

## Phonyin Tim: A shining light and legacy



“Unforgettable.”  
That’s Phonyin  
Tim.

Quick with  
a quip,  
radiant with  
intelligence  
and empathy,  
diminutive and  
strong.

The longtime Victoria Hospice volunteer left family, friends, and admirers who all say the same thing: they were better for having known her. She died at Victoria Hospice Mar. 7, 2020, at 89.

She also left a legacy through her will for the patients and families she cared so much about.

“Phonyin Tim was a deeply respected member of our hospice community who touched so many lives,” says Victoria Hospice CEO Kevin Harter. “We’re grateful for all the ways she

supported hospice over the years.”

Phonyin joined Victoria Hospice as a volunteer in 1994 and gave her time on the Inpatient Unit, the Rooftop Garden, and in key administrative projects.

Her nephew, Colin Wong, recalls her eloquence, indomitable style, and wit made Phonyin so memorable to everyone she met. “When people saw her or spoke to her, they took a moment,” he says. “It was so unique to be in her company.”

Phonyin was dashing, too, in her baby blue 1960s VW Bug and trademark red lipstick.

“She was so tiny, but her heart and her spirit made her a giant to me,” says Tracey Walker, former Victoria Hospice financial analyst. I had to look down when we were speaking, but I always figuratively looked up to her. She was larger than life and shone so brightly, such a pleasure to be with.”

She was an English major in Johannesburg when oppressive apartheid laws and segregation were introduced by the National Party. Like other non-white communities, South African Chinese people faced extreme discrimination.

Phonyin emigrated to Victoria, solo, in 1967. That year, she joined the



## What matters most?

Thank you for honouring the values and heartfelt wishes of people who are dying.

Learn more about our **What Matters Most Appeal** on page 5.

University of Victoria as Department Secretary and continued to hold senior administrative roles at UVic and in healthcare, including Executive Secretary to the Victoria General Hospital Executive Director.

“Here you have a single woman emigrating to Canada on her own – she really was pioneering in the way she went about things,” says Colin.

Phonyin’s skills found a valued place in the organization of patient information resources, says Kay Larsen, former volunteer manager.

“Phonyin was known by all who interacted with her for her smile, her sharp wit, and genuine caring for hospice. I loved having her pop in

Phonyin and her brothers



## Proposed new site passes Greater Victoria School Board third reading

Victoria Hospice is one step closer to expanding access to palliative end-of-life care in the community. A Greater Victoria School Board bylaw to subdivide and sell 1.3 acres of land to Victoria Hospice passed the third and final required reading on Mar 14, 2022.

The bylaw, "School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Lansdowne Middle School, South Campus (formerly Richmond Elementary School) Site Partial Disposal Bylaw 2022", involves a triangular-shaped parcel of land bordering Bowker Creek.

The sale is subject to approval from the Ministry of Education by June 30. This will be followed by an in-depth review period by the Victoria Hospice Society Board of Directors. The design intent for the potential new site allows for a diverse array of environmental and social benefits, including multiuse green spaces for Hospice clients and families, an outdoor classroom, and public greenway access.

"It's still a long road ahead but we are cautiously optimistic about this ideal site for a new home for Victoria Hospice," says Victoria Hospice CEO Kevin Harter. "We are grateful for the support we have received from people in our community, including our loyal donors and volunteers, and we look forward to ongoing collaboration and dialogue with all of our stakeholders."

For up-to-date news and stories anytime, please visit

[www.victoriahospice.org/stories](http://www.victoriahospice.org/stories).

## Phonyin Tim: A shining light and legacy, *continued from page 1*

my door at the start and end of her Friday afternoon shift. She would always have a funny remark that would brighten my day."

Hospice also was a place of connection for Phonyin at the end of her life.

"Sometimes when people are admitted to hospice, you're not quite sure how they will take it. For Auntie Phon, it was home," says Colin.

Her room became a gathering place for friends and family.

"Everyone was stopping in to see her, and hospice did a lot to embrace all the visiting. She knew so many people – even Todd, her letter carrier, made a point to visit," Colin says.

"Friends and colleagues from her long time in Victoria, and family from far away came to see her."

The family fondly remembers a special moment when Phonyin was delighted by a surprise visit from Gilbert, a great-nephew she had not yet met—all the way from England.

