



# YARMOUTH COUNTY HOSPICE SOCIETY

2022 ANNUAL  
REPORT

## 4 NORTH SUPPORT

As reported in the 2021 report, the Yarmouth County Hospice Society (Society) previously funded and furnished seven hospice rooms and a family room on 4N, the Palliative Care Unit at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital. Furnishing provided for each hospice room included folding beds for family support members, SMART TVs, blinds, quilts, and lamps. In addition, one “cuddle” bed was provided. Furnishing provided for the family room included sofa, chair, and wall decorations.



**Service cart and chair  
in family room**



**Folding bed, smart TV and bed**



**Single folding bed in hospice  
room**



**Cuddle Bed  
room**

In 2022, the Society provided additional lamps for the hospice rooms, and a service cart, mini fridge, coffee machine, kettle, lamps, water pitchers, and coffee mugs for the family room. Some of the items were in-kind donations by local businesses. The amenities in the family room provide a level of “away from home comfort”, to family members of patients at end-of-life, that cannot be achieved within the hospice rooms.

## VON SUPPORT



In December of 2021, the Society received a grant from the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation to fund forty-one Pulse Oximeters for the VON. The monitors, purchased in 2022, are used to measure the amount of oxygen in a client’s bloodstream, which is especially important when caring for clients living with palliative diagnosis. Nurses measure oxygen levels using the machines, and provide the care required for the client’s comfort. Many physicians order oxygen levels to be monitored as part of the client’s care as well.

In December 2022, the Board approved the purchase of ten CADD pain pump pouches, and a mattress for a clinic stretcher, for the Tri-county VON. The CADD pain pump pouches enable clients to be mobile and carry their pump wherever they go. The stretcher is used in the Yarmouth Office by patients who need to rest while attending a clinic.

## WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK



The Board authorized the creation of a website, [www.yarmouthcountyhospicesociety.ca](http://www.yarmouthcountyhospicesociety.ca), and a Facebook page. Both becoming active in late August, 2022. The sites provide background information on the Society and indicate how donations may be made to support the Society.

## GRANTS RECEIVED

The Society applied for and received \$23,200 in grants in 2022.

### **The Municipality of the District of Yarmouth and the Yarmouth Area Community Fund**

The Municipality of the District of Yarmouth provided \$1,000, and the Yarmouth Area Community Fund provided \$500, all of which was allocated towards the development of the website.

### **Yarmouth Hospital Foundation**

In September, the Society submitted a request to the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation to fund the purchase a second cuddle bed at a cost of \$20,700. The submission was successful and a therefore a second cuddle bed for 4N is under procurement in 2023.

## FALL 2022 FUNDRAISER

A fundraiser was held at the Lions Club on September 30, 2022. The event featured a chowder, silent auction, 50/50 draw, and entertainment by Catch-22. A very heartfelt thank you to Shirley Hubbard and family (son John Hubbard and daughter Tammy O'Connell) for organizing the event, to board members, Society members, and Lions Club members who worked at the event, and to those who supported the event by purchasing tickets and/or by direct donations.



## RETIRED BOARD MEMBERS

Three long time members left the Board in 2022, two of which were founding members.



### **Shirley Hubbard**

In 2004, Shirley had a dream of providing quality end of life care for residents of Yarmouth County. Her dream started with the formation of the Yarmouth County Hospice Society, and she would be the Chair of the Society from 2004 to 2022. She spent countless hours in meetings, fundraising, and doing media interviews with the goal of creating an end of life setting that would provide both comfort for the family and the person whose life was ending. The goal was achieved in July of 2019, when approval was granted by the Nova Scotia Health Authority to secure seven rooms on 4 North at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital and to proceed with the necessary renovations required to meet standards.

The seven hospice rooms were placed in service in January 2021 and Shirley continued her role to ensure that amenities such as lamps and blankets were supplied. In the fall of 2022 Shirley organized her 'final' fundraiser and informed the Board she would be stepping down as Chair. She felt it was time for the next 'generation' to take over.

