



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Oak Ridges Hospice announces its first Medical Director and new Board Chair**

**Port Perry, ON:** Oak Ridges Hospice (ORH) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Steve Russell as its first Medical Director. In this role, Dr. Russell will work with the ORH Board, staff and volunteers to develop services that provide compassionate care to people in the last stages of their life's journey.

"It is an honour to be called into this new role at the Hospice. I look forward to serving the community in this new capacity as we transform the delivery of palliative care in our Region," says Dr. Steve Russell.

Dr. Russell has been an untiring champion for palliative care and the vision for a hospice residence for over 20 years. He has been a family physician in Port Perry since 1993 and established the Palliative Care Team for North Durham. He continues to be active in providing palliative care training to other family physicians through collaboration with the Durham Region Palliative Care Physicians Group. Dr. Russell has been the dedicated Chair of the ORH Board of Directors for the last five years and will be transitioning out of that role to focus on his passion – providing care to people who are at end-of-life.

As a result, ORH is also pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Gray to the position of Chair for the ORH Board of Directors. Mr. Gray has held the position of Treasurer on the ORH Board of Directors for the last five years and will be transitioning to the Chair position this month.

"It is a privilege to serve the Oak Ridges Hospice of Durham as Board Chair. Dr. Russell has provided the highly effective leadership necessary to move from concept through construction and has laid a strong foundation for successful transition to operations. I look forward to building on that foundation by working to support all our Team Members, Donors, Volunteers, Board Members, Health Partners, and most importantly our Future Residents and their Families," says Stephen Gray.

Stephen Gray brings 20 years of experience in senior management to the ORH Board of Directors. He is currently the CEO of Medical Associates of Port Perry/North Durham FHT/North Durham Health Centre, a practice of 40 physicians and 24 allied health providers. He is a Chartered Professional Accountant and completed his professional designation in 2000. Stephen is also currently a Steering Table member of the Durham Ontario Health Team and Co-Chair of the Durham Region COVID Response Table.

**For more information please contact:**

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