



OAK RIDGES HOSPICE HERALD

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A LETTER FROM A RESIDENT'S FAMILY



We wanted to share this letter with you because it beautifully illustrates the impact we have as a community. Every single one of us (and yes, that includes you!) contributes to ensuring our residents and their loved ones receive compassionate care and support at Oak Ridges. Thank you for helping us support families like the Clancys...

"Do you ever think about a Hospice?? I used to think It was a place where families sent their loved ones to die. Oh, was I wrong!!!

Well let me tell you our story. My husband (Jim) has recently passed and spent his last 3 weeks of his life at Oak Ridges Hospice, Port Perry, Ontario. When he was home bed ridden we as a family looked after him with home care and his primary nurse his daughter-in-law Tammi Clancy. He was declining rapidly.

He was not well. After a discussion with Jim and his Palliative Care Doctor we showed him the video of Oak Ridges Hospice and told him we wouldn't leave him and we would be there 24/7 with him, which we were . After watching the video his answer immediately was "Wonderful and let's do it". I still had mixed emotions at that time (wondering if we were doing the right thing).

Today when I think back, it was the best decision we made. At Oak Ridges we knew that they could provide the medical care that he needed 24/7 and as family and friends we could focus on love and enjoy quality time spent with him rather than on how we are going to handle each and every stressful situation that arose. Oak Ridges members made everyone feel welcome and at home and with so many other concerns we were blessed to enjoy as best as possible the last 3 weeks of a wonderful gentlemen's life focusing on him, family and friends and how much we loved each other, rather than being stressed out with what is going to happen next.

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A LETTER CONTINUED

Well the first day we were made so welcome by staff and volunteers and it never altered during his stay. They treated family and friends with courtesy, respect and tender loving care. They could not do enough for all of us (way beyond our expectations). They told everyone this is your home away from home. So often they would say it is " MY PLEASURE".

I would like to recognize all the Administrators, Doctors, Nurses, Volunteers and the Custodians who were so kind and caring. I know all your names, but there are too many to mention and without your permission I would not do so. We were so Blessed to meet each of you and appreciate you more than words can express

Jim received the best medical care possible 24/7. Which he required. They were always willing to assist both Jim and the family with professionalism and compassionate care. They told us that we were there for Love and Support and they were as well. They were so kind. Nothing was too much for them and we will always be grateful that they made a very difficult time into wonderful memories for us to share and remember. **Saying goodbye is never easy, but our memories of Oak Ridges will always be cherished by the family for generations.** We thank all members of Oak Ridges Hospice from the bottom of our hearts for helping us through this difficult time in our lives. It certainly has relieved some of the pain of losing a wonderful husband, father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather and best friend to many. Thank You!!

The Hospice itself was beautiful with smiling faces, warm greetings and the aroma of fresh delicious cookies or scones being baked. It was an amazing experience and I hope if you ever need help you would consider Oak Ridges Hospice.

No matter where we go Oak Ridges Hospice will always have a Special Place In our hearts for the kindness you showed Jim, Carol and his loving family. He will be deeply missed and so will you. We love you and cannot express our appreciation. It was all overwhelming!!

We thank you for letting us share this story with you. Take care of each other, be safe and healthy,"

