

transitions

THE NEWSLETTER OF VICTORIA  HOSPICE

FALL 2020

Our First Forty Years!

2020 marks Victoria Hospice's 40th anniversary in our community. It's hard to believe it has been four decades since we opened our doors to welcome our first patient.

Today, that "little community charity" is now a leader in Hospice care. We provide quality palliative and end-of-life care and bereavement services to thousands of patients and families every year.

None of this would be possible without your support.

We're grateful to have had the consistent support of our generous community. Over the last 40 years, tens of thousands of donors have given countless generous donations to Victoria Hospice to support our care. This incredible wave of compassion will carry us as we meet the challenges that lie ahead.

It would be an understatement to say 2020 has thrown us all a few curveballs.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we continue to offer unparalleled care because of your steadfast commitment to Victoria Hospice patients and their families.

The hundreds of people who donate monthly are a wonderful example of that commitment. These donors help ensure we have the resources to provide the scope of support and services necessary to meet the needs of our community even in these challenging times. In honour of these donors' great spirit, we've recently named the monthly giving group the "Hospice Hearts Club".

We invite you to join our Hospice Hearts Club! Learn more inside.

On behalf of everyone who has been supported by



Victoria Hospice since we opened our doors 40 years ago...

Happy 40th Anniversary! This is your Hospice.



Kevin Harter
CEO, Victoria Hospice



\$5/month

Supports training for Victoria Hospice nurses to improve patient care.

\$10/month

Helps run the Palliative Response Team vehicle for up to 24 home visits each year.

\$25/month

Sponsors four one-on-one counselling sessions to assist a grieving individual's journey.

\$50/month

Helps maintain our Rooftop Garden, bringing joy and serenity to our patients and families.

\$100/month

Brings comfort to up to 500 patients by funding special quality of life programs on Victoria Hospice's inpatient unit.

Rising to the challenge

In mid-March, the COVID-19 pandemic had reached our shores and swiftly affected every area of our lives, including the way we die. Our ability to connect with patients and families, and with one another, became strained.

What a challenge for our compassionate, hands-on care team for whom companionship and connection is integral to their work. Despite the restrictions, our dedicated frontline team rose to the challenge to provide the very best possible end-of-life care. The courage, strength, and resilience they demonstrated is inspiring.

We thank our generous donor community for their continued compassion and support and for empowering Victoria Hospice to provide the best end-of-life care for our patients and families during this extraordinary time. Victoria Hospice is committed to the highest standards of accountability and transparency.

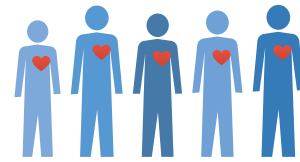
To learn more about the valuable work of our team and the impact of your donations over the last year, we invite you to read our 2019-20 Annual Report online today or contact our office at 250-519-1744 for your copy.



“Victoria Hospice began as a grassroots movement and has grown significantly thanks to members like you, to continued volunteer and donor support, to our partnership with Island Health, and to the ongoing advocacy efforts of countless individuals. Thank you for your commitment to Victoria Hospice and to quality palliative and end-of-life care for all.”

Paul Pallan, Victoria Hospice Society Board Chair

2019/20 HIGHLIGHTS



We increased our counselling team to **5!**

We doubled one-on-one counselling sessions to **40 per week!**



We increased the number of community members we supported by **30%!**

Patients admitted to the Inpatient Unit
455

1,296
Palliative Response Team home visits

Celebrate your loved one by dedicating a star.

The holiday season is a time for sharing memories of family and friends who are no longer with us. This year you may be separated from special family traditions or have endured the heartbreak of losing a loved one without the opportunity to grieve together. Please join us in celebrating the lives of our loved ones.

- **DEDICATE A STAR ONLINE** at victoriahospice.org/celebrate
- **REQUEST A STAR BE MAILED TO YOU** by calling **250-519-1744**, and either return it to us via the prepaid envelope to be hung on the Hospice tree, or keep it to hang on your tree at home.

