



# Resident Family Newsletter

OCT 2024

## St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre celebrates 20 years of compassionate care

Reflecting on the 20-year history of St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre, it's clear that the deep commitment and perseverance we witness every day from staff, physicians and volunteers is part of our DNA.

The creation of St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre Brantford can be attributed to several forward-thinking individuals who harnessed the passion of a community and brought the idea of a campus of care to fruition 20 years ago.

In 2001, the Ontario Government determined that three hospitals within the County of Brant weren't needed and decided to close St. Joseph's Hospital, which had been in existence since 1955. Brantford General Hospital, along with the Willett Hospital in Paris, remained open.

The loss of St. Joseph's Hospital was a major concern for residents of Brantford and Brant County. Despite great community opposition and a petition signed by thousands being submitted to the Province of Ontario, the decision was upheld. This left the community questioning what was to become of the site.

For St. Joseph's Foundation, (now St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation), raising funds for St. Joseph's Hos

pital was its reason for being. In consultation with St. Joseph's Health System and the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Foundation initiated a community engagement plan soliciting the opinion of its partners, including 11,000 donors who had supported St. Joseph's Hospital previously, says Olga Consorti, the Foundation's President & CEO at the time.

Partners were given a short list of five critical needs identified in a previous study: support services for seniors, support services for caregivers, hospice care, services for cancer patients and families, and services for Alzheimer's / dementia patients. Overwhelmingly, hospice care topped the list, and it was felt that several of the other seniors' services could be accommodated under the umbrella of hospice care. The decision was made to build a hospice.

At the same time, the Province had ordered the John Noble Home (JNH), a municipally run home with 360 long-term care beds, to do an extensive renovation to meet current healthcare standards, which would involve a major financial and logistical undertaking for the municipalities.

Former JNH Administrator and



*Pictured above in 2004 against the backdrop of a construction project to transform St. Joseph's Hospital into a long-term care home are John Quinlan, Director on the Foundation board, Romeo Cercone, former CEO of St. Joseph's Hospital, Eleanor Maslin, SJLCB Administrator, and Chris Friel, Mayor of Brantford at the time of construction.*

retired St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre Administrator Eleanor Maslin remembers vividly the day that City Councillors Vince Bucci and Robert Taylor, members of the JNH Management Committee, came to her office and asked for her thoughts on moving

more than 50 per cent of their residents to the now vacant St. Joseph's Hospital to support renovations at JNH.

"Of course, having an idea is just the first step. What the Councillors were proposing would require the approval of the City of Brantford, the County of Brant, the Ministry and St. Joseph's Health System," Eleanor added.

After more than two years of planning, and extensive community consultation between St. Joseph's Health System, the Foundation, JNH and the municipalities, an agreement was reached to permanently relocate roughly 60 per cent of the residents at JNH and an equal percentage of the staff to the former St. Joseph's Hospital. Residents, families and staff were given a choice of where they wanted to be. Former President of St. Joseph's Hospital, Romeo Cercone, who had transitioned into the role of VP at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, facilitated the process, with support from JNH staff and Council representatives.

Under the leadership of Olga Consorti and newly retired Brantford Police Chief Bob Peeling, the Foundation began a major fundraising campaign. Approximately \$6.5 million was raised to build a hospice and to transform St. Joseph's Hospital into a long-term care home that would incorporate additional healthcare services to support the needs of seniors. The vision of a campus of care began to take shape.

Cheryl Moore, who was hired as the Hospice's Executive Director in 2004, was already delivering Hospice care to the community in her nursing role at Brantford General Hospital's (BGH) cancer clinic.

"We had end-of-life patients that

were too sick to come to the hospital for pain management, so we met them where they were, in their homes," says Cheryl.

The concept of providing Hospice care both in a physical hospice and in the community was one that made sense to her, and to the BGH doctors with whom she consulted. An innovative model that included a 24-hour six-bed hospice, home care in the community, and ongoing day wellness support for cancer patients was developed.



*Construction workers raise the walls of the original Stedman Hospice, currently housing the Kidney Clinic and Participation Support Services.*

Staying true to the wishes of the community, leaders involved in the creation of St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre Brantford ensured space was allocated to accommodate the professional healthcare services needed to support seniors' care.

Dr. John Hadley, who was part of a group of medical professionals at St. Paul's Family Health Centre, was medical director at the JNH. With more than half of the residents under his care moving to the new location, he became medical director at St. Joseph's Long-term Care Home. Dr. Hadley, along with other doctors at St. Paul's Family Health Centre relocated to St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre and remain tenants to this day. Laboratory services and other medical specialties followed.

Through commitment and perseverance, a community came together to see the building of a hospice and the transformation of an empty hospital into a campus of care.

Recently St. Joseph's Long-Term Care and Stedman Community Hospice recognized employees for their years of service to the Campus. Many of the original long-term care and hospice employees are still on staff. In fact, more than 50 of them still work here, collectively providing more than 1,425 years of compassionate care to the community. Not only were these individuals here in the beginning, they, along with our entire team remained committed through a three-year pandemic, contributing to one of the best records of any campus of care in the province for its low incidences of COVID-19 cases.

In reflecting on our history, and the commitment and perseverance of our people, "remarkable" is the word that comes to mind; it's truly something to be celebrated.

