

transitions

THE NEWSLETTER OF VICTORIA  HOSPICE

SPRING 2024

A gift of comfort

Compassionate care at Victoria Hospice focuses on what matters most to people in their dying time. Sometimes, what matters most might be a nice warm bath.

A generous donation has provided supportive equipment that allows a person to safely lie down in a bath – a nice addition to the existing bath chair on the Inpatient Unit.

It's gift that holds a lot of meaning for donor Dana Wessel, whose contribution came to Victoria Hospice through the Victoria Foundation.

"Victoria Hospice was so very supportive to us as we were caring for my mother in our home last year. My mother loved her baths, and it became increasingly difficult to maneuver her into the tub. One of the last pleasures in her long (104 years) life was a warm water soak about a week before her peaceful death. We are delighted to know that others will be able to enjoy their baths in the comfort of their end-of-life Victoria Hospice home."



A generous donation adds to comfort on the Inpatient Unit.

Our dedicated care team extends their wholehearted thanks to Dana and all our donors whose generosity makes compassionate care possible at Victoria Hospice.



Focusing all my love on him

Support from Victoria Hospice inspired Debbie Greentree to raise more than \$2,300 by participating in Hike for Hospice last year. We're grateful to Debbie for sharing her experience here.

My husband, Lynn Greentree, had a gift for making people feel important. He was a unique and treasured individual and he always found the good in others. Whenever any healthcare folks came to see us, he always would smile and show an interest in them and ask what they were up to.

Lynn passed at the age of 71 in March 2022, just eleven months after receiving a cancer diagnosis. He seemed able to accept his fate, telling me we've been dealt a bad hand, but life goes on. For me, it's still hard to accept. He was so healthy – I thought we had another ten or fifteen years.

I was consumed with worry from the moment Lynn was diagnosed. My concerns were relieved through support from the Victoria Hospice Palliative

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Registration is open!

HIKE FOR HOSPICE SUNDAY, MAY 5

Register to walk and buy 50/50 tickets at victoriahospice.org/hike

Every reason to love

Just because you have loved, it doesn't mean you can't love again.

That's the philosophy of newlyweds Maureen Connolly and Miles Maxie.

Both experienced long and loving marriages and were devastated when their spouses died. But a chance meeting in a Victoria Hospice grief support group led to friendship, and a few years later – a wedding.

Their individual but shared experiences of caregiving and bereavement established common ground early on.

"We really understood each other and understood each other's pain," Maureen says.

Miles's wife, Linda, who died in 2018, and Maureen's husband, Chris, who died in 2019, both received end-of-life care at Victoria Hospice. After caring for their spouses at home, both Miles and Maureen were relieved by the compassionate support they found on the Inpatient Unit.

"When you're caregiving at home, you're busy and you worry about all the things you need to do," Miles says. "When we got to hospice, Linda said, 'Now I have my husband back'. We were able to just visit and be together. I'd come early in the morning and have breakfast with her, and sometimes bring her barbequed bacon."

Maureen's experience was similar. "It was the first time I didn't need to run around doing the laundry and the cleaning," she



The individual but shared experiences of caregiving and bereavement established common ground for Maureen Connolly and Miles Maxie.

says. "Hospice was able to take over and make sure Chris was very comfortable."

Miles and Maureen's new life includes all their cherished memories of Linda and Chris.

"We loved our spouses with all our hearts. We had every reason to love them, and we still do. But that doesn't have to stop us from loving someone else," Maureen says.

Focusing all my love on him *Continued from page one*

Response Team as his illness progressed. Their regular visits and phone calls enabled Lynn to fulfill his wish to remain at home for as long as possible before receiving end-of-life care on the Inpatient Unit.

When Lynn arrived at hospice he seemed at peace and relaxed and no longer worrying about me helping him. Thanks to the volunteers and staff, I was able to focus all my love on him.

At hospice, they really understand where you are at on this journey even if you're feeling despair, sadness, and not really accepting the outcome. The conversations we had with the counsellors on the unit helped me and my family members feel seen, heard and cared for, the same way Lynn always did.

After Lynn passed, I took advantage of the grief counselling sessions offered at Victoria Hospice, and also joined a Walking Through Grief Group and I found people who were

going through the same process as me.

I participated in Hike for Hospice in honour of Lynn last spring. They give so much at Victoria Hospice, and I wanted to give back. It did feel strange asking for donations, but I did it, and I was successful. I was floored by all the support I received but it's such a worthy cause. As much as none of us want to be seriously sick or need end-of-life care, most of us are going to need this service at some point.

Each year, more than 5,000 donors help raise the funds needed to support patients and families through donations, special events, and gifts by Will. Their generosity provides the compassionate end-of-life care that makes Victoria Hospice so special.

Exceptional dedication

Volunteer Olga Gill

For Olga Gill, Victoria Hospice is all about connection.

She's supported patients, families, and staff as a dedicated volunteer for almost 18 years.

"This is where I found my true calling, being with those at the end of life, listening to their stories and providing the best support possible," she says. "I'm not just a volunteer. I don't just go there, make tea, and go home. It's far more than that. You make a commitment and embody a hospice heart."

The importance of being versus doing and simply being present to listen are things she learned through her hospice experience, she says.

"It is a privilege to be part of the Victoria Hospice family. Taking care of the whole person and their family is what it's all about. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve."

In addition to offering her gifts of time and presence, Olga supports patients and families as a loyal donor and has decided to leave a legacy to Victoria Hospice in her Will. "You put your money where your heart is, not just where your mouth is," she says. "I give because I share the same values and the staff is exceptional."

