This has been an exciting year for hospice services in Ottawa. On Jan. 1, 2013, The Hospice at May Court and Friends of Hospice Ottawa officially amalgamated. This has allowed us to improve our efficiency, secure more government funding and most importantly, to offer more high quality services to people needing end of life support. On Feb. 19, we opened four new residential hospice beds in central west Ottawa, 1400 Carling Avenue, Embassy West Seniors Living Centre. This summer we will have an additional six beds available there. In addition we have purchased a church and property in Kanata at 110 McCurdy Drive which will become home to our Kanata staff and the future home of our new residence.

In addition to the new residential hospice beds, we continue to provide our excellent community based hospice palliative care programs and services such as volunteer in-home support, day hospice, transportation, caregiver and bereavement support and information and referral at both the May Court and Friends of Hospice west sites. In total during the first three months of 2013 we have supported over 400 individuals with over 700 volunteer hours of support. Amazing!

In the meantime we are very pleased with the progress at our West residence at the Embassy West. Congratulations to the staff and volunteers there who have worked so hard to make our new residence such a success. The renovations at the Embassy West are continuing and we will have the new wing ready by Aug. 1.

As we create our new organization we are also are creating a new look and feel. You are seeing our new name for the first time in this newsletter: Hospice Care Ottawa. The new name will be officially voted in at our first Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held Sept. 26, 2013. Whether you are currently a member of The Hospice at May Court or Friends of Hospice Ottawa, we invite you to renew your membership (see card in this mailing), participate in the AGM and help shape our important hospice services in Ottawa.

In addition, our Board of Directors have begun preparing our new strategic plan for 2013-2016. We are developing some beginning ideas and invite you check out our website for up to date information and opportunities to provide feedback. www.hospicecareottawa.ca. For now you can also access any new information at The Hospice at May Court and Friends of Hospice websites: www.hospicemaycourt.com and www.friendsofhospiceottawa.ca

Mark your Calendars

Our first Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Hospice Care Ottawa (members of The Hospice at May Court & Friends of Hospice Ottawa) is Sept. 26, 2013 at the West Residence site, 1400 Carling Ave. in the Activity Room from 5-7pm. Please renew your membership in time to participate. Remember your financial support is critical to our success.
THE TRACY ARNETT REALTY HIKE FOR HOSPICE – A Sunny Success

The 11th annual Tracy Arnett Realty Hike for Hospice raised more than $70,000 under the warm May 5th sun as hundreds of hikers hit the pavement. Tracy, our amazing title sponsor, and chef and fitness leader Joseph Cull warmed everyone up before John Virag serenaded hikers at the start line with his bag pipes.

Thanks to our sponsors, including Beechwood Cemetery and Funeral Services, the fantastic hikers and individual donors. Funds will support our four care programs.

Mayor Jim Watson, MP Paul Dewar and MPP Yasir Naqvi encouraged hikers and then Hike for Hospice Committee Chair Polly Ann Soblier and Tracy Arnett cut the ribbon.

The 5 km route started at the Hospice on Cameron Avenue, winding its way to Immaculata High School on Bronson Avenue where the Aquahaulics truck was waiting with cold water for thirsty participants. Back at hospice, hikers were greeted with a delicious lunch courtesy of The Red Apron and snacks from Tim Hortons on Bank at Riverdale. Hikers and supporters then checked out the Silent Auction in the library, taking home treasures and raising an additional $3,611 for hospice care. The Original Dixieland Band rounded out the day, playing into the afternoon with their fun and energetic music.

Mayor Jim Watson, MP Paul Dewar and MPP Yasir Naqvi encouraged hikers and then Hike for Hospice Committee Chair Polly Ann Soblier and Tracy Arnett cut the ribbon.

To see the beautiful photos taken by photographer Brain Hum please visit our website at www.hospicemaycourt.com

A Heartfelt Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors:

Thank you Tracy Arnett from Tracy Arnett Realty Ltd. and Robert Pugh from Coldwell Banker Rhodes & Company who spearheaded this initiative.

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To see the beautiful photos taken by photographer Brain Hum please visit our website at www.hospicemaycourt.com

SHOUT OUTS

We would like to send out our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has donated and contributed to the improvements of services and facilities at the Hospice at May Court.

• Randy Innes at the School of Photography Arts: Ottawa raised $708
• The Champlain LHIN (Local Health Integration Network) for the funding for our splendid new floors
• Westboro Flooring and Décor for the installation of the floors
• Pierre Paradis from C.A. Paradis for the beautiful tea pots and tablecloths used by our Day Hospice program. And for the $2,500 raised in the store on behalf of the Hospice.
• The Realtors Care Foundation for the grant of $9,240 Thank you Tracy Arnett from Tracy Arnett Realty Ltd. and Robert Pugh from Coldwell Banker Rhodes & Company who spearheaded this initiative.

We need you...

