



Langley Hospice News

Volume 18 Issue 3

20660 48 Avenue, Langley, B.C. V3A 3L6

September 2011



Langley Hospice Society, a community-based, non-profit organization, provides compassionate support to help people live with dignity and hope while coping with grief and the end of life.



January–August, 2011 Donations Made in Memory of:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Joy Adams | Jean Head | Ruth McMillan |
| Derek Allder | Johanne Healy | Carl Mullin |
| Ralph Beach | Patrick Higgs | Janet Neilson |
| Stanley Biddlecombe | Jo-Anne Hnetka | Christine Novis |
| David Bower | Howard Jackson | Eileen Patterson |
| Lise Bradley-Dupuis | Anne Jamieson | Walter Pohl |
| Bernadette Brandle | Ann Katona | Michele Ranger |
| Eileen Brooks | Regina Kipling | Mary Ready |
| Colleen Bunt | Mary Kolotyluk | Henry Rochfort |
| Janine Candish | Connie Kotzian | Anthony Scott |
| Betty Carter | Derek Leach | Alice Simpson |
| Leonard Clark | Roy Leite | Margaret Stachofski |
| Della Crawford | Steve Lord | Russell Strahl |
| Pearlie May Dougall | Sylvia MacGregor | William Van Geel |
| Jean Fitzpatrick | Alice MacLeod | Robin Wager |
| Audrey Gowan | Marilyn McCrae | Mary Wallace |
| | Stuart McGilivray | George Weir |

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

Society Board

- Kathy Derksen, President
 Scott Taylor, Vice President
 Bonnie Greenlee, Treasurer
 Jane Hamar, Rec. Secretary
 Anne Pilgrim, Rec. Secretary
 Lawrence Eta
 Dorscie Paterson



Foundation Board

- Roberta Frankforth, President
 Anne Dent Secretary
 Merlyn Jussila, Treasurer
 Dorscie Paterson



Executive Director

Sandra Castle

Bereavement Support

Shivani Kaushik

Palliative/Volunteer Support

Fernande Ouellette

Children's Grief Support

Jane Corkish

Special Events/Volunteer Services

Denise Station

Administrative Services

Wendy Vetsch

Second Story Treasures Manager/Store Operations

Diane Boyd

Asst. Manager/Store Operations

Deborah Campbell
 Kathy Sawatzky



Published by the Langley Hospice Society

All material in this newsletter is copyrighted by Langley Hospice; no reproduction permitted without explicit written permission.

Langley Hospice Society
 20660—48 Avenue
 Langley, BC V3A 3L6
 Phone (604) 530-1115
 Fax (604) 530-8851
 www.langleyhospice.com



Simonds Elementary School Quilts a Gift of Love to Grieving Children

(reprinted from the Langley School District Newsletter)

Grade 3 students at Simonds Elementary School are sending hugs, in the form of hand-made quilts, to other children grieving the loss of loved ones. The Simonds students have been learning about quilts and the role these piecework blankets have played since pioneer times as sources of comfort and warmth. Because they are works of art, quilts convey messages of love from those who make them to those who use them. That's why **Eileen Findlay** wanted to help Simonds students make quilts to be used by children coming to terms with loss at the Langley Hospice. The grandmother of two Simonds students, Ms. Findlay donated all her time and all the fabric needed to introduce the students to the art of quilting. She also made the connection to the Langley Hospice Society, which is grateful for the students' gifts.

The Simonds class brainstormed then voted to come up with the top four quilt themes: oceans, animals, robots and sports. "We wanted to make them because lots of kids have lost their parents or people they love," said one student. "The quilts are like 'hug blankets' to help the children feel better," said another. Grade 3 teachers Mrs. Wilkins, Mrs. Burns and student teacher Miss Chow all felt proud of the work their class did on the quilts. "We have been learning about the journey quilts can make; from one pioneer cabin to another and from grief to healing," they said. In Canada's history quilts have symbolized that pioneers faced a "difficult journey, but by working together they were able to accomplish great things." Grieving children also

Grade 3 students at Simonds Elementary School have made quilts, which will help comfort grieving children at the Langley Hospice Society.



face a difficult journey, but when they wrap themselves in the quilts, lovingly made by the Simonds students, they will know they are not alone.

