

## 2021 Report

# Yarmouth County Hospice Society

**Dedicated to palliative and dignified  
Hospice end-of- life care for all citizens  
in our community and to show appreciation  
of all supporters of this noble cause.**

**Registered Charity in Canada**

**Business Number 82787 0742 RR001**



Life's Journey

Seven hospice rooms are located on 4 North in the Yarmouth Regional Hospital.

When there is no hope of patient recovery, and end of life is imminent, hospice or end-of-life care commences in hospital or at home.

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Life's Journey

## Mission and Vision Statements of the Yarmouth County Hospice Society

Mission Statement: To support organizations that provide palliative, and dignified end-of-life care services.

Vision Statement: To support the integration of end-of-life care, also known as Hospice Care, for all citizens of our community at hospital, retirement home facilities, and home settings.



Life's Journey

## Brief History of the Yarmouth County Hospice Society

### **Formation of the Society**

The Yarmouth County Hospice Society (Society) was formed on 18 May, 2004, by nine founding members:

- Shirley Hubbard, Chair;
- Bruce Johnson, Co-Chair;
- Carmen Phinney, Secretary;
- Dr. Al Legere;
- Iris Richards;
- Eileen Nickerson;
- Holly Campbell;
- Brian Noble;
- Laura Charlton.

The first meeting of the Society was held at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital and the subject of this meeting centered around the Vision of the Society. It became clear that the members wanted to create an end-of-life setting that would provide both comfort for the family and the person whose life was ending.

The goal was to have designated Hospice Care beds to support the unique needs of the terminally ill. Options under consideration included a Hospice Care unit located within the Yarmouth Regional Hospital, a Hospice Care unit located within an existing Nursing Home, or a free-standing Hospice Care unit. During the following seventeen years the Society has endeavored to achieve this goal.

### **Initial Accomplishments**

The Society, in the first decade with the help of generous donors, was able to purchase pain pumps for use by both in-patients within the Yarmouth Regional Hospital, and for those at the end-of-life at home under the care of the VON.

### **Evaluation of Hospice Care Options**

Discussions with representatives of the Department of Health and Wellness, and local Nursing Homes, were not able to identify policies or procedures by which a Hospice Care unit could be located within an existing Nursing Home. Correspondence to this effect was received from the Department of Health and Wellness in March 2015, and, on this basis, the option was not investigated further.

The option of a free-standing Hospice Care unit, either through purchase and renovation of an existing building, or through a new build, was determined to be beyond the financial capability of the Society. This option was therefore eliminated in late 2017, and the Society focused efforts to create a Hospice Care unit within the Yarmouth Regional Hospital.

### **Initial Success**

Although at times members began to question if the goal of the Society would become a reality, there was progress, as more and more of the public became aware of the essential need for Hospice Care.

The general policy of the Yarmouth Regional Hospital was that very ill patients were admitted and randomly assigned rooms throughout the hospital, and if they were diagnosed as terminally ill, they would remain there until end-of-life. In 2017, the Society purchased special chairs and folding beds that could be moved from room to room to help the affected families. A family room, furnished by the Society, on the third floor was physically separated from the end-of-life patient rooms, and therefore still failed to meet the goals of the Society. As a result, there was still no systematic plan for in-hospital end-of-life Hospice Care.

### **Final Success**

The Society's efforts to secure a Hospice Care unit within the Yarmouth Regional Hospital continued, and in July 2019, approval was granted by the Nova Scotia Health Authority to secure seven beds on 4 North at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital and to proceed with the necessary renovation required to meet standards. The projected budget for the initiative was \$107,000.

Renovations were initiated in the fall of 2019, but the project was delayed by COVID-19 restrictions put in place in early 2020. By January 2021, however, the seven rooms had been renovated and furnished to the extent that they could be occupied by end-of-life patients. Smart TVs and blinds, included in the original project budget, were subsequently added in the rooms, and a family room, located within the Hospice Care area, was furnished by the Society. In addition, a much-needed Cuddle Bed costing approximately \$20,000 plus taxes was purchased by the Society, and delivered in July 2021. The total cost to the Society to fulfil the unique requirements for Hospice Care is currently in the vicinity of \$150,000.

