



YARMOUTH REGIONAL HOSPICE SOCIETY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



01

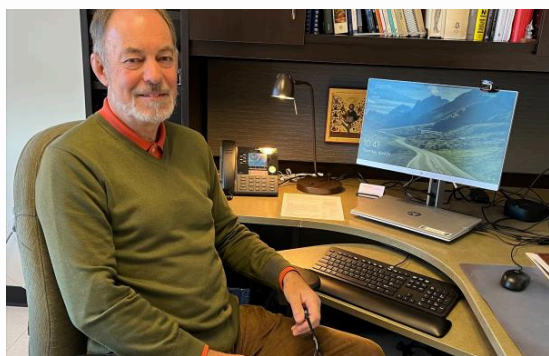
NEW NAME

Revised bylaws and a name change were approved at the Annual General Meeting held in April 2024. The new name reflects that we operate within the same “regional” area as the Yarmouth Regional Hospital. Members of the Board are required to reside in Digby, Shelburne, or Yarmouth County, but Society membership is free and open to all. Members receive quarterly updates and the Annual Reports.



02

NEW PALLIATIVE CARE PHYSICIAN



In April 2024, we welcomed a new Palliative Care Physician, Dr. Phillip Cooper MD, to the region. As can be seen in a profile at <https://www.nshealth.ca/news-and-notice/opening-new-doors-palliative-care>

Dr. Cooper previously worked in the Digby area where he met his future wife, Simone.

He was at St. Martha’s Hospital in Antigonish from 1995 to 2024 practicing surgery, oncology, and palliative care when he saw the chance to move back to the area for a full-time palliative care position in south-west Nova Scotia as an “...exciting opportunity to help develop a sustainable palliative care program for the tri-county region (Digby, Shelburne, and Yarmouth) over the next several years, while for Simone it will mean living near her family and Acadian roots in Clare.”

One of Dr. Cooper’s priorities is to promote community care of palliative/hospice patients. An immediate impediment encountered by Dr. Cooper, however, was timely access to pain control medication for patients who wish to be able to stay at home for their end-of-life care. The Society was able to have limited success in assisting in this regard, and continues advocacy with the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists to improve the process.

Another priority of Dr. Cooper is to establish a dedicated Palliative Care Unit in the Yarmouth Regional Hospital as we are one of the few regional hospitals in Nova Scotia without such. The seven palliative/hospice beds on 4A are much appreciated, but are part of a Complex Care Unit, and the unit does not have the atmosphere typically found in a palliative/hospice care unit. In addition, the family room, where families assemble to meet with Dr. Cooper to discuss a patient's condition, is much too small to accommodate large families. The Society is therefore supporting Dr. Cooper in his efforts to secure a suitable location for a Palliative Care Unit within the hospital complex, and is advocating for more palliative care nurses, social workers and physicians.

03

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY

The Society funded four CADD pumps (\$28,000) for the VON. For 4A (previously 4N), the Society funded two specialized BRODA wheelchairs (\$9,800), a replacement mattress (\$1,000) for a cuddle bed, one CADD pump (\$6,200), a shaver, five replacement lamps, and eight folding chairs. The amount funded in 2024 by the Society totals approximately \$44,130.



