

'It's a dream come true'

Hein House set to open this fall

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Hein House, Hospice Care Ottawa's newest residential hospice, will officially open its doors this fall.

An open house and ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for Sept. 25, followed by the organization's annual general meeting. Hein House, the residential wing of the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice in Kanata, will open to residents the following day.

"It's a dream come true," said Kristina Voth-Childs, communications co-ordinator for Hospice Care Ottawa. "I'm just so excited about it. It was a

long time coming."

Four years in the making, Hein House will provide around-the-clock care for people in their last days and weeks of life. Two additional respite rooms will offer space for short-term care. All services offered by Hospice Care Ottawa are provided at no charge.

Currently, those requiring residential care have had to travel to either the Central

West Hospice — a temporary location opened as a stopgap measure until the Kanata hospice could be built — located in the Carlington community near the Experimental Farm, or the May Court Hospice in Old Ottawa South.

Central West will close on Sept. 18 in preparation for the move to Kanata.

"It will reduce the burden of travel for families who live in the west end," said Voth-Childs. "When you're facing the end-of-life journey, that's one less thing you have to worry about."

With warm tones, plenty of wood accents and access to the gardens, Hein House offers residents and their loved ones a more homelike environment than a hospital room.

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Hospice Care Ottawa/Submitted

The finishing touches are being put on the residential wing of the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice in Kanata. Hein House is set to open on Sept. 25.

Hospice to offer 10 beds, two respite rooms

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"The (hospice) volunteers just go above and beyond, attending not only to the residents' needs but the families as well," said Voth-Childs. "It's got a huge skylight, there's high ceilings ... It's just bright and open and airy, yet still warm."

The suites at Hein House have private washrooms, a television and sleeper sofas in each room, "so families can stay as much as they like," said Voth-Childs. "There are no visiting hours — everyone can stay as long as they like with their loved one."

Each room also has large doors leading to the gardens, wide enough to roll the beds out so residents can enjoy being outdoors. Other amenities at Hein House include quiet rooms, large fireplaces and a family kitchen.

"They can prepare the food their loved one wants," said Voth-Childs. "They can treat it like their home."

The initial timetable was to see it open in late 2016 and

then early 2017. Weather complications over the winter and spring delayed construction by a few months but everything is on track to open in September, said Voth-Childs.

"You see it all coming together," she said. "We couldn't have done it without the community — the generosity is just overwhelming."

Hospice Care Ottawa receives no government funding for capital projects, and the government only provides 60 per cent of funding for programs and services.

Through the Hospice Ottawa West Campaign, the organization was able to raise the \$6-million needed to renovate and build the Kanata site.

The hospice continues to raise funds through its Brick by Brick campaign, which will help with the mortgage and programming, said Voth-Childs. Aside from its residential services, Hospice Care Ottawa provides day programs, caregiver support, in-home support, grief and bereavement services and volunteer training.



Hospice Care Ottawa/Submitted
The finishing touches are being put on the residential wing of the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice in Kanata.

OPEN HOUSE

Hein House, located at 110 McCurdy Dr., will officially open on Monday, Sept. 25. Tours will be available beginning at 3 p.m. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 5:30 p.m., followed by Hospice Care Ottawa's annual general meeting, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

For more information or to donate, visit hospicecareottawa.ca.