The above noted achievements could not have been possible without the combined efforts of the dedicated committee members, the critical partners, and especially the donors listed elsewhere in this booklet.

The Society has been successful in reaching these modest goals where people can end life with dignity and comfort, while providing their families with a more peaceful and less stressful experience. However, as will be seen below, this is only the first step in meeting the overall goals of the Society and the needs of the community.

## Future Plans of the Society

As noted in the Vision Statement, the general future plan of the Society is to support the integration of end-of-life care, also known as Hospice Care, for all citizens of our community at hospital, retirement home facilities, and home settings.

The immediate plan is to partner with Palliative Care, Continuing Care, and the VON, to support their daily physical equipment necessities and training requirements, as they pertain to end-of-life care. ***Discussions with Palliative Care, Continuing Care and VON personnel indicate that the current “wish list” for in-hospital and/or in-home hospice care includes folding beds, special bedding materials, mini refrigerators, coffee machines, hearing amplifiers, room de-odourizers, oxygen monitors, IT equipment/support, and training funds for Palliative Care nurses.*** The Society continues its efforts to support these needs.

A long-term plan requires a detailed understanding of deficiencies that may be restricting optimal out of hospital care for those at end-of-life.

Formulation of the long-term plan requires greater community involvement and to achieve such, it is the intention of the Society to provide financial support to organizations such as the VON and Palliative Care physicians and their staff. We hope to implement a Nova Scotia Health Authority recognized training program for volunteers who will be interacting with those at end-of-life.

***To increase further awareness of end-of-life care, we intend to utilize radio interviews, newspaper items, newsletters and annual booklets, such as this, to keep our overall community informed. In addition, an Open House will be held, when COVID restrictions allow, to outline the role of the Society, and to attempt to increase the membership of the Society.***

Clearly, there is much to be accomplished.



Life's Journey

## Critical Partners Necessary to Fulfill the Mission and Vision Goals of the Society

It is a privilege of the Society to support the following organizations in enabling regional Hospice Care:

- Nova Scotia Health Authority;
- Yarmouth Regional Hospital;
- Yarmouth Hospital Foundation;
- Victoria Order of Nurses (VON).



Life's Journey

## Past and Current Members of the Society

Past and current members of the Society include the following:

- Shirley Hubbard, Chair (current);
- Bruce Johnson, Treasurer, Co-Chair (current);
- Sandra Legere, Secretary (current);
- Holly Campbell;
- Laura Charlton;
- Linda D'Eon (current);
- Willard D'Eon (current);
- Karen Gregor (current);
- Richard Hurlburt (current);
- Cheryl Hurlburt (current);
- Dr. Al Legere (current);
- Eileen Nickerson;
- Brian Noble (current);
- Carmen Phinney;
- Marliee Richardson;
- Iris Richards;
- Dr. Donald Thibeault (current);
- Paula Watkins.

## Donor List

There have been many contributions to the Society over the years, not only financial contributions, but also gifts from auctions, radio and News media time, and fund raiser volunteers.

This donor list is limited to financial contributions from individuals and businesses for the years 2015 to September 2021. In future years we will make a supreme effort to list all contributors.

We apologize for any omissions or errors and, if we are advised or become aware of such, we will include corrections in future editions of this booklet.