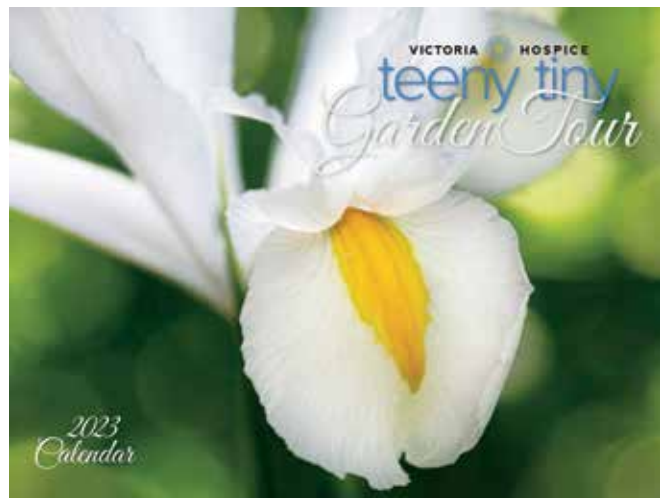
"Here you have someone who is enjoying her life so much, but you know how sick she is," Colin says. "For those 30 days, hospice was very comfortable for her."

Phonyin's legacy gift will help ensure others are also surrounded by compassionate care at the end of life.

"We were so lucky to have Phonyin as a member of the Victoria Hospice community," says Director of Development Wendy Innes. "She graced us with her exceptional generosity of time and spirit for so long, and now, her gift will support more people in the future."

## On sale now!

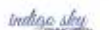
The Teeny Tiny Garden Tour 2023 Calendar lets inspiration last all year long. Featuring exquisite blooms and garden hideaways, the calendar now includes moon phases for your lunar planting plans.



Calendars are \$20 with all proceeds supporting compassionate end-of-life care at Victoria Hospice, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.

Special thanks to volunteer photographers Lorna Shaw and Pam Irvine.

Order online at [victoriahospice.org](http://victoriahospice.org)



# Gifts of a lifetime

## Planning your legacy

The ability to help others is one of life's greatest gifts. But what if we could extend our influence to help others after our lifetime?

Some Victoria Hospice supporters have taken a visionary step to create a charitable legacy. If you are updating your will or writing your will for the first time, here are some things to consider.

### Ways you can give

A gift in your will is a meaningful way to support Victoria Hospice. Every gift, no matter the size, makes an impact.

You can support patients and families with a specific gift, which may be a dollar amount, securities, annuities, life insurance, residual interest, RRSPs, and RRIFs. An endowed

gift may establish a permanent fund in your name or a loved one's name. Interest generated from the endowment ensures your legacy will continue long into the future.

### Make an impact

Has hospice care touched your life? Perhaps grief counselling supported you at a difficult time.

You can direct your gift toward a specific purpose such as the Inpatient Unit, Bereavement Services, or Education and Research, if you wish. Whether directed to a particular service or the area of greatest need, your vision for the future can be fulfilled.

### Connect and consult

Speaking with loved ones and beneficiaries about your wishes is such



an important part of planning your legacy. Your financial advisor can show you how legacy giving benefits your estate.

Contact Michelle Atamanchuk to learn more about helping patients and families through your legacy gift.

## Victoria Hospice welcomes Michelle Atamanchuk

Meet Michelle Atamanchuk, Victoria Hospice's new Legacy and Planned Giving Officer!

Michelle joins us from Brandon, Manitoba, and brings her extensive experience of community involvement and fundraising leadership across multiple organizations to Victoria Hospice.

Working with donors to create opportunities for students at Assiniboine Community College since 2009, Michelle raised funds for scholarships, awards, bursaries, and capital projects. She has served as a director on the Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation and

Construction Association of Rural Manitoba boards, and as Advisory Board Chair for Westman Dreams for Kids.

Joining Victoria Hospice is also a homecoming for Michelle. After 25 years in Manitoba, Michelle is delighted to return to her BC roots.

"I understand the Victoria Hospice circle of care includes many supporters who are dedicated to ensuring hospice care for future generations," Michelle says. "I am so looking forward to connecting with this compassionate community."

If you would like to find out more about leaving a legacy, contact



Michelle at 250-812-3753 or [michelle.atamanchuk@victoriahospice.org](mailto:michelle.atamanchuk@victoriahospice.org).



# Victoria Hospice supporters knocked it out of the park!

Sunshine, big smiles, and strong support made our first in-person event since 2019 a true celebration. 300 people and 30 teams raised more than \$55,000 for compassionate end-of-life care in our community at Hike for Hospice Sunday, May 1. Way to go!