Remember to renew your membership before the AGM. Your financial donations are critical to Hospice care services!

Special Thanks to our Hike Sponsors:

Tracy Arnett • Tim Hortons • Aquahaulics
Red Apron • Metro Glebe • Dawg FM
Beechwood • Dymon • Trico

With your use of the Air Miles cards we have been able to purchase from the Air Miles catalogue at no cost:

\begin{itemize}
  \item 48 person setting of dishes
  \item Drinking glasses
  \item Computer screens
  \item Commercial blender/mixer
  \item Ongoing misc. supplies
  \item Laptop computers
  \item Fax machine
  \item Kettles
\end{itemize}

A Heartfelt Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors:

Making a difference in our community
HOSPICE WITH HEART- A Diamond Affair

Mary Arthur had the biggest smile in the crowd when the Hospice was the setting for a bubbly affair.

The veteran volunteer at the Hospice and loyal member of the May Court Club was the lucky winner of a $3,500 Canadian diamond donated by Davidson's Jewelers at the inaugural fundraiser, Hospice with Heart, A Diamond Affair on Feb. 12.

The event raised more than $2,300 for the Hospice at May Court and its four care programs which are offered at no cost to patients and their families.

It was careful sipping after participants paid $40 each for a complimentary glass of bubbly with either a cubic zirconia or the real diamond.

As guests enjoyed the bubbly, being careful not to swallow the gems of course, they were invited to visit John Anderson from Davidson's Jewelers, who appraised the sparkling gems at the bottom of their glass.

The evening also featured live jazz music by In-Young Jazz Band, appetizers from Epicuria and raffle prizes.

Raffle prizes included floral arrangements, Valentine's Day chocolates, handmade scarves, as well as beautiful hand-painted ceramic mugs and bowls.

Congratulations Mary. We hope to build on the Diamond Affair and hold a similar event in 2014. Mary Arthur is certain to be there, wearing her sparkling gem.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Interested in becoming a care giving volunteer at May Court

2013 Hospice Caregiver Volunteer Training Program (30 hours)
Saturday, Sept 7, 14, 28 and Oct 5, 2013, 9:00-4:00 p.m.

Information sessions about the course and the role begin soon

RECEPTIONISTS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to act as a welcoming face, answer the phones, direct visitors and generally be available to help visitors coming through our doors. You would have three hour shifts, from 9:00 am-9:00 pm in a peaceful and home-like environment, we welcome you to our team.

DRIVERS WANTED

We are always in need of drivers for our Day Hospice. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, our guests need to be picked up at home and escorted back later in the day. If you or your friends can help make a difference in someone’s life, we want to hear from you.

REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPIST

Part time volunteer position for Day Hospice: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings, 10:30-12:30.

Contact Ali or Myriam at 613-260-2906, ext. 231 or volunteerteam.maycourt@ottawahospice.ca

Homes For The Holidays

Plans are underway for Homes for the Holidays 2013. Yes, it’s spring - the weather is getting warmer and it’s hard to believe summer is just around the corner. And while the eleventh annual Homes for the Holidays tour on November 15, 16, and 17 may be months from now, already lots of work is underway to make it the best ever.

We are very pleased to announce that the Honourable Brian Tobin, P.C., O.C is the Honorary Chair of the 2013 tour. He has a personal connection to the Hospice. “The Hospice’s care of my brother and our family was so very comforting. Serving as Honorary Chair is one way I can express the family’s appreciation for that care and to encourage support for hospice services in Ottawa.” Mr. Tobin is the Vice-Chair of BMO Capital Markets and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Several exciting changes to the feel and format of this year’s tour are also being made. As in past tours, six homes have been selected, three of which will be exquisitely decorated by Ottawa florists. What’s different this year is that the other three will each be decorated reflecting a specific seasonal theme. Visitors will find all the homes more enticing than ever!

The boutique too is being rethought. Visitors will be able to browse the new Holiday PopUp Shop - at a surprise location - and find just the gift they’re looking for. What’s more, some of Ottawa’s best food purveyors are developing signature preserves, sauces, chutneys and other goodies to make that holiday meal just perfect. And, visitors will be able to stay for a coffee or tea.

We’re hoping this year’s tour will be the best ever as it supports the important work of The Hospice at May Court which provides end-of-life care free of charge, and in a home-like setting, to some 600 people and their families each year. So, mark your calendars: The official launch for the Homes for the Holidays tour will take place at the Hospice on October 7, 2013. And don’t forget to keep an eye on the new Homes for the Holidays website (www.hospicemaycourt.com) for more details are announced!
The Hospice staff try to ensure all names are listed exactly as submitted on your written correspondence. We apologize if any errors have occurred. Please contact Lesley Doucette at The Hospice at May Court on 613.260.2906 ext. 222 or send an email to Lesley@hospicemaycourt.com if corrections need to be made. Thank you for your understanding and support.