### Individual Donations

A	Darlene Cleveland	Nancy Ellis
Barb Amirault	John Cooper	F
B	Roger & Paula Churchill	Julie Ford
Tanya Bain	Lonena Churchill	Colin Fraser
Melina Boudreau	D	Charlene Fraser
Phyllis Boudreau	Jane Dauphinee	G
Bernice Boudreau	Phyllis Delaney	Lise Gaudet
Debra Burleson	Rachelle D'Entremont	Kelly Goudey
Bertha Brannen	Rayena D'Entremont	Mackenzie Goudey
C	Vicky D'Entremont	Pam Graham
Patricia Caldwell	Karly Denton	Fred Graham
John & Barb Comeau	Sheila D'Eon	Linda Green
Lynn Comeau	Nancy Doty	H
Angela Collier	Lynn Doucette	James Hanrahan
Mike Cottreau	Rene Dugas	Leah Hazelton
Eileen Coady	Kelly Duprat	Rosalie Higby
John Castlebury	Marie Dechman	Michele Hood
Nancy Castlebury	E	Loretta Hurlburt
Helen Cook	Beverly Eisner	Richard Hurlburt
Martha Cassidy	Sue & Pat Eldridge	Nancy Hurlburt

## J

Anne Jenkins

Bob Jenkins

Margo Judge

## K

Greg Kerr

George King

## L

Audrey Landers

Michael Learitt

Shelagh Leahey

Janice LeBlanc

Leroy Legere

Florence Legere

Sandra Legere

Al Legere

Erica &amp; J Little

Holly Lowe

Dwayne Lowe

## M

Janice MacDonald

Dickie MacDonald

Barry &amp; Florence MacDonald

Bernadette MacMillian

Deborah McClennan

Laura Manser

Karen &amp; Bob Manuel

Pam Marais

Brian &amp; Elaine Marks

Samantha Mason

James Mood

Gerald Moses

Kerry Muise

Denise Muise

Marilyn &amp; Bruce Murray

## N

Cyrilla Newell

Mrs Robert Newell

Natalie Nichole

Kilby Nickerson

Brian Noble

## O

Tammy O'Connell

Scott O'Connell

## P

Frieda Perry

Lorretta Pilkington

Irene Pothier

Cheryl Pottier

Elizabeth Purdy

Darla Purdy

Herbert Purdy

## R

Brian Ramessar

Chris Randall

Audrey Roberts

Wayne Robicheau

Denise Pottier Robichaud

Benoit Robichaud

Margaret Rose

## S

Philip Star

Delman Saulnier

Jim Smith

Byran Smith

Barb Smith

Krista Smith

Daphne Sears

Mrs. David Sollows

Virginia Stoddard

## T

Anne Taylor

Frank Thibeau

Donald Thibeault

Michael Trask

Gwen Trask

## V

David Vail

## W

Serita Warner

Linda McCarthy Wilson

Marla Wood

## **Donations from Businesses**

NR Used Equipment Sales Ltd

Yarmouth Lions Club

LG Trask Holdings

Graham Construction

Hood Fraser Law

Nickerson Jacquard Fraser Law

Pink Starr Barro Law

Stanley Lobster Ltd

Scotia Gardens Seafood

Salon 15

Thistle Hyundai

Conrad Hurlburt LeBlanc

Ryan Insurance Services Ltd

Knights of Columbus

RD Harris Excavating Ltd

Rose Valley Trucking & Excavating

Top Line Industrial Sales Ltd

Nick Hurlburt Construction

Dayton Fruit & Vegetables

Dayton Red & White

Rogers Furniture

Wilson's Home Hardware

Sip Cafe

Bramac Plumbing & Heating

## How to Donate to the Society

There are many ways to support the Yarmouth County Hospice Society. Annual fund raisers are supported by volunteers, entertainers, donations from individuals/businesses, use of facilities, and interviews/promotions on local radio. The generous donors and their contribution of time and resources is extensive and greatly appreciated.

Direct donations to the Society from individuals and businesses are encouraged and greatly appreciated. Donors who would like to make a direct financial donation to the Society are encouraged to donate by cheque, made out to the Yarmouth County Hospice Society, and mailed to:

Yarmouth County Hospice Society

Yarmouth Post Office

15 Willow Street

PO Box 153

Yarmouth, NS, B5A 1T8

A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your use should you wish to donate to the Society.