The Board wants to thank Shirley for her passion and drive that kept the Society going forward. She will be missed but will never be far away. As Shirley moves on to a new role, a new challenge, or a well-deserved rest, we wish her all the best.

### **Dr. Al Legere**

Dr. Legere, then a surgeon at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital, was the first person contacted by Shirley in 2004 when she decided to form the Society. He said yes without hesitation and became a founding member. Although a busy person, Dr. Legere rarely missed a meeting, and was known for his quiet manner, knowledge, compassion, and dedication to the end-of-life cause as the Board worked with the Health Authority over the years to achieve hospice care in the area.

Dr. Legere and his wife Sandra (former Society Secretary) have supported and/or donated to the Society fundraiser over the years.

We thank Dr. Legere for his years of service and wish him well.

### **Dr. Donald Thibeault**

Dr. Thibeault returned to his native Yarmouth after a long medical career in the United States. He joined the Society as a Board member in 2015 and his experience in palliative and hospice care made him a valued asset to the Society. Dr. Thibeault's passion was for palliative and end of life care. While on the Board, his input led to many discussions about the need for end-of-life care in Yarmouth and surrounding areas. His commitment was also shown by his personal donations to several Society's projects.

Dr. Thibeault was the driving force behind the development of the Society's history and accomplishments. He worked hard to have the first Annual Report (2021) of the Society published and distributed to Society members and made available to the public.

The Board wishes to thank Dr. Thibeault for his dedicated service to the Yarmouth County Hospice Society and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

## 2023 PLANS



### Education

The Society maintains a commitment to support end-of-life staff education that is not funded by the employer. One identified potential opportunity is funding for front line nursing staff and community volunteers to attend a NSHPCA conference “The Many Faces of Loss and Trauma” proposed to be held in Antigonish in May 2023.

### Providing Support and Fundraising

The Society will continue to support the hospice rooms and VON as required. With regards to the hospice rooms, the Society is in the early stages of planning a major fundraiser to be held in the fall of 2023, with the aim of raising enough funds for the purchase of two additional cuddle beds, at a cost of approximately \$21,000 each.

### Grants

The Society will continue to source grants in an effort to ensure that maximum familiarity of available grant funds is achieved. Specific purposes for each grant submission will be identified and successful submissions will be recorded accordingly.

## SOCIETY AWARENESS

Rack cards and a roll-up display were created to promote awareness and to increase membership of the Society.



The roll-up display was placed at the fundraiser, in the Yarmouth Regional Hospital lobby in late 2022, and will be staffed by Society members in the Yarmouth Mall on occasions in 2023.



The rack cards were distributed at the fundraiser, and are currently in the hospice rooms, family room, Sweeny's Funeral Home, Huskilson's Funeral Home, and in VON home kits.

## SOCIETY AND BOARD MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Residents of Yarmouth County (Municipality of the District of Argyle, Municipality of the District of Yarmouth, Town of Yarmouth) are eligible to become members of the Society, and there is no membership fee. Membership, at the end of 2022, was twenty-one. The Society bylaws provide for 15 Board members, including 4 Officers and 11 Directors. At the end of 2022, there were 2 officers and 8 Directors. Vacant positions on the Board include Secretary, Vice-Chair, and three directors.



## CONTACT US

**E-mail**      [info@ychs.ca](mailto:info@ychs.ca)

**Website**     [www.yarmouthcountyhospicesociety.ca](http://www.yarmouthcountyhospicesociety.ca)

**Address**     PO Box 153, Yarmouth, NS, B5A 4B2

**Facebook**    [facebook.com/yarmouthhospice](https://facebook.com/yarmouthhospice)

Efforts continue to increase the Society and Board memberships. If you are interested in joining the Society or the Board, contact a Board Member or email [info@ychs.ca](mailto:info@ychs.ca) and advise of your interest.