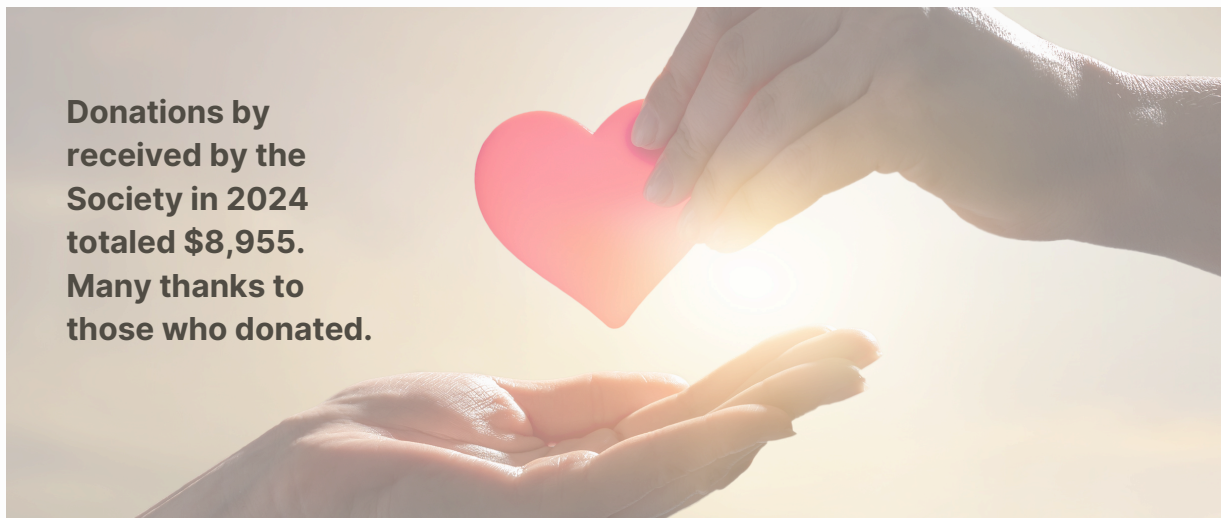
SPECIALIZED BRODA WHEELCHAIR



HOSPICE ROOM ON 4A

Since 2018, the Society has provided approximately \$258,000 in funding to support palliative and hospice physical and comfort needs, \$40,000 of which was through the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation.

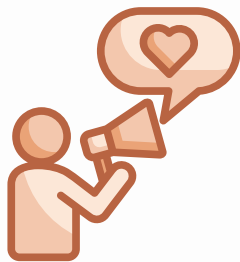
04 DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE SOCIETY



Donations by received by the Society in 2024 totaled \$8,955. Many thanks to those who donated.

05 SOCIETY AND MEMBERSHIP AWARENESS

The Board would welcome members who reside in Digby and Shelburne counties. Please contact a Board Member (see Contact Us below) if you are interested in being a Board member and expanding our reach.



Membership to the Society increased from 46 members at the end of 2023 to 65 members at the end of 2024, thanks to over a dozen NS Health Continuing Care employees registering in December 2024. The Continuing Care employees were briefed on the role, challenges, and priorities of the Society and will raise awareness of the Society when in the community.

Our name change provided a challenge with updating and maintaining the Facebook page but we hope that all is behind us now.

The website was updated and we look forward to more regular activity notices in 2025.

The Society had a display at the 55 Plus Wellness Day, hosted by the Yarmouth County Senior Safety Program, at the NSCC Burrige gym in May 2024.

06 FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS FOR 2025

The Board at the last meeting in 2024 approved the planning of small fundraisers where the Society will partner with local organizations. Several organizations have been identified to date and applications for approval have been submitted. More organizations are being sourced and the events, once finalized, will be advertised on Facebook, our website, and local media.



Awareness events are still being planned but will include an application to again display at the 55 Plus Wellness Day, hosted by the Yarmouth County Senior Safety Program, at the NSCC Burrige gym in May 2025.

The Board has not made a decision yet on having a large fundraiser like we had in September 2023 at the Rodd Grand Hotel, but your comments would be appreciated.

Fundraising efforts, however, continue and we have established a future reserve fund that will be used to assist in the funding of furniture and comfort needs of any future Palliative Care Unit.

07 HOW TO DONATE

Donors who would like to make a direct financial donation to the Society have the following options:

Use the Donate button on the Society Website

www.yarmouthregionalhospicesociety.ca

By e-transfers

to yarmouthregionalhospicesociety@gmail.com. The Society has automatic deposit so there is no need for a security question.

Donate by cheque

made out to the Yarmouth Regional Hospice Society, and mail to:
Yarmouth Regional Hospice Society
PO Box 153
Yarmouth, NS, B5A 4B2

08 CONTACT US



Email yarmouthcountyhospicesociety@gmail.com
Website www.yarmouthregionalhospicesociety.ca
Address PO Box 153, Yarmouth, NS, B5A 4B2
Facebook facebook.com/yarmouthhospice

You may contact Board members as listed on the website. A limited list of members follows:

Alice Robbins	902-748-5654
Helen Demeny	782-234-0036
Brian Noble	902-761-2569
Willard D'Eon	902-774-0563

The Society is a Registered Charity in Canada
Business Number 827870742RR0001.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

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