(Note: Eileen Findlay has been a volunteer with the Langley Hospice Society since 2005, and is currently involved with the Caring Hands Quilting Group, making quilts for our Children's Grief Support Program, as well as visiting at the hospice residence.)

Langley Hospice Residence: One Volunteer's Experience

Upon the table a small light was on and gently flickering as I entered the building. I approached the table to read the writing upon the card in front of the light. As I came closer I could see a young woman standing in the hall, her body pressed against the rail. She was trembling, her hands pressed to her mouth, with tears falling upon her cheeks. I moved towards her, my purse still over my shoulder, and extended my arms to her. We both took a step towards each other and my arms encircled her. No words were spoken as she put her head upon my shoulder and I held her close. Time passed, her tears subsided and she stood back. She was composed as she spoke only two words, "thank you".

So what building is this? What do the light and the card represent? Why was this young woman crying?

I have entered a Hospice Residence. In direct line with the outside door is a table where the small light is encased within a stained glass stand. This light is turned on for twenty-four hours to honour the life and acknowledge the passing of a resident. A white card with the

(Continued on page 2)

They have the experience to help me navigate through the options.



Prearranging your funeral needs releases your family from unnecessary stress and discomfort. We offer care and support through the unique benefits that are available as a Dignity Memorial® provider, so families receive the peace of mind they deserve:

- National Transferability
- 100% Service Guarantee
- 24-Hour Compassion Helpline®
- Away From Home Protection
- Bereavement Travel Program
- Child/Grandchild Protection*

To learn more about these important and valuable benefits, please contact us or visit www.dignitymemorial.com

*Additional terms and conditions apply.

HENDERSON'S LANGLEY FUNERAL HOME
 20786 FRASER HIGHWAY, LANGLEY, BC V3A 4G6 604.530.6488





name of the deceased sits propped upon a small wooden holder. Also on the table are a vase and a book. The vase is always filled with beautifully arranged fresh flowers, courtesy of the Langley Hospice Society. The book,

with covers of engraved wood etched with the words "In Loving Memory", is for family and friends of those who pass through Hospice. The book allows expressions of love, sadness and goodbyes to loved ones and serves as an aid to healing in the grieving process. What is not on the table is the beautiful hand-sewn quilt – a work of love – which covers the family's loved one as they make their last journey through the halls of the hospice accompanied with respect and last goodbyes.

The young woman is a family member, not of the deceased, but the daughter of one of the residents. She is able to express her needs and show her emotions as she knows that she is in a safe place and that each person here will reach out to her and comfort her.

This is the Langley Hospice Residence, but it could be any hospice, each having its own traditions but all with the same goal. Along with the doctor and the nurses, we the volunteers, strive to accomplish this goal. Our goal is to provide comfort with dignity and respect to the residents. We also provide a compassionate and caring environment for all residents, family and friends. So, together with our goals, we shall continue with our traditions, each by itself small, but together forming a valuable and meaningful part of what Hospice stands for.

Maureen Airey, Hospice Volunteer



HAPPENINGS

The generous folks at **WalMart** have collected and donated \$4,000.00 to the Langley Hospice Society, in conjunction with grand re-opening of their newly renovated store in Langley. Thanks so much to everyone at WalMart!



We'd also like to extend our sincere thanks to the **Team Telus Charitable Giving** program for their recent very kind donation.

Fall Support Groups

Langley Hospice will once again be offering **Adult Grief Support Groups** to provide support to those grieving the death of someone significant in their lives. These groups provide a safe and supportive environment where participants can explore ways to better understand the grief journey. There is no charge for participation in the groups; for more information or to register, please call Shivani at 604-530-1115.

Our fall **Children's Program** starts in October with a Monday evening for families with children who have lost a parent. Coming up in late October there will be a support group for teens aged 13 and up, and in early November, we're starting a group for children up to age 12. Also in early November, we have a day camp scheduled for kids aged 8 to 12 years. For more information on all of these activities or to register, please call Jane at 604-530-1115.



Farewells & New Faces

We bid a fond farewell to **Angelika Bendrich**, Bereavement Support Coordinator. Angelika would like to express her gratitude to the staff, volunteers and especially to the bereaved members of the community that she was honoured to work with. We wish Angelika all the best in her future endeavours.

