



# OAK RIDGES HOSPICE HERALD

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

**It's hard to put into words what it feels like in a hospice residence to support a family in their time of need, caring for a loved one who is nearing the end of their life.** In providing our residents with sustenance, care, comfort and pain management, while also providing family caregivers the opportunity to be with their loved ones without the same caregiving responsibilities, it is the most rewarding professional experience of my career.



Everyone deserves dignity in life, and everyone deserves dignity in death. Oak Ridges Hospice strives to be a home where dignity is exemplified by the care and compassion provided to our residents and their families. I am truly grateful to be part of an organization that can bring this service to people at such an emotional time in their life. **My gratitude extends to all of you who make Oak Ridges Hospice possible through the charitable giving of your time and financial resources. The words "we couldn't do this without you" have never been truer.**

Death is an inescapable reality of life. For too long death has been something that has been hidden away in our society. Through hospice residences the end-of-life journey leading to death is being recognized as part of life itself. In supporting those in their end-of-life journey we allow families and friends to do what they do best, and that is to express their love and compassion to each other. When a family comes back to Oak Ridges after their loved one has passed away and they tell us about the meaningful care and comfort their loved one, and they themselves received, through the hospitality and kindness of the Oak Ridges staff and volunteers, it clearly reinforces why we do what we do.

Sincerely,



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# HIKE FOR HOSPICE

On June 6th, 2021 the 4th annual Hike for Hospice took place in support of Oak Ridges Hospice (ORH). This was the second year that the event had to be 'virtual' due to COVID restrictions - but that did not put a damper on the enthusiasm of this amazing community! Throughout the day we were treated to pictures and videos of people out in their communities wearing their best purple outfits, doing activities they love, all in support of hospice care. It was amazing to see!

We are so pleased to share the news that this year's event was a tremendous success! Not only did we exceed our fundraising goal, we more than doubled it! **With over 60 participants and 14 teams, we received 579 individual donations totaling \$59,368 in support of resident services at Oak Ridges Hospice!**

Thank you so much to everyone who participated, donated and helped spread the word! We look forward to seeing you in person next year! Special thanks to our Hike for Hospice Committee members: Ann Burkholder, Brooklyn Burger-Jacobs, Lindsay Healey, and Tish Menzies.



## MEET THE TEAM



### **Stephanie Curran, ORH Intake Coordinator**

If you call ORH to inquire about hospice care there is a good chance that the person you end up speaking to is Stephanie. In her role as Intake Coordinator she supports individuals and families in the transition from community to hospice. Stephanie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to ORH and has been instrumental in helping to refine our intake process and build a network of connections in the community. She works tirelessly to support palliative care in the region and splits her time between ORH and being the Community Palliative Resource Nurse for the North Durham Health Team.

#### **How did you end up working in palliative/hospice care?**

When I was in high school, I did a co-op course on a palliative care ward. I found it so rewarding to be able to spend time with people in their last weeks/days and seeing how the care gave them comfort and peace at end of life. I knew then that palliative nursing was where I wanted to be.

#### **How did you get involved with Oak Ridges Hospice?**

I had just moved to the Port Perry area when I saw an article in the local newspaper about the hospice receiving its major donations to be built. I emailed the newspaper and said I wanted to help! I volunteered on a few committees as Oak Ridges was being built and was fortunate to be hired on as the Intake Coordinator!

#### **What does your role as Intake Coordinator entail and how do you support individuals to enter hospice?**

As the Intake Coordinator I receive all the referrals that are sent into the hospice. I assess every potential resident to ensure that they are ready for admission. I triage to assure that beds are offered to those in the most need. Once a bed is offered, I assist in helping the families get their loved ones to the hospice.

#### **The hospice is newly opened but so much has happened in such a short period of time. Is there a favourite moment or memory that you would like to share since starting in your role as Intake Coordinator?**

It's not so much a memory but a feeling. Every time I am able to assist a new resident to make their way to our Hospice, knowing that they are going to get the best care at end of life brings me an overwhelming sense of pride and joy. Seeing the relief and appreciation from family members who can now release themselves of the caregiver role and focus solely on their loved one let's me know we are providing the best service to not just our resident's but their families as well.

To learn more about our intake process, please visit [www.oakridgeshospice.com/forcommunity](http://www.oakridgeshospice.com/forcommunity) or reach out to Stephanie at [scurran@oakridgeshospice.com](mailto:scurran@oakridgeshospice.com) (289) 354-9054

## MEMORIAL TERRACE

Located on the south side of ORH, the John M. Brown Memorial Terrace is a welcoming and comfortable outdoor space for residents and their loved ones to enjoy.

John was a resident at Oak Ridges Hospice who - in his short time at the hospice - built meaningful relationships with staff and volunteers, gave back in any way he could, and rallied family and friends to make donations and host fundraisers to support the hospice. He was a kind, generous person who made a tremendous impact in the lives of many, including us at ORH.

