

NEWS RELEASE



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November 17, 2012

COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL HOSPICE HOME IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY!

Prince Edward County, ON (Autumn Leaves Gala) –

“We are thrilled to announce that Hospice Prince Edward has purchased “a home of our own”, a well-kept, solidly-built, 3-bedroom house and our goal of community residential hospice services in PEC will soon be realized. There is such tremendous support and momentum here in the County, that the Board of Directors has decided to move forward with our community residential hospice project at 40 Downes Ave. Picton” said Board Chair Birgit Langwisch.

Background

On September 18, 2012 Hospice Prince Edward (HPE) heard from the South East Local Health Integration Network (SELHIN) that no decisions on funding for any residential hospice projects would be made until February/March, 2013, after a regional review of the sustainability of all hospice services was completed.

At our Annual General Meeting two days later, we promised to explore options not previously considered, in order to make available the residential hospice services that our clients and their families need (and deserve) in this community sooner, rather than later.

We wrote to the SELHIN expressing our concern and disappointment and then we turned our minds to considering what we most wanted, looking with fresh eyes at what was available – donated space, rental space or even the possibility of purchasing a suitable home, if one was already out there.

In the meantime, the SELHIN changed its strategy, announcing its intention to develop two or three designated pilot sites to deliver residential hospice services in our region. They indicated that those hospices designated as pilot sites would be informed in January 2013 and that operational funding would flow for the fiscal year, 2013-2014. The pilot projects would then be evaluated and operational funding would then be designated on a sustainable basis if the sites showed an impact on the healthcare system and value for money.

In late October, a wonderful home came to our attention that with modest renovation could provide three residential hospice beds in our community (including the possibility of future expansion) by April 1, 2013. HPE is confident that we will be designated as a pilot site; however, whether or not that occurs, we are going to ahead with this home. It even has a lighthouse at the front door!

“There is still much to do and, of course, we will continue to need your help and support, but be assured that residential hospice services will soon be a reality in our community” said Birgit Langwisch.

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