On Jan 6, 2011, **Denise Station** joined the Langley Hospice Society team as the new Special Events & Volunteer Coordinator. Originally from the small island of Trinidad, Denise discovered her love of working with volunteers early on and has more than ten years of volunteer management experience. Denise has recruited, trained and managed volunteers for such varied programs as Heart and Stroke Foundation, Scouts Canada and Alberta Luge. Denise currently lives in Langley with her family and continues to be an active volunteer in the Langley community.

Shivani Kaushik, BA, MSW, RSW, joins Langley Hospice Society as the new Bereavement Coordinator. Shivani is a native Calgarian, with educational and professional experience in Montreal, New York, and Boston. With a background as a medical social worker with a strong interest in the elderly, Shivani is eager to apply her knowledge of life-threatening illnesses and the importance of grieving to her new position.



Shivani (l.) & Denise at this year's Volunteer Appreciation event.

Volunteer Corner

**4th Annual Camp Chrysalis 2011
Warm Weather + 30 Campers + Volunteers
+ Fun Activities = HUGE SUCCESS!**



This year we would like to pay tribute to the **18** volunteers who contributed over **700** hours at Camp Chrysalis, held at Camp Elkgrove on August 18 to 21, 2011. We were thrilled to have Bereavement

Coordinators from other Hospice Societies volunteering their time, which contributed to the success of the weekend! Thank-you Abbotsford, Crossroads, Maple Ridge, and White Rock Hospice Societies. The losses experienced by the children ranged from cancer and illness to car accidents, suicide and even homicide. Camp Chrysalis offers all the fun of a typical summer camp, along with group-therapeutic activities woven in to assist the children with their grief process. Camp Counsellors went over and above the "call to duty" and joined the "kids" in hiking and crawling through the mud, refereeing games of "capture the flag", washing dishes and most important, listening to grieving children tell their story with endless patience, understanding and compassion.



A sincere and heart-felt thanks to: Castine, Yvonne, Ellen, Sharon, April, Carmen, Betty, Christian, Neesha, Melissa, Tracy, Maureen & John, Dominic, Sheliegh, Glenda, Meghan and Alex.

All of our programs are available to all children **FREE OF CHARGE** who have experienced the death of a special person in their lives and are in need of support.

I.O.U. Jane Corkish



Would You Like to Get Your Newsletter by E-Mail?

Please send your e-mail address to: info@langleyhospice.com, and help us to reduce our mailing costs and save a few trees!

Annual Client Volunteer Potluck



Our ninth annual client volunteer potluck—one of Fernande's favourite events of the year—was once again a success – a gathering of wonderful people, allowing those who had not met yet to meet and get acquainted. The food

was, as always, varied, colourful and scrumptious, and Mother Nature cooperated, allowing us to dine outside, enjoying the fine weather!



Welcome - New Volunteers

A heartfelt welcome to the following new volunteers:

- ♥ **Second Story Treasures**

Donna Almas	Rani Bellwood
Manjit Brar	Robyn Drayson
Ann Drysdale	Erin Foreman
Nancy Giesbrecht	Roberta Higgs
Sai Lan Huang	Younglan (Julie) Kim

- Patricia Lambert
- Diane MacMillan
- Marjorie Smith
- Linda Vickberg

- Barbara Leslie
- Jo-Ann Scott
- Michelle Sung

- ♥ **Office**

Robyn Drayson	Kim Lulay
Hilary Scarrotts	

- ♥ **Client**

Catherine Agawin	Dermott Connolly
Carrie Hamilton	Sabrina Heselton
Sheilagh Kelly	Liz Luyben
Merilee Macdougall	Linda Shaw
Thornton Smith	Kay Yeo

- ♥ **Children's Camp**

Maureen Alatrash	Tracy Bryan
Sharon Clayton	Sabrina Heselton
Glenda Isaac	Carman Janzen
Brette Joyal	Sheilagh Kelly
Stephanie Muise	April Nicholls
John Spencer	Maureen Spencer
Melissa Stepputat	Betty Tran
Neesha Waheed	Kay Yeo