For many, the holidays can be the most difficult time of the year. Find our tips for coping with the holidays when you are grieving at victoriahospice.org/celebrate or give Bereavement Services a call at **250-519-3040**.

Our grief support and programs are open to everyone and many are free of charge thanks to generous donor support.



Please join us in welcoming our new Medical Director

We are pleased to announce that Amy Tan, MD MSc CCFP (PC) FCFP has accepted the role of Medical Director, beginning November 15th, 2020.

“When I read Victoria Hospice’s 2019-24 Strategic Plan,” says Dr. Tan, “I felt as if someone was inside my brain. I was struck by how aligned my own professional goals are to the way Victoria Hospice envisions the future of hospice and palliative care, especially in the community. Needless to say, I am excited to join the team.”

An Associate Professor at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, Dr. Tan has been an attending home and hospice palliative care physician for sixteen years.

In 2017, she was named Top 40 Under 40 by Calgary’s Avenue Magazine in recognition of her passionate advocacy for advance care planning (ACP) and her work in primary

palliative care research. Dr. Tan is a lead investigator of a multi-provincial ACP study and has developed a framework used by the University of Alberta to teach family doctors how to talk about how to make end-of-life decisions.

“We are very fortunate to have someone with Dr. Tan’s calibre, energy, and vision to fill this important leadership role within Hospice,” says Kevin Harter, Victoria Hospice CEO. “Our teams look forward to collaborating with Dr. Tan so we may continue to succeed in fulfilling our mission of quality palliative and end-of-life care for all.”



Dr. Amy Tan,
Victoria Hospice
Medical Director

Hike for Hospice crosses the finish line

Following a postponement in the spring due to COVID-19 restrictions, Hike for Hospice was back this fall with a new, socially distanced concept taking place over two weeks.

The event began September 15 and continued through September 30, with people invited to bring their “bubbles” together to walk while distanced on a three-kilometre, self-directed route.

Hikers started at the Victoria Hospice Community Support Centre on Chatterton Way and made their way around Rithet’s Bog — right across the street. The centre opened its doors last October, offering bereavement programs and free grief counselling and is funded by community donations and events like Hike for Hospice.

Participants were asked to register online and create a fundraising page. This year, thanks to the generosity and spirit of all who participated, Hike for Hospice raised over \$36,000.

Hike for Hospice participants show their spirit while supporting Victoria Hospice



Hikers hung the names of loved ones on the Tree of Remembrance which remained on display at the Community Support Centre during the event

The gift of a lifetime

As the pandemic continues, and we adjust to our new normal, many of us are pausing to reflect on the past, while gaining new perspectives on what is important for the future. Compassionate end-of-life care has and continues to be a vital part of our community, and will be equally essential in the coming years.

Legacy giving is one way you can provide comfort and support to families, while gaining a sense of certainty, by ensuring compassionate care is available to patients and families today and into the future.

Considering a legacy gift?

Legacy gifts are given by people just like you, who believe in the importance of hospice care and the difference it can make in the lives of patients and families. Whether you have experienced hospice care with a loved one, been supported through our volunteer or bereavement services, or are passionate about

“One of my cousins, an uncle, an old family friend, my neighbour—they were all in hospice recently, and I’m incredibly thankful that this important and necessary service was there for them in their final days. I started thinking what if we had no such service? That’s why, in addition to my annual donations, I have become a legacy donor.”

Victoria Hospice Legacy Giving Donor, Dennie Rothschild

furthering research and education into end-of-life care, legacy gifts enable our programs and services to grow to meet the needs of our community. They also ensure future patients and families have access to compassionate care when they need it most.

*A Gift in your will
is a lasting legacy
of compassion for those
facing life-limiting
illnesses and
their loved ones.*

VICTORIA  HOSPICE



Quite simply, Victoria Hospice would not be what it is today without the legacies planned by those who seeded our programs of care long ago. Your gift can shape the future, ensuring comfort and dignity for patients and their families in the years to come.

If you are curious about simple ways to leave a legacy, or would like to explore how to honour a loved one with a future gift, please call me at 250-519-1743, email Shelley.Engelhardt@VictoriaHospice.org or visit www.victoriahospice.org/how-you-can-help/give-gift-future.

