



Hospice News

Issue 3 ∞ August 2020

Supporting People, Changing Lives

Your Support in Action

500 Laps

In the [Aug 18th edition of the Camrose Booster](#), Hospice Volunteer Kelly Wiebe describes his 500th lap walking around Mirror Lake in Camrose. Kelly writes, "My journey around Mirror Lake started on April 1, 2019. I have walked 500 days in a row, which amounts to 1,500 km or 932 miles. And to be honest, I wasn't always in the best of moods, but by the time I finished I felt so much better and a lot of that had to do with the awesome conversations I had with others."

Kelly has participated in all of our volunteer training and is a regular with our Wednesday grief-support walking group. Kelly states for the Booster, "I have walked with and enjoyed the company of the bereavement group. I became a Hospice volunteer last year and it was a very informative and powerful experience. I really believe that there are not enough listening ears in this world, unfortunately, and because of that some people fall through the cracks. So, I try to write positive sayings on sidewalks in Camrose."

Your support of Hospice empowers Kelly's ambassadorship.

You Make Hospice Happen!

Quotable

"I wonder if my first breath was as soul-stirring to my mother as her last breath was to me"

(Lisa Goich-Andreadis, *14 Days: A Mother, A Daughter, A Two-Week Goodbye*)



Photographer: Unknown Source

iPad Update

With the support of federal and local (Battle River Community Foundation) funding, we will soon have 22 iPads for circulation among isolated elders.

We are now open to referrals. Please contact Joy at 587.322.9269 if you know someone who may benefit.

The program will provide an iPad for in-home use and a dedicated volunteer to offer instruction and support. After a 3-month period the iPad will be circulated to another user. If families find the device useful, they are encouraged to purchase their own, which can be set up with the help of the hospice volunteer.

Thank you to our funders for their generous gifts (New Horizons for Seniors, Community Foundations of Canada, BRCF).

Connecting with Hospice

Volunteer Coordinator, Joy LeBlanc:
587.322.9269 ∞ volunteer@camrosehospice.com

Program Coordinator, Bill Harder:
780.608.0636 ∞ program@camrosehospice.com

[f](#) @camrosehospice
[i](#) camrosehospice
www.camrosehospice.org



Hospice Society
OF CAMROSE AND DISTRICT

New Program

Taking a Virtual Reality Trip

This fall Hospice will launch a new program due to the generous funding of Camrose County. The pioneering work of IT consultant [David Parker](#) generated the idea of using *virtual reality goggles* to provide bed-ridden patients with an opportunity to travel.

It works like this: a volunteer uses a 360° camera to video a location, a farmsite or house, for example. They walk through the area or building and this creates a 360° image. This video is rendered and downloaded, and by the magic of technology is transferred to a set of virtual reality goggles.

When wearing the goggles the user feels like they are in the room or setting of the video. It will feel as though they are actually walking around in the scene; it is a truly remarkable experience. As a result, Hospice clients may have the opportunity to revisit their home, places from their past, or far-off places they have never been, through an online library of 360° videos.

We are working out the last few technology challenges and anticipate having the equipment ready to loan out this fall. If you have a loved-one who would benefit from a virtual tour please touch base with us.



Huff Post Pictures

From Our Board President

Hello friends,

I hope that you are well and able to get outdoors to enjoy some sunshine and companionship in a safe way.

We at hospice have spent several months brainstorming with staff, volunteers and community members on how to meet the needs of our communities during the pandemic. We are aware that grief does not stop during a pandemic, people continue to experience losses, and hospice is attempting to meet those needs as best as we can. Yes, some programs have been put on a hiatus, but others have been able to re-start in a new way. Bill and Joy, along with all our volunteers continue to be creative in the ways they meet the needs in our community!

Recently hospice has been very fortunate to be the beneficiaries of several grants specific for use during the pandemic. One such example is a grant which enabled hospice to purchase iPads that can be used by shut-ins to communicate with family they cannot visit with. In another example, the Camrose Thrift Shop generously donated money to hospice with which we were able to purchase new seating; chairs that can be cleaned easily. Our community continues to be very generous to hospice and we appreciate this more than ever since we have had to put many fundraisers on hold.

As we look forward to fall and the beginning of another busy year for hospice, we look back on what we have accomplished and where we hope to be in the near future. We are grateful for the skills and talents that Bill and Joy bring to hospice and we are grateful for our volunteers who bring compassion and caring into our community. This fall we will hold our Annual General Meeting, you will receive notification of the date and time. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in hospice work in any way, shape or form, please pass along this newsletter and contact information. Bill, Joy or myself are always happy to talk hospice with anyone interested.

Stay Safe,

Pam Cummer, President, HSCD

Mark Your Calendar



Facebook Live Lunch 'n Learn: join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 12:05 on our FB page (@camrosehospice) for a few minutes of conversation with voices from our Hospice village.

Sept 2: Colette Howery and Nicole Luft on the Grief-support Walking Group

Sept 16: Margo McPhail on the cancer support group

Oct 7: Pam Cummer on the Palliative Approach to Care

Oct 21: TBA

Volunteer Training: Check out our website of upcoming online training opportunities (www.camrosehospice.org/what-s-happening)