



Valley Hospice aims to give a better quality of life at the end

THE CHRONICLE HERALD
Published August 18, 2016 - 11:08am
Last Updated August 18, 2016 - 6:18pm



Funding means work can start on residential palliative care facility



MLA Keith Irving, Kings County Warden Diana Brothers, Premier Stephen McNeil, one of the original hospice board members Dr. James Perkin, and Health and Wellness Minister Leo Glavine pose for a photo at the announcement of the new hospice and care centre in the Annapolis Valley.

A much-needed and wanted community of care for the dying and the living will finally be a reality in the Annapolis Valley, thanks to the hard work of so many for so long.

"It has been a long journey for the people of the Annapolis Valley," Valley Hospice Board chair Diana Patterson said to a crowd at the Valley Regional Hospital in Kentville Thursday.

Premier Stephen McNeil, local officials, members of the local medical community and volunteers who have fundraised for this facility for the past 16 years were all on hand to hear the good news.

The foundation is contributing \$3.3 million from pledges they have collected to the construction of the residential palliative care facility, which will be located near the hospital.

McNeil, accompanied by Health and Wellness Minister Leo Glavine, announced Thursday that the province's health and wellness budget will commit \$1.7 million annually to maintain and operate it.

"Dying deserves as much attention as when we are born," said McNeil.

The facility will give a level of support to those at the end stage of their life, their families and caregivers that is currently not available in the Valley — or in the province.

It will be the second standalone hospice in Nova Scotia. Hospice Halifax, a 10-bed facility, is expected to open in December 2017.

"At the end of our lives we'd all like the opportunity to die with dignity, surrounded by our family, friends and a caring palliative care team," said Patterson.

"We strongly believe we can be enabled to provide a better quality of life near the end, both for them and those who are on the journey with them."

First established in 2000, the Valley Hospice Foundation partnered with the Valley Regional Health Foundation in 2009 to launch a joint capital campaign to fundraise as one voice for the hospice and hospital projects.

Since then, together they've raised \$8 million from every corner of every Valley community, from service clubs, countless fundraisers, foundations and auxiliaries, to municipal contributions. Kings County provided \$955,500 over the past seven years, a municipal spokesperson told the Chronicle Herald.

"It's clear from this broad community involvement that this venture is one we have all imagined and dreamed of and urgently needed," said Patterson.

The Valley Regional hospital doesn't have a palliative care unit, but end-of-life care has been provided in other areas of the hospital.

The Department of Health and Wellness states that 60 per cent of Nova Scotians die in a hospital.

"It's less costly to put them in a hospice bed than a hospital bed," said Hospice Foundation executive director Dale Sanford.

Construction on the facility is expected to begin next year and it's expected to be open in 2019.

The foundation will be part of a steering committee to pinpoint the exact location, oversee the design and construction phases, Sanford told the Chronicle Herald.

"We will also continue to fundraise for the hospice to provide the best care for patients and families."

A news release from the announcement said the hospice will be built with private bedrooms, therapeutic gardens, common spaces and quiet rooms specifically designed to serve hospice palliative patients in a peaceful, comfortable, home-like environment.

The bedrooms will accommodate a family member overnight and each will have a private washroom.

The facility will also include a resource centre for learning opportunities for professionals and volunteers who work with palliative care patients, providing space for creative grief and bereavement programs and complementary therapies.

mbna
0% for 12 months[†]
Simplify your finances. One year with no interest.
Apply Now

Herald News Alerts
Breaking news delivered to your inbox.
JOIN NOW

You May Like Promoted Links



See What Mary Tyler Moore Looks Like Now And Try Not To Be Stunned
EdgeTrends



Drake went in. Rihanna leaned back. Twitter was all over it.



21 Facts About The Amish You Didn't Know
UrbanJoker



Inukshuk army invades Port Maitland



13 Lemons You Need To Avoid In 2016
Forbes



LEGER: Peter MacKay sure sounding like a candidate for Tory leader

by Taboola

mbna
0% for 12 months[†]
Simplify your finances. One year with no interest.
Apply Now

Videos All videos

Latest Editor's picks Most viewed



Justin Trudeau departs for China



Food tour teaches foraging on Ne...



Trudeau remembers the late Mauri...



Justin Trudeau says relationship...

Herald Shop

Sid's Second - 11 x 17 Poster Reprint: \$13.04
BUY NOW FOR \$13.04

mbna
0% for 12 months[†]
Simplify your finances. One year with no interest.
Apply Now