Recognizing how much ORH meant to John, his wife, Jessica, wanted to not only support Oak Ridges with a donation, but have the hospice be a place where John's legacy of kindness, friendship and compassion could live on. In a special event on July 23, 2021, John's family and friends gathered at ORH to surprise him and unveil the John M. Brown Memorial Terrace - a beautiful outdoor space adorned with comfortable furniture, picturesque flowers, and a custom sign with his name and the tree of life on it. It was a beautiful day filled with love and joy that we feel so honoured to have been a part of.

We would like to send a big Thank You to Branching Out Florists for donating beautiful flower arrangements for the event and to Tish Menzies for helping outfit the space with furniture and décor. We also want to thank The Metal Factory for designing and creating the beautiful outdoor sign and Easy for You Eats for baking an amazing ORH cake.



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Every gift has a tremendous impact at Oak Ridges Hospice (ORH). We are incredibly grateful to the many individuals, community groups and foundations who have supported us in their own unique way! Below are some highlights from the last few months to celebrate this generous community.

### BRANCHING OUT FLORISTS

Beautiful plants now live in the common room areas of the hospice, bringing a fresh feeling to each space.



We are so grateful to Branching Out Florists for providing beautiful potted plants to our hospice home. Now, in all the common area rooms throughout the hospice you will find an array of plants ranging in colour, shape and size. Each plant was carefully curated for the space by Branching Out owners, Sharon and Jane.

Not only have they provided plants for ORH, Branching Out has made a commitment to continue supporting the hospice moving forward. They have already donated arrangements for a special event and have expressed an interest in helping bring seasonal decor into our hospice home for the holidays.

Thank you so much Branching Out!

### PORT PERRY FIDDLIN' COUNTRY DANCE MAKE ONE FINAL DONATION

The Port Perry Fiddle Club - more recently known as the Port Perry Fiddlin' Country Dance - have unfortunately disbanded after years of sharing fiddle music and fun times with the community. As they dissolved the organization last month, they decided that they wanted to spend the last of their reserves supporting local charities, including ORH. **We would like to say a big Thank You to everyone at the Fiddle Club for their incredible generosity and for the many wonderful years that they brought fiddle music and country dance to the community!**



### CENTURY HOME & GARDEN / CHALK LAKE GREENHOUSE / VOS' INDEPENDENT

Our beautiful gardens are filled with plants and flowers courtesy of some very generous people including Century Home & Garden, Chalk Lake Greenhouse, and Vos Independent Grocer. We are so grateful to these companies for helping bring some beautiful landscaping to our hospice grounds!

## CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Local car enthusiasts visit ORH to show off their classic cars to residents and their guests.



Thank you to our friends and neighbours who visited the hospice last month with their classic cars!



It was such a delight for our residents, their guests, ORH volunteers and staff to see all of the pristine cars and trucks fill the ORH parking lot. One of our residents remarked that one of the vehicles was his dream car that he had never been able to own himself. He really enjoyed seeing it and it brought back many good memories and stories. So thank you for sparking joy at the hospice! We look forward to seeing you again in the future!



## THE RITCHIE FAMILY

Thank you to the Ritchie Family for their generous \$10,000 donation made in memory of their mother, Lois.

We had the great honour of supporting Lois and the Ritchie family in Lois' last days of life at Oak Ridges. It means so much to us that we were able to offer the service, support and care that they needed during those precious moments. This donation will help ensure we can provide the same comfort and care to other families in the future.



### Did You Know?

**The only government funding Oak Ridges Hospice receives covers less than half of our operational costs.**

We rely on the support of the community to continue serving individuals at end-of-life and their loved ones. If you would like to learn more about how you can support ORH, please visit our website at [www.oakridgeshospice.com](http://www.oakridgeshospice.com) or give us a call at 289-225-0202.



## ROAD SIGN



After months of delays due to COVID, the Oak Ridges Hospice road sign is finally in place. Check it out the next time you are driving by! Not only does it look great in the day, its beautifully lit up at night too!



## IN MEMORIAM

We gratefully acknowledge donations received in memory of the following individuals\*:

Andy Atkins  
Neil Bailey  
Kelly Blakely  
Patricia Brownson  
Brian Compeau  
Lynn Cook  
Dorothy Folkes  
Derwin Haney  
Patricia Jones  
Linda Lasitz  
Cynthia Macko

Robert Mckean  
Dr. Farah Nasser-Sharif  
Rolf Ott  
Patricia Phillips  
Susan Rankin  
Dorothy Reynolds  
Lois Ritchie  
Harry Robinson  
Robert Rorabeck  
David Sparling  
John Thompson



\*Donations received from April 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021

Learn more:

[oakridgeshospice.com](http://oakridgeshospice.com)

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