Five retirement communities participated in Hike on Your Site this year. Big thanks to participants from Amica Douglas House, Berwick Royal Oak, The Cridge Village Seniors' Centre, Marrion Village, and Ross Place. Collectively, these retirement communities raised \$3,000!

Thank you to everyone who fundraised in creative ways, sponsored, and supported Hike for Hospice again this year. Thank you for walking together to honour people we are missing—families and chosen families, friends, neighbours, dear ones.

**See you again  
at Fisherman's Wharf Park  
May 7, 2023!**





# What matters most?

Dr. Christine Jones, MD, CCFP, FCFP

As a palliative care physician, I ask people every day what matters most to them. Their answers are as individual as they are, but there's one thing everyone has in common.

People who are dying want us to listen—really listen—to what's most important as they face the end of their life.

Nicole lived only a few months after a devastating diagnosis. What mattered most was being prepared for death—not only for herself, but for her young daughters. She wrote letters and recorded messages to help her girls find their way without her. She met with the Victoria Hospice child and youth counsellor and felt relieved to know her children

would be supported after she was gone. Nicole wanted to stay at home for as long as she could, and our Palliative Response Team made that happen.

For Jordan, who died from cancer in his late teens, what mattered most was preventing his family's distress about his symptoms.

Expert pain management and a portable medication allowed Jordan to create more happy memories with his little brother. Jordan told nurses how much he appreciated being able to go out and not have too much attention drawn to his illness, which had not been his experience for a long time.

“Joe” was registered for hospice care long before he decided to go to the Inpatient Unit. What mattered most to Joe was going to his neighbourhood pub every day for a beer and a bowl of soup. Palliative care at home allowed Joe to maintain the routine he enjoyed so much for as long as possible.

For Rosemary, celebrating a royal wedding mattered. Supported by the Inpatient Unit care team, her family made a party of it, complete with elegant attire, cucumber sandwiches, champagne, and laughter.

For Cheryl, what mattered most was enjoying time and special occasions with her family—including a Halloween-in-July celebration on the unit.

Everyone wants to be seen as a person, not a patient. As Nicole, Jordan, Joe, Rosemary and Cheryl's dying time approached, they weren't defined by their illness. They received care aligned with what mattered most to them.

Thank you for helping us honour the values and heartfelt wishes of people who are dying. Learn more about our **What Matters Most** appeal at [victoriahospice.org/what-matters-most](http://victoriahospice.org/what-matters-most).



Dr. Christine Jones with Palliative Response Team members: Elspeth Gamble (RN), Nancy Payeur (PRT Counsellor) and Palliative Care Fellow Dr. Mei Wen



## Your Donation Makes a Difference

**YES!** I will join the Hospice Hearts Monthly Giving 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  in honour of . . . . .

Please send an acknowledgement letter to

Name . . . . .  
 Address . . . . .  
 City/Prov/Postal . . . . .

- 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.

Compassionate end-of-life care at Victoria Hospice is made possible through the generosity of our community. The people named below have been commemorated in memory by friends and loved ones through gifts to Victoria Hospice between January 21 and May 3, 2022:

**IN MEMORY** Maria Abbott • Sidney Alexander • Douglas Anderson • Emiko Arakawa • Kathleen Arnold • Penny Authier • Gordon Ayre • Cecil K. Baker  
Jeannette Ballard • Pamela Barry • Alan Bascombe • Mary Bascombe • David Bayne • Alex Beattie • Bonnie Bell • Gwen Bentley • Lyle Biagioni • Judy L. Bickert  
Marie Boudreau • Scott Boyd • Greg Briggs • Fred Briscoe • Hazel Brooks • Bob Buckingham • Pauline Burton  
John Burton • Robert Cameron • Maggie Campbell • Margaret E. Campbell • Ann Chaland • Robert Chaland  
Michael L. Chupick • Raymond Cole • Keri L. Coles • Stephen Crothall • Patricia E. Crozier • Sarah R. Cunningham  
Carol Cutforth • Shelley Deglan • John Dickson • Wilma Dixon • Jessie I. Dodge • Elaine Donaldson  
Neville Doodha • Neil Drewry • Stewart W. A. Duncan • Marjorie Elphick • David English • Eric Erickson  
Daniel F. Ferguson • Pat Fleet • Rex Fleet • Joyce Folbigg • Jane A. Frampton • Susan Fritz • Donald Gajda  
Kathleen Game • Leonard Game • Clement Gaudet • Patricia Gibb • Dawn Gibson • Enrica Glickman  
Adam Gooch • James C. Gordon • Phyllis Gray • Marguerite Green • M. Gropp • George Gurney • Robert Guskey  
Isabelle Hare • Joyce Hashka • Jennifer C. Hastie • Bunny Hawkes • Hugh H. Hayes • Garry Hayes  
Joan Herbertson • Brendan Holden • Elaine Hooper • Jack Hooper • Donna Hooper • Lesley Hulme • James Hume  
Noreen Hutchinson • Don Irish • Mary Irish • Kelly Jones • Walter Jorgensen • Eileen Kenwood • Donald Knight  
Gladys Knight • Zdena Koutnak • Allan Kraft • Ryan C. Krisher • Jerald Kustaski • Lois Lacheur  
Middleton Lambert • Kenneth C. Lawrence • William Lawson • Grace Lawton • Lisa J. Layton • Ruth Leach  
Peter Leahy • Dolores Leavitt • Victoria Lindgren • Paul Mably • Rob MacIntyre • Ruth Mackie • Judy Maclachlan  
Josee Malo • Grant Marshall • Shirley Mawdsley • Hazel McCudden • John M. McDonald • Ron McKeever  
Alan G. Meredith • Donna C. Moore • Frances Moran • John Motala • Jean Mozley • Henry R. Murray • Eliane Nugent  
Gail Owens • David Parry • Evalyn Partridge • Rita J. Paulhus • Albert E. Peeling • James Perry • Paul Perry  
Sylvia B. Plumridge • John Plumridge • Lily Quan • Ailsa Quann • Donald A. Rahrnick • Terry C. Ridley  
John Robertson • William A. Romain • Milforde Rose • Tara S. Ross • Robert C. Ross • Robert Rouse  
Lorraine Sedgman • John F. Shaneman • John J. Sheppy • Suzanne Skedgel-Hill • Dorothy Sluggett • Geoff Smith  
William Snow • David A. Sololski • Patricia Stanlake • Mable Stanley • Eleanor B. Starke • Sheryl Steeves  
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Richard Von Tigerstrom • Denise Voss • Donna Weaver • William J. West • Derek Whittle • Jennifer Whybrow  
Jim Wilson • Donna Wood • Jörg Wybranietz • Wendy E. Wyles

transitions

THE NEWSLETTER OF

VICTORIA  HOSPICE

We'd love to hear your hospice story. Please connect with us if you would like to share your experience.

Contact Raisa Frenette  
Development Officer  
rfrenette@VictoriaHospice.org

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1952 Bay Street, Victoria BC V8R 1J8  
250-519-1744

Charitable Registration Number  
11928 4230 RR0001

Victoria Hospice respects your privacy and we do not sell, trade, lend, or rent your personal information.

## Teeny Tiny Garden Spotlight: Bonnie and Ruth's urban oasis

When Bonnie's mother, Ruth, created an urban oasis on her 1915 property in James Bay, she had bed and breakfast guests in mind—and wildlife. She developed lush gardens to nourish birds, insects, and the soul of anyone who visits.

When Ruth died in 2020, Bonnie inherited the beautiful home and garden, and Ruth's love for both.

"I promised her I would look after the garden—her passion—which has now become my passion. I miss my mom so much and I am closest to her when I am in the garden."

A painter whose creativity was expressed on canvas, not in the garden, Bonnie learned as she went—from the ground up.

"It has provided so much comfort to be in her garden—as

much as it's been a learning curve. But I am so in love with it and enjoy all the little things, especially in spring. It's very creative in many ways. I like to think Mom was an artist in the way she composed her garden."

A private space sheltered by a big cedar and Portuguese Laurel hedge, the garden's rich plant population includes maples, lilacs, three kinds of hydrangeas, three kinds of roses, smoke bush, honeysuckle, Fatsia trees, Russian sage, hostas, phlox and so much more.

For Bonnie, opening the gates for the Teeny Tiny Garden Tour on June 12 was also homage to the care her mom received from the Victoria Hospice Palliative Response Team that helped Ruth remain in her home at her end of life in 2020, and for the care her sister, Heather-Ann, received on the Inpatient Unit when she died in 2019.

"My mom was a long-time monthly donor to Victoria Hospice," says Bonnie. "I'm so glad to be able to continue her support in this way."

*If you know a special garden you'd like to see featured on the tour next year, give us a call at 250-519-1744.*

Ruth Laird