With gratitude for your ongoing support,

Shelley Engelhardt, Legacy Giving Officer



Your Donation Makes a Difference

☐ **YES!** I will join the Hospice Hearts Club!

My **monthly donation** will be: ☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other

☐ My **one-time donation** will be: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other

Name

Address

City/Province

Postal Code

Phone

Email

Credit card type: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx

Card #

Expiry date: ____ / ____

My donation is in memory of

Please send an acknowledgement letter to

Name

Address

City/Province

Postal Code

☐ Please send me Victoria Hospice Connections e-newsletters.

☐ I have included Victoria Hospice in my will.

☐ I would like to find out more about including Victoria Hospice in my will.

☐ I wish to remain anonymous.

Here to support our community through grief and loss

Grief is something that each of us will inevitably experience. Normally people rely on the support of family, friends, and community groups to help them navigate these challenging life events. However, COVID-19 has restricted access to these familiar supports and is changing the way that people grieve. Pandemic restrictions have placed heart-wrenching limitations. Family gatherings and funerals have often been delayed or cancelled, and consequently contact with supportive others is often minimal, forcing people to cope with illness and grief in isolation. This unfortunate situation can put people at greater risk for prolonged grief.

Victoria Hospice continues to provide bereavement support and counselling to the community, but the need for our service is in high demand. Thanks to generous donors like you, we are working toward meeting this high demand and supporting our community through grief and loss.



Room to Grieve, Space to Heal

One of the many devastating impacts of the increased isolation and decreased access to key harm reduction services brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic has been a significant increase in illicit drug toxicity deaths in B.C. As one response to the opioid and fentanyl crisis in our communities, this summer and early fall, Victoria Hospice piloted **Room to Grieve, Space to Heal**, a seven-week support group for adults who are grieving someone who has died by overdose. The group aims to enhance participants’ sense of community and belonging, explore unique features of grief in response to overdose death, and support the healing process of grief. This donor-funded pilot project was received with overwhelming gratitude and appreciation from all those who participated. We look forward to running the program again soon.

For more information on this and any of our Bereavement Groups please visit victoriahospice.org/bereavement-services or call our Community Support Centre at 250-519-3040.



Why join the Hospice Hearts Club?

Long-Term Impact	Stable Funding	Cost Effective
Monthly donations allow Victoria Hospice to take a planned, long-term approach ensuring that the programs and services available today continue in the weeks, months and years to come.	Monthly donations provide a stable source of revenue so Victoria Hospice can provide the best end-of-life care for our patients and families during uncertain times like these.	Monthly donations mean lower administration costs, which means more of your money goes to where it is needed the most: providing quality palliative and end-of-life care for our community.

Compassionate care at Victoria Hospice is made possible through the generosity of our community. The individuals listed below have been remembered by friends and loved ones with gifts to Victoria Hospice, In Memory and In Honour. These meaningful gifts honour precious lives and help to enhance quality of life for other patients and families in need. Gifts made In Memory or In Honour between July 1 and September 30, 2020:

IN MEMORY

Desmond J. Ahearne
Jannie Alderliesten
Moir Anderson
Renee Attwood
Jeannette Ballard
Pamela Barry
Alan Bascombe
Mary Bascombe
Bonnie Bell
Gwen Bentley
Joan I. Bertrand
Marie Boudreau
Glenn R. Boughton
Arthur R. Bryant
Bob Buckingham
D'Arcy Burke
Margaret E. Campbell
Joseph Carlson
Ann Chaland
Robert Chaland
Barbara Chambers
Marlene C. Cheng
Shirley Chew
David P. Christie
Salvatore Ciccone
Assunta Colangeli
Keri L. Coles
Gerri Cosgrove
George Cousins
Terry Cushing
Wing Dang
Dominic DeMeo
Clem Dion
Paul D'Orban
David J. Doust
Alan Drew
Stewart W. A. Duncan
Ron Dziadyk
Marge Elphick
Dykes Family
Guy Fenn
Ezra Ford
Ronald J. Friesen
Blair Friesen
Dyan Galenza

