

Enjoy this collection of news and views to keep volunteers "in the loop" about happenings at Hospice Georgina. This newsletter is also on our website: www.hospicegeorgina.com.

POINSETTIA SALES - Thank you to everyone who supported our second annual Holiday Poinsettias event. It was a great success. Laurie did a fantastic job organizing the purchases and volunteers. We have 6 red poinsettias left, if anyone needs another one. Thanks to our partner, Georgina Gardens, for ordering them and letting us pick the plants up at their store. Some of us did a little holiday shopping there too. And huge thanks to our great volunteer salespersons that helped distribute 191 poinsettias in 2 days, including: Marilyn V, Carrie Ann S. Helga B, Margaret V, Margaret B, Gay A. and Rick.



Christmas Volunteer Pot luck Luncheon Tuesday Dec. 6 at

noon - We have a good start on our pot luck offerings already.

Remember to RSVP to Laurie by November 30th and indicate if you would like to bring something to our luncheon. Nana's house is located at 32 Southriver Rd, behind Shopper's Drug in Sutton. Please bring your volunteer driving information so that we can start our program in January.

TIME TOGETHER - It's time to dig out that new 2012 calendar and mark the next Time Together for Tuesday January 10th. We are starting to plan topics for next year and invite you to send us your suggestions.



UNITED WAY Hospice Georgina raised over \$600 for the United Way campaign. Thanks to everyone for their support. Thanks Margaret B for coordinating this year's campaign.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Palliative Visitors - We are experiencing a strong increase in referrals for both palliative visiting and bereavement services. More clients are now waiting for volunteers in Sutton and Keswick, several with urgent needs for visiting support. Please call Allison to discuss your availability for an hour or two each week. Our Wednesday Drop-In program is also well attended but we need another volunteer to assist with facilitating this morning program as Lynda R is leaving for Florida. Please consider helping for the winter months. Contact Allison.

Holiday Decorating -We will be decorating our office Christmas tree on November 30th during our Drop In program and would love to have some helpers. We will also be setting up our memorial tree in the building lobby with paper doves to sign with a loved one's name. Contact Laurie or Allison.



TVO Special Thursday Nov 24th. There will be a thought provoking discussion on Assisted Suicide issues at 8pm. Regardless of your personal opinion on this sensitive topic, this program is an opportunity to learn more about this issue that is currently front page news. According to CTV, Lawyers for a B.C. woman with ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease went to court last Monday to challenge Canada's assisted-suicide laws -- nearly 20 years after a similar attempt by Sue Rodriguez who also suffered from ALS.

Gloria Taylor, 63, has already lived longer than doctors predicted she would, Taylor says her condition deteriorates every day and she wants the ability to decide when she has had enough. Lawyer Joe Arvay, who is representing Taylor and four others, argued on Monday that laws against the right to die are unconstitutional. Taylor will appear in court Dec. 1 to argue her case as well.

It is currently illegal in Canada to counsel, aid or abet a person to commit suicide. The offence carries a maximum punishment of 14 years in prison.

Their lawyer said that much has changed since the Rodriguez decision, with new evidence and research supporting the right to die. "It is cruel and inhumane to force me to suffer a long, prolonged death," Taylor said when she joined the lawsuit. "It is my life, my body, and it should be my choice."

Opponents said that changing the laws to be similar to Holland or some US states, would make elderly and disabled people vulnerable to abuse by family and friends who might pressure them to end their lives. Belgium and Switzerland as well as the states of Oregon and Washington have since adopted laws that protect people from being influenced or pushed into planning their own deaths



Hospices across Canada hope that this public debate gets broadened to include a national discussion on the need for a consistent, equitable and well funded system of enhanced hospice and palliative care services to expand the choices for advanced planning and end of life care. A new Parliamentary report on palliative care **NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN: CARE OF VULNERABLE CANADIANS** was just released Nov. 17th and advocates for the need for a National palliative care program.

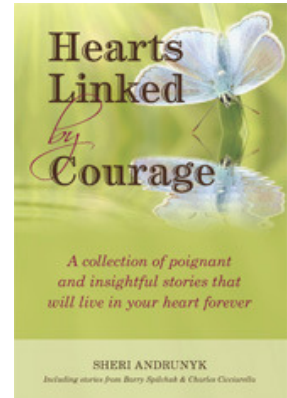


Please plan to join us at the **Holiday Remembrance**

Service at Becker's Funeral Home, Keswick, at 7:30pm on Thursday Dec 1st or on Monday November 28th at 7:30pm at Forrest and Taylor Funeral Home in Sutton.

Thanks to the Tribute Committee for assisting with these services. Contact Laurie or Frances for more information.

BOOKS ON SALE We have signed copies of Sheri Andrunyk's new book for sale with 40% of the profits going to Hospice Georgina. This makes a great inspirational Christmas gift for yourself or someone close to you. Contact Laurie.



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE & TEA - Please try to join



us on Wednesday Dec 21st for our annual Open House for all volunteers, clients and our community supporters. Enjoy some holiday baking, refreshments and Christmas music. Share some Christmas memories with our Drop in friends too. This is a great time to bring along a friend who might be interested in volunteering with Hospice in 2012. Open House is 10am until noon. Donations of baking would be most appreciated.

Contact Laurie or Allison.



SAVE YOUR CANADIAN TIRE MONEY -We need a new dishwasher and Canadian Tire has started selling them. So we thought we could collect CT money to reduce the cost of a replacement machine. Tell your friends and before long we will have enough for a new dishwasher that doesn't leak. Contact Laurie or Mary Margaret.

VOLUNTEER HOURS - Reminder: Hours are due December 6 to Laurie Ann.