are considering hosting a third-party fundraising event, our [Community Event Guide](#) is a comprehensive resource, providing everything you need to plan a successful event.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for being part of this journey with us and for all you do to support Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House.

It's our time to build!

Eva Reti

New season. New beginnings. A place of comfort for all. Donate today. [Click here.](#)



Family Commitment: O'Regan Family Foundation gift supports Hospice Whitby



Colin O'Regan is a banker by profession, but a natural storyteller at heart. "I'm a numbers guy," he admits with a warm laugh. "But numbers tell a story."

For over twenty years, Colin has dedicated his free time to volunteering in health care—especially in acute and mental health settings. He has seen firsthand that every donation, every event, and every donor adds up to create a bigger impact.

Inspired by his experiences, Colin and his family made a leadership gift to Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House. "There's a segment of the population that thinks everything is covered by government, but that's not true. We need more money donated from private sources. Even small amounts make a difference," he said.

Colin's motivation is personal. He recalls the three difficult months his wife, Tricia, spent nursing her father at home prior to his death.

"We learned a lot from my father-in-law," he said. "He instilled in me that philanthropy doesn't just happen automatically. We must participate in our community, give back, and hope that our story helps build interest and create conversations."

He also remembers his grandmother, Nana Dean, a former nurse who lived independently until nearly 100, before spending her final year in a nursing home, passing away at 101.

"For 40 years she was my only grandparent, and I held on tight," he said. "When her health started to fail, we kept her as comfortable as possible. But people cycled in and out of her room. There weren't many options."

Hospice Whitby's Medical Care Centre and Pharmacy will be named in honour of Nana Dean. "Like all nurses and caregivers, she had that empathy in her DNA, in her soul," said Colin. He said most people don't appreciate or understand the value of supportive hospice care until they face the reality that a loved one is dying.

"It brings me joy when I hear that they are breaking ground on another hospice, in Ontario, like Hospice Whitby. We are closing the gap for end-of-life care."

Colin hopes the legacy of giving will be embedded in his three children.

"My goal in the next ten years is to make sure the kids have that same level of engagement and understand they can improve the lives of families around them," said Colin.

That's why, on a snowy day, just before Christmas, Colin gathered his parents, William and Beatrice, Tricia, and children, Gavin, Kara, and Rhys, for a rare family portrait—at the Hospice Whitby construction site. Nana Dean was there too, in a framed portrait.

The stories that matter most to Colin aren't found in spreadsheets. They're written in moments of kindness and compassion.

"We've turned a corner," says Colin as he surveys the partially built hospice. "Every time we tell the story, we help to build it. Every gesture of support will mean the world to families in need."

Margaret's Legacy

Once a Bluenoser, always a Bluenoser.

No matter how far she's travelled, Margaret Layng's Nova Scotia roots shine through in her cozy home. Nautical drawings greet visitors at the door, and copies of Saltscapes Magazine rest on the coffee table—a proud tribute to her Lunenburg heritage.



"It was a place where people cared about each other," she says. She still remembers how neighbours gathered around the pot-belly stove in her father's grocery store. "Mom and Dad must have been heartbroken when I left," Margaret recalls.

People caring for their neighbours. That's why Margaret supports Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House as a long-time donor.

"People who work in a hospice have to be empathetic," she says.

When Margaret left her Lunenburg home in 1953, it was a big, bold move for a young woman. But she has always been self-reliant and resilient. She ventured first to Montreal, then to England, building a life and finding work. She married Alex Macintosh in 1972. Seven (7) years later, his profession brought them to Durham Region.

It was here that she first encountered the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), and she eventually worked as the administrative assistant to the executive director.

"In those days, we had a hundred nurses doing home visits. It was a challenging job. I learned that so many people needed help and weren't receiving it," she says.

Alex died in 2002 after a struggle with dementia and Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS). The VON was her support during that time.

"When you care for someone with dementia, you lose your social context," she says. "When he passed away, I was alone. I sought support from Grief Journey Seminar. I made friends, and we supported each other."

She later met her second husband, Donald, in that support group and, when he became ill and required care, remained his devoted caregiver until his passing.

Today, VON Durham Hospice Services focuses on delivering hospice and bereavement services in the community. When Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House opens, the VON will assume daily operations.

