



The Dove Newsletter

Ridge Meadows Hospice Society

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October 11, 2006



Celebrating the opening of McKenney Creek Hospice.

THE ROAD WELL TRAVELLED

Twenty six years after Edna Trethewey started hospice in our community, and a decade after the Society commenced working on a plan to build a free standing hospice, Fraser Health and our Society today celebrated the official opening of the McKenney Creek Hospice on the Ridge Meadows Hospital campus. The first patients will be admitted on October 17, 2006.

Over the years successive Society boards nurtured the dream of operating a free standing hospice, but the unpredictable economic climate made the project unachievable. But we held fast to our vision – a choice of care that is a place of comfort and tranquility for our loved ones, where dignity is respected and championed. So, it was with thankfulness and joy, that in the summer of 2005, we forged a partnership with Fraser Health whereby they would fund and operate ten, dedicated hospice beds. We, for our part, agreed to raise the \$360,000 needed to equip, furnish and decorate the hospice.

Today as we tour and celebrate the completion of the new hospice, we must look back along the road we have travelled, and extend our gratitude to the many, many people who have worked so hard to make the residence a reality.

We thank Edna Trethewey for having the foresight over 25 years ago to recognize the need for hospice care in our communities; we thank Fraser Health for providing the building and funding; we thank major donors organizations, individual donors, friends of hospice who have supported our

efforts during fundraising events, our staff, volunteers and past and current boards of directors.

It has been an arduous journey, one that has tested our resolve and zeal for our mission. Today we reached our destination, but the road still stretches out ahead. We know there is still work to be done, but today we will pause and celebrate.

Thank you.
The Board of Directors.

Open House

The Society hosted a series of Open Houses on October 3 and October 10, at which time special guests and members of the public were invited to tour the hospice residence.

During the wine and cheese party on the evening of October 3, Anne MacDonald, President, presented Certificates of Appreciation to our major donor organizations.

Cheques were also presented to the Society by Rotary Club of Meadowridge, Founder's Cup Charity Foundation, Maple Ridge Quilters' Guild and St. Luke's Parish.

The beautiful floral arrangements were graciously donated by Sandra Taylor of Westgate Flower Garden, coffee was donated by Morrison Healthcare and the wine was donated by Founder's Cup Charity Foundation.



Anne MacDonald presenting Certificates of Appreciation to:
 Top Left: Linda Henry and Jim Gobelle from Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 88.
 Below Right: Polly Baillie from exservice-women of Ridge Meadows.
 Below Left: Johanna Alford, President, Maple Ridge Quilters' Guild.



L-R Anne MacDonald receiving a cheque from Doug King, Ron Jones and Bruce McLaren - Founder's Cup Charity Foundation.



Anne MacDonald presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Bill Brown (L) and Doug King (R) - Westminster Savings Credit Union.



Anne MacDonald presenting Certificates of Appreciation to:
 Left: Maggie Prince and Dr. Bob Masse, Vistas Run.
 Below Right: Doug King on behalf of the Maple Ridge Community Foundation.
 Below Left: Bob Shanz presenting cheque on behalf of the Rotary Club of Ridgemeanows.



Before and After:
 Bottom left: A previous presentation of cheque as part of Canada Safeway's "We Care" Campaign.
 Below: A later presentation from Knights of Columbus.





A Final Word From Glenda Wonnacott, Health Services Manager, McKenney Creek Hospice.



“You matter because you are you, and you matter to the last moment of your life.”

These words of Dame Cicely Saunders are a great inspiration to me as I begin my new role as Fraser Health’s Manager responsible for the new hospice residence to open in Maple Ridge this fall. For me, these few simple words say volumes about the essence of hospice palliative care.

I look forward with great anticipation to the day we open the doors of this wonderful addition to the local continuum of care provided to those who are near the end of life, and to their families.

It brings me much pleasure to be able to join the dedicated team who have been working hard on the design and furnishing for the hospice. Now the work to prepare for clinical service delivery has begun. Care staff has been hired, physician

coverage is being planned, clinical standards are being developed and discussions with support departments are underway. All efforts are focused on being ready to welcome our first patients on October 17, 2006.

I am thrilled to be a part of the team that will bring the hospice residence to reality and to have the opportunity to work with the Hospice Society and the volunteers who currently provide incredible caring support to individuals in their homes, in residential care facilities and in Ridge Meadows Hospital.

Adding a hospice residence will enhance our opportunities to honour life and share in someone’s journey. It’s about possibilities – providing choices for individuals during the last weeks of their lives when dying at home is not either possible or the choice of the patient and family. I look forward to working together to shape our vision for a homelike, caring, comforting setting that focuses on quality of life, peace and dignity.

Glenda Wonnacott.