Alternatively, a cheque, made out to the Yarmouth County Hospice Society, can be given directly to a Society committee member.

An official receipt for tax purposes will be provided to the donor by the Society Treasurer.

The Society is a Registered Charity in Canada.

Business Number 82787 0742 RR001.

## Acknowledgements

The Society acknowledges the following:

- Dr. Don Thibeault for his initiative and efforts in preparing this booklet.
- Past and current committee members who dedicated numerous hours towards the goal of establishing the Hospice Care unit, and in particular, the founding members who are still actively serving on the committee:
  - Shirley Hubbard;
  - Bruce Johnson;
  - Dr. Al Legere;
  - Brian Noble.
- **The many supporters of the Society.**

As indicated in the booklet, the total cost to the Society to fulfil the unique requirements for Hospice Care is currently in the vicinity of \$150,000.

*Discussions with Palliative Care, Continuing Care and VON personnel indicate that the current "wish list" for in-hospital and/or in-home hospice care includes folding beds, special bedding materials, mini refrigerators, coffee machines, hearing amplifiers, room de-odourizers, oxygen monitors, IT equipment/support, and training funds for Palliative Care nurses.*

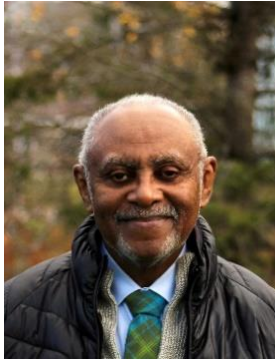
*The work of the Society therefore continues, and your donation will help the Society assist with providing the above, or other identified equipment or services, as required.*

*An Open House will be held, when COVID-19 restrictions permit, to outline the role of the Society and to encourage membership.*



Life's Journey

## Current Members of the Society



Bruce Johnson, Treasurer



Shirley Hubbard, Chair



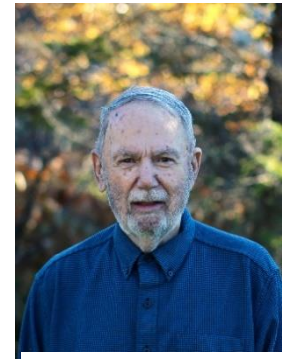
Sandra Legere, Secretary



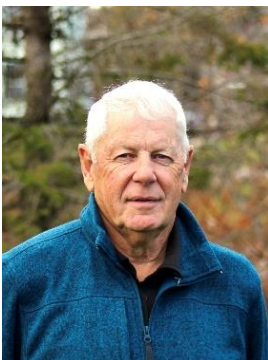
Linda D'Eon



Willard D'Eon



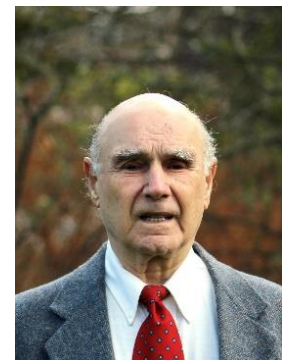
Dr. Al Legere



Richard Hurlburt



Brian Noble



Dr. Donald Thibeault

Members not available for photograph: Karen Gregor, Cheryl Hurlburt, and Brian Ramessar.  
A special thanks to the Photographer, Mackenzie Goudey.

## Cuddle Bed

A “ook snow ALL bed”, commonly known as a “Cuddle Bed”, was purchased by the Society at a cost of approximately \$20,000, plus HST, and delivered in July 2021. The bed can be placed in either twin bed mode or in double/cuddle bed mode.

Below is an image of a Cuddle Bed, and a photograph of a 4N hospice patient room indicating the Cuddle Bed in twin bed mode, and a pull-out bed. A Smart TV, not in photograph, is located on the wall facing the foot of the bed.



Image of Cuddle Bed



Photograph of 4N Hospice Patient Room with Cuddle Bed and pull-out bed

**Feedback from hospital personnel indicates that the cuddle bed has been very well received and appreciated.**