- Carol Clancy and family



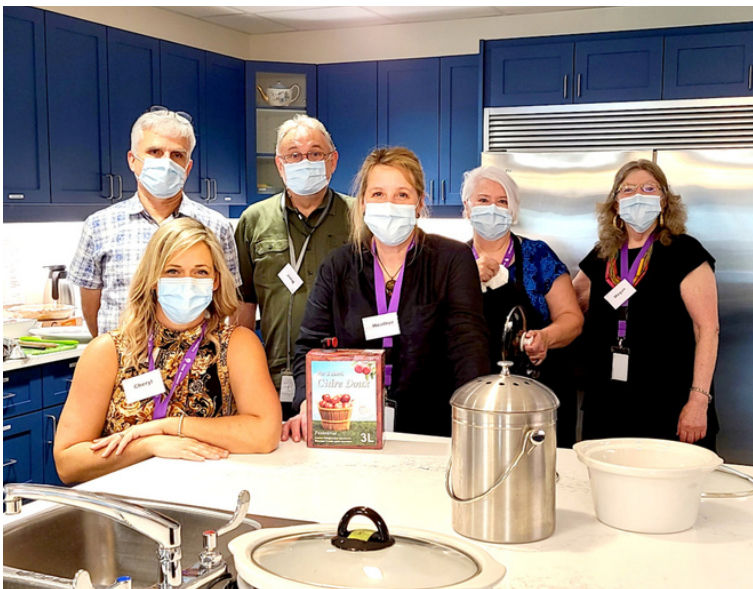
HOLIDAYS AT THE HOSPICE

Our first official holiday since opening this year was Thanksgiving and in what has become our normal tradition at Oak Ridges, we decided to go big and have fun with it!

Thanks to the efforts of some staff and volunteers, our hospice home was filled with festive fall décor and turkey and ham dinners were prepared with all the fixings!

We want to say a big Thank You to everyone who participated in making this day so special for our residents and their families:

- Cheryl Genereaux, Wayne Bauer, Lindsay Healey and Tish Menzies for meal and event planning.
- Brent Farr, Cheryl Genereaux, Wayne Bauer, Ann Florence, Donna Metcalf, Sue Brian, Sue Vester, Megan Mee and Heather Agnew-Johnson for helping to prepare, cook and serve meals.
- Tish Menzies, Trish Thompson, Dawn Szuhai and Michelle Betlem for providing and setting up décor.
- We would also like to thank everyone who donated: Farm Boy (\$150 gift card for food), Farmhouse Cider (apple cider), and Lindsay Healey & Erin Johnson (dessert/pies).



JB MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The first ever John Brown Memorial Golf Tournament took place on Sunday September 26th at the Port Colborne Golf and Country Club with proceeds from the event supporting Oak Ridges Hospice.

You may remember reading about John in our last newsletter. He was a resident at Oak Ridges Hospice and during his time here he became an incredible advocate for hospice and Oak Ridges. We are so honoured that John's family and friends have chosen to honour his life and legacy through this annual event to support the hospice.

The inaugural event took place on a beautiful day that welcomed 65 golfers and had over 15 sponsors!

It was so great to see Wendy (John's sister), Tim (John's brother in law) and Amanda (John's friend) when they came to present the cheque at Oak Ridges - their joy with the results of the tournament was infectious! And we share in their excitement in telling you that **they raised \$12,512.76 for the hospice at the inaugural tournament!**

Thank you to everyone who helped bring this event together and to everyone who participated or sponsored! We are so incredibly grateful.



KITCHEN LEADS

We are so lucky to have incredible volunteers who have helped get the kitchen at Oak Ridges up and running! And we are equally as lucky to be welcoming a brand new staff member to begin ushering in the next stage of kitchen operations!

When we first opened our doors earlier this year, we had not started the process of recruiting for a Kitchen Lead but it quickly became evident that we needed some additional support with operating the kitchen. We are incredibly fortunate to have volunteers who were willing to step up and help out!

From outfitting the kitchen with everything it needed, meal planning, troubleshooting, training volunteers and ensuring the kitchen stayed fully stocked with food, Tish Menzies and Lindsay Healey have been brilliant leaders, critical in getting our kitchen up and running effectively to support our residents and their loved ones. We also want to thank Trish Thompson who supported kitchen operations when the hospice first opened. We cannot express how incredibly grateful we are to them for their dedication and hard work! We don't know where we would be without them!!

Over the last month we were able to start the recruitment process to fill the part-time staff position of Kitchen Lead and we are happy to announce that Joanna Thornton has joined our team! Joanna comes to us with many years of experience working in volunteer positions, as well as running kitchens and catering events locally in Durham Region. **Welcome Joanna!**



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.

TREE OF LIFE LIGHT



When you enter the hospice you will notice the beautiful stained glass light behind the reception desk. This custom piece was designed and created for Oak Ridges Hospice by Bonnie Thompson. The light is turned on and remains on for 24 hours when a resident at the hospice dies. This is done to honour the light of the life that has now left the hospice and to signify to people entering the hospice that we are saying goodbye to a resident.

