

Season Greetings Everyone!

December 21, 2022

As Christmas and the dawn of 2023 draws near, we reflect on an extraordinary year, one of significant highs and lows for our Society.

In January, Alicia delighted us all with the safe delivery of Jessie Claire her beautiful new daughter. A Hospice baby was a wonderful way in which to start a new year.

In March, we welcomed our first patients to Hospice. As with all new homes, some things have needed tweaking. But overall, we have built a great facility, well designed for purpose. Our garden, (designed by Gary Mesics), and nurtured by a talented group of garden volunteers, has already proven to be an asset in patient and family care. (Thank you to Patricia for her gardener's vision on this). Feedback from all is confirming that our work on all aspects of home and property, is well worth our efforts.

June was a month of hellos and good byes. The long-expected retirements of long-term staff Kathy Forsey and Aurelle Landry became reality. We welcomed Corrie Stewart, as new Executive Director and temporary admin support from, Faranak Beigmohammadi. At our annual meeting we awarded life memberships to Aurelle, Kathy and Nancy. We also launched the Carol McKeen award for volunteers (in honor of Carol's long service as Volunteer Coordinator). Pamela LeVatte was our first recipient of the award.

2022 saw our Fundraising back in full swing; with fundraising committee chaired by Helen Graham. Tickets on Peking Chinese Dinners in March sold out in a week. In May, shoppers lined up in Sydney Forks for the return of the hugely-popular Pop-Up Shop (under the leadership of Cheryl and team). June saw the very successful return of our Golf Tournament in Baddeck, chaired by Herb. In October, Hockey for Hospice (co-chaired by Herb and Helen) broke new ground. It's been a busy and successful year.

Throughout 2022, Public Relations (Co-chaired by Irene Khattar and Darlene Boone), with assistance of Vibe Communications), led us through the process of our soon-to-be-launched new visual identity. Also continuing, and at the core of our Circle of Caring in Cape Breton, is our partnership with Nova Scotia Health. We feel blessed by this partnership and grateful to all individuals involved. We also feel blessed by the continuing contribution of amazing staff; Corrie, Jill and Alicia. They are extraordinary individuals.

The latter months of 2022 brought some sadness for all of us. October saw the passing of Dr. Peter Jackson, past Chair of our Society, and beloved husband of Patricia. On December 10th, we lost Nancy, also past Chair and life member. There is some comfort in knowing that Nancy passed peacefully, in the comfort and care of the Hospice she helped build. Our Society would not be what it is without these individuals. Their footprints on "us" will live on as part of their legacy.

It is a privilege to be part of this organization, committed to the comfort and care of others at the end of life's journey. We extend warmest holiday wishes and thank you for all that you do.

Jane/Chair

Cheryl / Vice Chair

Irene /Past Chair

