Greetings from the Chair!

Friends, it is an honour to write to you again on behalf of the Hospice Society of Victoria County. I have now served as chair for a year and a half, and the one thing that continues to encourage and motivate me more than all else is the generosity of the people of Victoria County. The Hospice Society relies entirely on donations. This isn’t always easy. The services we provide can be costly. But time and again, the residents, businesses, churches, and service organizations of the county step forward with generous gifts. This is why here, in rural Cape Breton, we are able to provide such a high quality of palliative and end-of-life care.

The work of the Hospice Society is based on care and compassion for patients and their families. Many of you know first-hand the experience of accompanying a loved one through palliative and end-of-life care. It is never easy, but the practical help provided by the Hospice Society matters greatly to many families. We provide needed equipment and services free of charge, and we demonstrate the compassion of the people of this county when it is needed most.

This past year, the volunteer Hospice board has been busy. We held a fundraising dinner at the Bell Buoy restaurant, jointly with the Hospital Foundation. We created our first Hospice Calendar, featuring beautiful photos of the area. And we sponsored a nurse to attend the Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care conference in Liverpool. This is an extraordinary professional development opportunity, which would not have otherwise been accessible to nurses in our hospital.

Our regular work continues from year to year. We provide home oxygen, medication, and other needed supplies to homes throughout the county. We maintain the Healing Garden, the palliative care patient room, and the palliative care family room at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital.

Our board meets every month, and works hard to responsibly manage the financial gifts we receive. We hope to provide the best possible care to those we serve.

Thank you for your support of Hospice this year and every year. I am personally grateful for your generosity and compassion.

I hope we can count on your continued support.

Sincerely,
Rev. Alison Etter, Hospice Chair

The Hospice Society of Victoria County was founded by Rev. William (Bill) Holman in 1985.

The Hospice Society of Victoria County is pleased to present the new logo and slogan for the Society. In February, several Society Board members met with Wendy Burns Morrison, a local graphic artist, to discuss ideas for the design of a new logo.

Our beautiful Kidston Island lighthouse logo served the Society well for many years, and yet, the time for a change has come. We hope our new logo will reflect the work of the society and appeal to members throughout the county.

The logo now depicts two hands in a way that is almost floral, which is representative of the Society’s work in maintaining the Healing Garden at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital in Baddeck.

The slogan “Hand in Hand” reflects that the Society is reaching its hand out to individuals in the community who require assistance during a challenging time in their lives and the lives of their families. Ms. Burns Morrison has inspired the Board to look at creative ways of using the new logo and slogan to further inform people of the objectives of the Society as well as in fund-raising endeavors. The Board is looking forward to using the new Society “brand” in a variety of ways.

~ Terry Murray, Board Member
Musings from the Palliative Care Conference

Writing this on a grey and rainy day in January 2014, the conference feels a long time ago. However, thinking back to those two days in June the overriding memory I have is one of “togetherness” and community - unity and support for all individuals linked to palliative care, whether you are a professional, lay person or an individual at the end of life.

The timing of the conference could not have been better for me: we had a number of palliative patients in the hospital over the months before, and I had been battling with my lack of experience within this area. It was with a huge feeling of thankfulness that I went.

The conference title was “The Circle of Care”. From the first evening at the conference, it was obvious to me that there were many individuals from many different backgrounds and life experiences involved in the conference and together, they embodied the circle of care.

I really enjoyed the key note talk by Jim Mulcahy. He talked about the meaning and roots of words related to care and the caring profession. I found it wonderful to know that many words that we use in everyday life have their roots in the care of people dying. Hospice, for example, is a place of meeting.

I would like to thank you for giving me the chance to feel part of community and for the opportunity to be a small link in the circle of care.

~ Zelda Goad, RN

We had a successful sale of 2014 calendars with photography courtesy of Simone Carmichael – selling out quickly and raising $3500! Thanks to Simone for the beautiful photos, to the local businesses who sponsored pages and to those who supported us by buying the lovely calendars. For our 2015 calendar we are seeking submissions of photographs from across the county. Email them to hospicevc@gmail.com by September 30, 2014.

We mailed out over two hundred tax receipts in March to donors who gave monetary gifts to the Hospice Society of Victoria County in 2013. Whether the gift be $5, $20 or more, we are endlessly grateful. We thank you especially for remembering a loved one by donating to Hospice.

Hospice has recently donated hospital beds to the provincially funded Red Cross Bed Program. This program ensures delivery and set up of a hospital bed safely in your home. Think you could you benefit from this service? Contact the Hospice Coordinator at 902-295-1097 for more information.

“May you live all the days of your life.” ~Jonathan Swift
FROM OUR COORDINATOR

As the Palliative Care Coordinator for Baddeck and surrounding areas, I continue to be kept busy. Dr. John Ritter holds clinics on a fairly regular basis and we will see patients in clinic, in hospital, in Alderwood, or in their homes. Patients are supported at home by the Continuing Care nursing staff and the Home Support program.

Patients can benefit from a visit by the Occupational Therapist and/or Physiotherapist. They receive advice around mobility [canes, walkers], exercise programs, special mattresses or other equipment.

The Social Worker is sometimes consulted, and can assist patients and families with questions about finances and other matters.

Many patients are cared for in the Victoria County Memorial Hospital. I thank the staff for their compassion, expertise and concern. Not only the patient receives care, but also the patient’s family and friends.

Dr. Ritter and I work closely with the local family Physicians. The delivery of Palliative Care is meant to have a “team” approach and in this area that is certainly the case.

The Hospice Society Board members put in many volunteer hours attending meetings, arranging fund raising events and determining how the funds will be distributed. This includes home oxygen as ordered by a physician, some medications not covered by the Provincial Palliative Care Drug Program, and some smaller items such as commodes and bath benches.

I wish to thank the Board members for their support. Many patients and community members benefit from the hours they give to Hospice.

~Mary E. MacLeod, RN (Palliative Care Coordinator)

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? WANT TO HELP?
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On Sunday, Oct. 27th, 2013, the Hospice Society of Victoria County together with the Hospital Charitable Foundation held a fundraiser dinner at the Bell Buoy. Hospice raised $1528 through this event. Thanks to the Bell Buoy and all those who enjoyed the meal! We hope to continue this tradition of good food, hospitality and fundraising cooperation in the fall of 2014.

A Yoga event was held in 2013 and $166 was raised. We hope to make this an annual event and hope you join in the fun!

Greenwood United Church and Ephraim Scott Presbyterian Church both held successful concerts in 2013 and raised over $3500 for Hospice. Thank you for the music and the generosity!

Keep in touch by joining our Facebook page “Hospice Society of Victoria County” or by visiting us on the web at www.hospicesocietyofvictoriacounty.weebly.com
MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

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WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

We rely on donations and support from the community to continue our important work and ask you to consider donating to the Hospice Society of Victoria County today. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Tax receipts are issued. Please make cheques payable to:

HOSPICE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA COUNTY

Thank you in advance for your support.

Please mail your donation to:

Hospice Society of Victoria County
P.O. Box 279
Baddeck, NS
B0E 1B0

HOSPICE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA COUNTY: HAND IN HAND WITH VICTORIA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, PALLIATIVE CARE & YOU