Every day, with the support of resident families and volunteers, our staff carries out the humble work begun by the Sisters of St. Joseph's nearly two centuries ago, and in doing so, are part of that beautiful legacy of caring for the vulnerable in our community, of serving our neighbours. That same spirit that brought us to this point in our evolution will undoubtedly continue to guide us into the future, helping to ensure that no one gets left behind.

On October 29 employees, residents, resident families, volunteers and members of the community are invited to come together to observe 20 years of compassionate care. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you. Please see page 4 for details.

# Family Council Information Board

## Become a Volunteer Meal Assistant

Volunteer Meal Assistants provide a valuable service to residents. This is an important role that requires training. If you are interested in feeding residents in the dining room (in addition to your family member), please contact Shelley Murray at [smurray@sjltc.ca](mailto:smurray@sjltc.ca) or 519-751-7096, ext 3315. Shelley will ensure you receive the necessary training to step into this role.

## Music Programming

Family Council is a proud supporter of the home's music program, providing \$125 in funds every month so that residents can have access talented local artists, right here on our site.

## Monthly Resident Lunch Club

Did you know that you can be included with your family member at the monthly Resident lunch club. Contact the recreation therapist to join your loved one. Dates, menu and cost are on the bulletin boards on each home unit.

**A WIDE SELECTION OF HOLIDAY GIFTS AVAILABLE**

ST. JOSEPH'S  
*Lifecare Centre*  
BRANTFORD

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

NOVEMBER 16

SATURDAY 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

99 WAYNE GRETZKY PARKWAY, BRANTFORD  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ● FREE PARKING

## OVER 20 VENDORS!

SOAPS ~ CANDLES ~ TOYS ~ JEWELRY ~ CLOTHING  
CRAFTS ~ OTHER UNIQUE GIFTS ~ BAKED GOODS  
RAFFLES AND MUCH MORE!

## COMING EVENTS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Sunday, Oct 20 at 1:30 p.m.**

**Resident and Family Social** in McMillen Hall. Bring your loved one for the Social for Fun, Prizes, Laughs, Refreshments and Meet Others!

**Tuesday, October 22, 1:30 p.m.**

**St. Joseph's Lifecare Family Council Meeting** in the Boardroom on the 4th floor. (Enter elevator code 9900 \*, then press 4). Together we make a difference! Attend to receive updates, learn new information and advocate for all residents & families.

**Saturday, November 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Annual Holiday Bazaar (see ad below)**

Family Council will be participating and fundraising at the Bazaar. Individual and corporate donations for Family Council's raffle table are greatly appreciated. We are also requiring additional volunteer support at the event. Contact us at [sjlcfamilycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcfamilycouncil@gmail.com).

## Joining Family Council will:

- keep you updated on what is happening at St. Joseph's Lifecare when attending Council meetings, providing reports and hearing from guest speakers on the SJLCB Management Team
- provide additional opportunities to give input into decisions and changes that affect residents
- give you a chance to meet other residents and their families
- give you the opportunity to use your experience, skills and talents to benefit all residents

For information on Family Council meetings, programming and activities, please contact: Michelle, Chair 519-802-2951 or Janet, Vice Chair 519-209-8638 or by email at [sjlcfamilycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcfamilycouncil@gmail.com).

# SPA-LTC

Strengthening a Palliative Approach  
in Long-Term Care



**CLICK HERE TO  
DOWNLOAD BROCHURE**


Both palliative and end-of-life care play a vital role in managing serious illnesses. Many people often confuse a palliative approach to care with end-of-life care. Both palliative and end-of-life care prioritize comfort and quality of life, which can lead to the assumption that they are the same. In fact, there are definite distinctions.

Palliative care can be provided at any stage of a serious illness, not just at the end of life. The primary goals of a palliative approach to care include symptom management, coordination of care and spiritual, emotional, and psychological support for the individual.

End-of-life care is a specific type of palliative care provided when a patient is nearing the end of life, typically when


the prognosis is six months or less. At end-of-life, the focus shifts entirely to comfort rather than curative treatments. The primary goals of end-of-life become comfort care, and support for families including bereavement support to help cope with the impending loss.

While both palliative and end-of-life care aim to improve quality of life and provide comprehensive support, the goals and scope of care can be very different. By increasing awareness and education about the differences, we can help ensure that patients receive the appropriate type of care at the right time. Understanding the distinctions between the two is crucial for providing appropriate care and support to our patients and their families.




**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2024**  
St. Joseph's Campus of Care ~ 99 Wayne Gretzky Parkway, Brantford  
McMillen Hall, 1-4 p.m. (Official Remarks at 2 p.m.)  
Free parking in our main lot (Chatham St. and WGP). Refreshments served.



St. Joseph's Long-Term Care Home and Stedman Community Hospice invite you to join us as we celebrate two decades of delivering compassionate care to our community.



**RSVP on or before October 21<sup>st</sup> using the QR Code or simply click on this invitation.**

## Congratulations to Leah Kirby, PSW Star of the Month



Leah was nominated by her work colleague, Blair Silversmith who shared:

*"Leah has the best personality at St. Joe's. She is always smiling, willing to help without hesitation. Leah takes time out her day to sit and get to know the residents better, the empathy and compassion Leah shows makes her a star. Leah is committed to pursuing the highest of possible standards."*

Our thanks to Leah for demonstrating St. Joe's values.

[Click here to nominate a deserving member of our team today!](#)