That connection has inspired Margaret to pledge an additional gift in her will.

"Here I am," says the now 95-year-old. "As a VON retiree, this is how I can give back."

"When I die, my ashes will go back to Lunenburg, where someone will still know who I am. I haven't left a footprint in this community [Durham Region], though I have benefited from community support. This is what I can leave behind for the future."

"I want to be comfortable and happy when I die. I don't want to die alone," she says. "I want someone to hold my hand. Don't we all? And that's what a hospice will offer the community."



Plan your legacy with a gift in your will to Hospice Whitby-Roger Anderson House. Click [here](#) for more details.



Save the Date

Handbags for Hospice Whitby 2026



Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 4, 2026, as Handbags for Hospice Whitby returns to Deer Creek Golf for another unforgettable evening in support of Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House.

Following the tremendous energy and generosity of last year's event, we are excited to gather once again with our community for a night filled with connection, celebration, and purpose. From the excitement of the Live and Silent Auctions to the much-anticipated Golden Ticket draw, Handbags for Hospice continues to bring people together in a meaningful way.



We look forward to sharing more details, sponsorship opportunities, and ticket information in the months ahead. For now, be sure to save the date – November 4, 2026.

In Memory

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

- Auzzy
- Antonia Bakermans
- Joe Dickson
- John Armstrong Elliott
- Ronald Gould
- Thelma Mackie
- Rose Mary Maclean
- Patricia Malancyzj
- Noel C Marshall
- Shannon McDonald
- Stanley and Nan Moffatt
- Ray Mroz
- Allen Nancekivell
- Vito Portincasa
- Mary Rycroft
- Ann Maree Sandiford
- Joan Takahashi
- Eugene & Mieczka Ulanicki
- Danny Wilson

Community Events in Action

Thank you to Mary Brown's Chicken Whitby for supporting Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House through their annual fundraising promotion, returning for a second year.

Every Tuesday from December 2–16, 2025, a portion of net sales from their Whitby location was donated to the hospice. Thanks to the generosity of their customers and community, the initiative raised \$1,200 in support of compassionate end-of-life care for families across Durham Region.



From left to right: Shazia Mehboob, Mary Brown's Chicken, Eva Reti, Board Chair, Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House, Andrea Russell, Joyce Marshall, Roslyn Cawthorne, Judi Longfield, and Mehboob Rehman, Mary Brown's Chicken.



From left to right: Roslyn Cawthorne, Judi Longfield, Joyce Marshall, Jennifer Mallett, COBS Bread, Andrea Russell and Eva Reti, Board Chair, Hospice Whitby–Roger Anderson House.

Thank you to the team at COBS Bread Folkstone and their customers for supporting Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House through their annual Dough-nation campaign.

From February 7 to March 7, 2026, customers were invited to dough-nate in store, with Dough-nation Day on March 7, when \$2 from every 6-pack of hot cross buns sold was donated. This marks the second year COBS Bread Folkstone has supported Hospice Whitby through the campaign, raising \$6,000 this year.

Congratulations to Linda, the lucky winner of the Bread for a Year draw.

Designing Spaces of Comfort and Care



As Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House continues to take shape, we are pleased to welcome Sue Pitchforth of Decor Therapy Plus as our Volunteer Design Consultant.

Sue is generously sharing her expertise as part of her annual philanthropic contribution to the community, helping guide the furnishings and interior design of our new 10-bed hospice residence serving Durham Region.

Her thoughtful approach will help ensure that every space within the hospice feels warm, welcoming, and supportive. From comfortable furnishings and calming colour palettes to the small details that make a room feel peaceful and personal, Sue will help shape an environment where residents and their families can feel at ease.

Many in our community will recognize Sue from her time as a Whitby Town Councillor, as well as for her work as an accomplished designer and decorator. Throughout her career, she has used her design expertise to support community organizations, helping create spaces that offer comfort and dignity to the people they serve.

Now living in Prince Edward Island, Sue has graciously accepted the opportunity to lend her talents to Hospice Whitby. Her vision will help ensure that Hospice Whitby – Roger Anderson House is not only a place of care, but a place that feels warm, comforting, and welcoming for all who enter.



Hospice Whitby Roger Anderson House

Comfort, care and dignity for all in Durham Region

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Donate today!