Olga Gill has volunteered in many areas of service from the Inpatient Unit to fundraising events. We're grateful to Olga and all our volunteers!



A very special delivery from Berwick Royal Oak

Members of the Berwick Royal Oak Retirement Community aren't simply fantastic fundraisers, they deliver! We were honoured by their recent visit and generous donation of \$3,085– AND a delicious tray of treats for our care team, which were greatly appreciated.

Talented makers donated Tuck Shop sales of knitted and crocheted items, along with woodworks, hand-painted cards, and paper flowers. These generous artisans also donated proceeds from their annual Christmas Market, and half the funds raised at Berwick Royal Oak's month Theme Dinner Nights 50/50 draw also went to Victoria Hospice.

"Many residents at Berwick Royal Oak have had a loved one supported by





Victoria Hospice and they feel very passionately about supporting such wonderful services," Rachelle Reath,

Active Living Manager says.

We could not be more grateful to such devoted community fundraisers!



Save the dates!

SUNDAY, MAY 5	SUNDAY, JUNE 9	JULY 20-21	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
Hike for Hospice	Teeny Tiny Garden Tour	Cycle of Life Tour	Fashion for Compassion
			
Gather friends and fundraise to support compassionate end-of-life care and honour loved ones you are missing.	Connect to the beauty of some of Victoria's loveliest gardens on this fan-favourite tour. Tickets go on sale at select locations around town in May.	Cyclists take on a two-day challenge to support hospice care on Vancouver Island. Pledge your support at cycleoflifetour.ca	Watch for tickets on sale soon for this fabulous fashion show, delicious lunch, and more at the Delta Ocean Pointe Resort!



Tax Tips Webinar available anytime

A new webinar from Will Power, a national movement inspiring Canadians to think differently about their charitable giving, offers financial planning tips on ways to set up your estate to help loved ones and charities while reducing your tax bill. It's free, and you can attend anytime. Go to willpower.ca/webinar

Setting the bar high: Goldstream 161

Colleagues, coworkers, and service club members: the Hike for Hospice team challenge is ON!

The Goldstream 161 Masonic Lodge raised a whopping \$17,000 at Hike for Hospice 2023 and they have the trophy to prove it.

They raised funds to honour the memory of their dear friend, Brodie, who died at hospice in 2019.

In addition to encouraging pledges and donations from family, friends, and community members, this top fundraising team held a "Burger and a Beer" event, a Super Bowl party, and a bottle drive.

Will you accept the challenge? Sign your team up at victoriahospice.org/hike



Hike for Hospice registration is open!

New this year: Clover Point Park venue

Gather a team, challenge colleagues, or walk solo to raise funds for compassionate end-of-life care and bereavement support at Victoria Hospice on Sunday, May 5.

This year's 3.5 km family-friendly walk starts and ends at Clover Point Park and winds along the waterfront and the scenic streets of Fairfield.

There are so many ways to participate: Get competitive for the Workplace Challenge, bring a four-legged friend to win the "Best Dressed Dog" award, or Hike on Your Site – wherever suits you best. And if you'd like to volunteer, your help is appreciated! And don't forget to pick up your ticket for the 50/50 draw! Longtime participant Annette Quan says

Hike for Hospice is a way to actively celebrate someone you are missing.

"We talk about the good times, and it gives us a chance to remember," she says. "It's a great opportunity for anyone who is missing someone you love to go out there and be with people who know how you feel – to be with others and to be there for others."

Check-in and entertainment at Clover Point starts at 9 a.m., opening ceremonies at 9:45 a.m., and the walk begins at 10 a.m.

How it works:

1. **Register online** and create a fundraising page. Go to victoriahospice.org/hike
2. **Set your goal** and spread the word to family and friends.
3. **Join us May 5** at Clover Point to Hike for Hospice and celebrate your success!

To volunteer or for more information, contact Debbie Greenway at debbie.greenway@victoriahospice.org or 250-519-1747.



Your Donation Makes a Difference

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

My **monthly donation** will be: ☐ \$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 or in honour by friends and loved ones through gifts to Victoria Hospice from November 1, 2023 to February 13, 2024.

IN MEMORY Alice Adams • Trevor Alexander • Sidney Alexander • Mary Lois Alford • Valerie J. Anderson • Fred Angene Marion Armstrong • Eileen Atkins • Tamara M. Atkinson • Sherry Austin • Penny Authier • Darshan Bains • Jeannette Ballard Lionel W. Barber • Irene Barnes • Pamela Barry • Dennis Bartel • Robert E. Bearpark • Helen Beirnes • Bonnie Bell Ute Berrer • Guy Bicknell • The Bingham • Alan D. Birdsall • Robert Blaikie • Kathryn Blaikie • Donna Boffo • Carol Bond David Bone • Shiu Bou • Glenis M. Boudreau • Margaret M. Bourke • Arlene J. Boyden • Lyla J. Braz • Sheila Breen Andrea Brice • Mary Briglia • Barrie W. Brinkworth • Larry Bristol • Bob Buckingham • Lori E. Burley • Larry Cade • Ingrid Caines Bob Caines • Dawn S. Cameron • Margaret Campbell • Beth Campbell • Michael Campden • Doreen Carriss • Walter T. Carter Cindy Casey • John Catto • Donald Cawley • Kathleen S. Chan • Dale Chekwech • Marlene C. 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IN HONOUR Celia Alexander-Scott • Daugulis Family • G. P. Fatt • Gardiner Family • Gloria Greeniaus • Karen Hogg • Darlene Hollingsworth • Jane Peverett Rasna Pitt • Serena Pitt • Trish Reid • Robert Scott • Loring Trent • Barbara Wiggins

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

Contact Lorealee Smyth
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