Lillian Gallie
Don Gard
Harriet Gasway
Velma Gauthier
Thelma Gauthier
Mike Geric
Karen L. Gilbert
Ed Graham
Dan Grant
Marguerite Green
Meghan Grimwood
M. Gropp
Victoria Guru Nanak
Dev Ji Walk
Robert Guskey
Susan J. Hall-Patch
Magda Halsaz
Nigel Harrison
Don Hatfield
Ian Hay
Joyce Hindle
Rick Hinton
Patrick Hirst
Vernon Holland
Sylvia Holm
Donna Hooper
Lelia Howarth
Nancy Hudak
Lesley Hulme
George Irvine
Nils Jensen
Kelly Jones
Jane M. Kelly
Leonard Kelly
Michael Kennedy
Eileen Kennedy
Norma J. Kitcher
Corr Knopp
Ryan C. Krisher
Carol Lalonde
Margaret Lang
Kenneth C. Lawrence
William J. Lawson
Kan Lee
Gareth Lewis
Keith Lightbody
Veronica Lind

Victoria Lindgren
George Lobson
Ed Lumley
Donald MacEachern
Ruth Mackie
Lee Marechek
Pieter Marsman
Shirley Mawdsley
Anna Mayer
Ray McDermott
Barbara Joan McDonald
Joe McGregor
Janice McIvor
Anne Marie McLaughlin
Crawford McLean
Edith McLean
Colin McNeil
Ronald B. Melrose
Brian Millward
Olive Minnings
Tara Mogentale
Dalyce W. Morson
Rosemary Mott
Jean Mozley
Thomas Murphy
Howard Newell
Ka- Ying Ngai
Soren Nielsen
Eliane Nugent
Robert Orlando
Blanche Page
David Parry
Evalyn Partridge
Gregg Paton
Freda Pearcey
Ernie Pearcey
Kevin Peterson
Mike Polsky
Elsie Polsky
James Purvis
Gordon J. Pynn
Lily Quan
Donald A. Rahrack
Sylvia Rice
Elizabeth Riehm

Judy Roberts
John Robertson
Heather Robertson
Milforde Rose
Tara S. Ross
John Rosu
Robert Rouse
Glen Roy
Sharon Rygh
Lavonne Schaddelee-Miller
Denise Schauback
Peter Schorle
Ken Schulz
Suzanne Skedgel-Hill
Gail Sleury
William Snow
Gordon Steer
Sheryl Steeves
Sandy Stewart
Terry Stewart
Roy Suffidy
Richard J. Summers
Edna Szabados
Peter Tennent
David Vaillancourt
Herta Von Barloewen
Jack Ward
George Waugh
Jean Waugh
Frances P. West
William J. West
Gloria Whitehead
Manel Wickremasinghe
Ruth Williamson
Karen Wipond
Barbara Woodruff
Jörg Wybranietz

IN HONOUR

Adam Harnden
Bev Hofoss
Clay Leonard
Margaret McCuaig
Collin W. Novis
Sooke Stokes

Victoria Hospice Vision

Quality palliative and end-of-life care for all

Victoria Hospice Mission

To enhance the quality of life for those facing life-limiting illness, death and bereavement, through patient and family centred care, education, research and advocacy

Victoria Hospice Society Board of Directors

Paul Pallan SOCIETY CHAIR	Wendy Hill
Angus Izard FOUNDATION & SOCIETY TREASURER	Christopher Lawless
Terry Farmer	Clark Lawrence
Brecon Gage	Lori Moen
Hugh A. Gordon	Laurie Pettinger
	Marguerite Rowe
	Andrew Wray

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Angus Izard FOUNDATION & SOCIETY TREASURER	Brecon Gage
	Clark Lawrence
	Lori Moen

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Would you like to share your Hospice story? We would love to hear from you.

Contact Carlie Curry
Annual Giving Officer
at 250-519-1744 or

Carlie.Curry@VictoriaHospice.org

Thank you.

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www.VictoriaHospice.org

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