



Jessica Cunha/Metroland

'We're open': Hein House now accepting residents

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Hein House, Hospice Care Ottawa's residence in south Kanata, opened its doors on Sept. 25 and began accepting clients on Tuesday.

Staff, volunteers, politicians, and residents came out by the hundreds to tour the newly-constructed wing of the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice. For Barbara Hein, widow of Roly Hein, it was a special day.

"I'm more than pleased with the final result," she said, after cutting the ribbon to officially open the residence. "This is going to be a much-needed facility in the community."

Hein House is named in memory of her husband, who died in 2013.

As the president of R.E. Hein Construction, Roly Hein volunteered his time and expertise to manage construction of the first phase of the hospice in the former Trinity Presbyterian Church

and assisted with fundraising on the Campaign Cabinet. After his passing, Barbara Hein made a large donation in his name for the residential wing.

"To pass away in a hospital is really not a compassionate way for someone to have their end-of-life journey, but with hospices there are so many compassionate volunteers that can really focus (on the client)," said Barbara.

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Barbara Hein (centre) cuts the ribbon to officially open Hein House, the residential wing of the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice in Kanata. More than 440 people toured the facility during an open house on Sept. 25. The building features 10 hospice palliative care rooms and two respite rooms, as well as a host of other amenities.

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'Every little detail, they've thought of'

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"This way, someone can be offered a very lovely exit," she said.

The building features spacious rooms, a large skylight, stonework, as well as British Columbia fir beams and Canadian cedar. Two fireplaces are the main features of the sitting areas in the front and back of the residence.

All of the 10 hospice suites, as well as the two respite rooms, have large glass doors wide enough to fit a bed through so residents can enjoy the grounds. More than 440 people toured the facility during its open house on Sept. 25.

"People who are maybe so afraid to leave their comfort zone at home, this might make a difference when they realize they can be in their bed and have such good care and family there and look out at gardens and waterfalls," said in-home volunteer Margo Stansel, a Munster resident. "It's amazing. They've thought of everything. Every little detail, they've thought of."



Photos by Jessica Cunha/Metroland

Hein House opened its doors to the public on Sept. 25 and was set to being accepting residents the following day. Clockwise from top: a hospice palliative care suite; one of two sitting rooms; the front lobby.





Margo Stansel, of Munster, has been volunteering with Hospice Care Ottawa for two years.

The fundraising campaign brought in more than \$6 million to help build the residential wing. Construction began in 2016 and contractors were still hard at work the week before the opening.

Hospice Care Ottawa executive director Lisa Sullivan said although the build had its challenges, the final result has been worth it.

“It’s been years and years and years of very hard work by a lot of people,” she said. “We can finally stand here today and say: ‘We’re open.’”

Aside from its residential services, Hospice Care Ottawa also provides day programming for those with a life-limiting illness, caregiver support, in-home support, grief and bereavement services, volunteer training and other programs. For more information, visit hospicecareottawa.ca.