

Hospice Palliative Care Society of Cape Breton County

Summer 2022 Newsletter

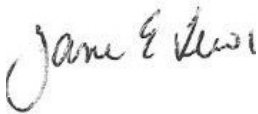
Hellos and Good-Byes

2022 has proven to be an exciting year for the Hospice Palliative Care Society of Cape Breton County. With our NSH partners, and with open arms and warm hearts, we welcomed our first patients and families to Hospice Cape Breton in March. The Society is grateful to all within the Palliative Care Service who managed the many processes to make that happen (in a pandemic), and who continue to offer, day in and day out, the best in palliative and hospice care in Canada.

We also welcomed our new Executive Director, Corrie Stewart and a new Administrative Assistant, Faranak Beigmohammadi (who is working with us on a term contract to the end of the year). A more complete introduction to Corrie and Faranak follows on page 2.

The opening of Hospice Cape Breton has meant welcome to many new volunteers, an expansion of programs and services, and a lush and beautiful garden that now enables the calm and tranquility of nature to be part of patient and family care.

While welcomes are wonderful, good-byes can be difficult and this year, we have had two significant retirements; Kathy Forsey and Aurelle Landry. Kathy was the Society's Administrative Assistant since its inception, agreeing to take minutes at one meeting and staying for 35 years! For 25 of those, she was our only employee and truly involved in all work that was ours. Aurelle joined the Society as Executive Director 10 years ago, in a part-time job that quickly evolved to be a full-time one at half-time salary. Aurelle brought experience, wisdom, kindness and endless skills to our operations. We are filled with gratitude for all of the contributions made by Kathy and Aurelle and we wish them happy and healthy retirements. We also temper our goodbyes in reporting that both Kathy and Aurelle were granted Life Memberships in June. We look forward to their continuing association with us in this new capacity.



Dr. Jane Lewis
Chair



Fits like a Glove



When someone, or something fits, it just feels right. When it came to filling the role of Executive Director of the Hospice Palliative Care Society of Cape Breton County, Corrie Stewart fit the bill. With over 25 years of experience in business accounting, and a leader in finance, human resources and operations management, Corrie knows his way around a spread sheet. And, as a Minister to four local congregations, he also knows the importance of compassionate care for patients and families as they face their last moments together. Corrie's unique skill sets will serve our community, and the Society well.

Jane Lewis, Co-Chair of the Society says, "Corrie has a Masters in Divinity, is a Chartered Professional Accountant, a Project Management Professional, and has an MBA in finance. His combination of business acumen, problem solving skills and empathy are just what's needed in the daily running of the Society and its myriad of tasks and challenges." Corrie says he sees this as an opportunity to merge his calling to Ministry with his management, financial and human resources experience. Welcome Corrie!



The Society is also pleased to welcome Faranak Beigmohammadi as Administrative Assistant for the next several months. With Kathy Forsey's retirement and Alicia MacIntosh's maternity leave, there was a definite need to have a capable and friendly person to work in the office. Faranak has been working with Aurelle Landry since April and now joins Corrie Stewart in keeping the Society and Board in motion. Faranak has been residing in Sydney since January 2020. She came to the Society following a position she held in CBU's Verschuren Centre. Welcome Faranak!

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Special Needs–Special Person

Patsy Hannam loved being outdoors. She was independent, a skilled athlete—particularly in the curling rink—and an active member of Horizon Achievement Centre. Patsy worked in catering at Horizon Achievement Centre, as well as a cleaner at the YMCA, a job at which she excelled. Patsy had special needs, and her cousin Edna Weatherbee explains that her family was very appreciative of the care Patsy received through the Palliative Care Service, supported by the Hospice Palliative Care Society of Cape Breton County.



Patsy passed away in August of 2020. Edna says the healthcare staff working within the Service treated Patsy with respect and compassion. “They would speak directly to her, and they would really listen” says Edna. “They just knew how to ask the right questions and the access to care was so easy.” Edna was particularly impressed with just how quickly answers or help would come after making a phone call. “We never had to wait, as soon as we would make a call, someone would get back to us within 24 hours.” Edna says their experience was extremely positive as they took the journey with Patsy.

Palliative Care Service Update

There have been many evolutions in the Service over the years. The most recent are the operational opening of Hospice Cape Breton and the expansion of our admission criteria for the An Cala Palliative Care Pain and Symptom Management Inpatient Unit at Cape Breton Regional Hospital. Our goal has always been to support those facing life limiting illness, and their families, to live their best quality of life and to also support a dignified end-of-life.

The ongoing and long-standing partnership between Nova Scotia Health’s Palliative Care Service and the Hospice Palliative Care Society of Cape Breton County

remains integral to providing quality hospice and palliative care to our patients and families. Providing specialized care in a patient’s setting of choice is what drives our evolution and shared dedication.

Referrals to the Service from Jan 1, 2022 to July 25, 2022 stand at 629. There have been 194 patient deaths in the same period in the An Cala Unit, 121 taking place at home and 22 taking place at Hospice Cape Breton. The need to support patients and families continues to grow and the Service and Society will continue to meet every medical and personal need with compassion and care.





Together We Care Golf Tournament



Sunflower Treasures Pop Up Shop

Thanks to the tireless efforts of many, many volunteers, including Mary Ann Cohen and Heather Dunn (pictured above) and the generous donations and purchases made by members of the community, **Sunflower Treasures Pop Up Shop # 5** was a great success contributing to patient and family funding support. Pop Up Shop Chair, Cheryl Read, and her dedicated planning team have raised more than \$120,000 through these five community Pop Up Shops.

Sustaining & Growing Programs

Hospice Cape Breton brings the Circle of Care to completion in terms of settings, thanks to many generous donors. As the Society moves forward and assumes new responsibilities with larger patient numbers, new programs for both patients and families will be developed and existing ones expanded, where possible. We hope that you will continue to support us as generously as you have in the past.

Going for the Green

The **Together We Care** Golf Tournament returned this year thanks to volunteer committee efforts led by Herb Martell. This event has raised over \$700,000 in its 23-year existence. This year's winning team was Cape Breton University's Team 1 and included President David Dingwall, John MacKinnon, Doug Connors and Jay Dingwall. Many thanks to the sponsors, prize donors, planning committee, volunteers and all participants.

Save the Date!

Hockey Night in Cape Breton

October 15th • Centre 200

Wear your favourite hockey jersey and enjoy games, dinner and dancing.

More details to come via www.hospicecapebreton.org and the Hospice Cape Breton Facebook site.

☐ Yes, I would like to make a donation to the HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE SOCIETY of CAPE BRETON COUNTY

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Thank you for your support!

☐ I would like to receive information to join the Circle of Caring monthly giving program

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