In addition to this custom piece, Bonnie - through her art gallery Meta4 and her connections with the artist community - helped facilitate the donation of multiple pieces of artwork that are now displayed throughout the hospice. **Thank you Bonnie for all the support!**

ORH APRONS



Thank you to Donna Jean Branton for donating aprons embroidered with the ORH logo for all of our kitchen volunteers! We love them!

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA



We are incredibly grateful to the generous people at RBC for supporting Oak Ridges Hospice with a donation of \$1500. A special thank you to Daryl Knudson for nominating the hospice for this gift!

PORT PERRY MEDICAL ASSOCIATES & ALAN'S JUMP



Would you jump out of a plane to raise money for hospice? Alan did! We were all in shock and awe when we heard about Alan's fundraising initiative. He said he would jump out of a plane if he could get \$3000 in donations for the hospice! **Not only was the fundraising goal met, it was exceeded - raising \$4,471 for Oak Ridges!**

Alan works at Medical Associates of Port Perry where everyone quickly jumped on board with helping to raise money for the hospice. We would like to thank everyone who participated in fundraising initiatives and everyone who donated. We would also like to thank Leah Hockley, for all of the organizing and administrative support, and extend a special thank you to Alan for going to such extreme heights to support Oak Ridges!

PORT PERRY 150 - McMURTRY LAW

We were so thrilled to have a table at the Port Perry 150 celebrations on October 3, alongside our friends at McMurry Law. It was a great day to be out in the community and celebrate this wonderful town! **Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booths to say Hi!** If you wrote on a hospice heart with a message of encouragement and hope, it is now proudly displayed in the hospice for all of our residents and their loved ones to see.

Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers who helped us prepare for the day with packaging cookies and cutting hearts, as well as everyone who volunteered their time at the booth!

We would like to say **thank you to Amy Toon, Paula McMurry and everyone at the firm who worked so hard preparing candy-kabobs and bracelets to sell and raise money for the hospice!** We would also like to thank the Reville family for providing jars of delicious locally made honey to sell at our booth!

With the sales of goods and the donations from the day Oak Ridges Hospice received \$1,268.90 to support resident care!



HALLOWEEN FUN

Our incredible care team treated residents and their loved ones to some Halloween Fun on October 31st with spooky-themed food, costumes, and pumpkin carving! Big thank you to members of our care team for getting all of the candies, putting up decorations and planning activities. We also want to thank Vos' Independent for supplying the pumpkins!



Did You Know?

It costs Oak Ridges approximately \$600 per day to provide care for one resident. That is less than half the cost of a hospital bed!

The government funding we receive covers about one half of our operating costs, so 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 or give us a call at 289-225-0202.



WE ARE HIRING!



Our team is growing! Are you or someone you know interested in joining a passionate and dynamic team that fosters an environment that provides dignity, respect and compassion for our clients?

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Full Time Personal Support Worker (PSW)
- Full and Part Time Registered Nurses (RN)
- Full and Part Time Registered Practical Nurses (RPN)

If you're interested please visit

<https://www.oakridgeshospice.com/careers> to read the job descriptions and find out how you can apply.

IN MEMORIAM

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

John Michael Brown
Robert Brown
Carley-Anne Caldwell
Don Card
James Clancy
Lynn Cook
Berendina Dunford
Michelle Germaine
Jim Gibson
Peggy Gray
Gordon Harrison
Mary Healey
John Higgins
Gary Hill

Mary Lee
Denise Marsh
Hardy Merker
Jane McConnell
Hal McCullough
Ken Mousseau
Dorothy Reynolds
Lois Ritchie
Kristi Odde-Jones
Thomas Phair
Robert Spence
Alma Sutcliffe
Anne Marie Szebedinsky
Jennifer Vanderven



*Donations received from August 1, 2021 to October 31, 2021

Learn more:

oakridgeshospice.com

Contact us:

info@oakridgeshospice.com
(289) 225-0202

OAK RIDGES HOSPICE

1722 Scugog St.
Port Perry, ON L9L 1E2