

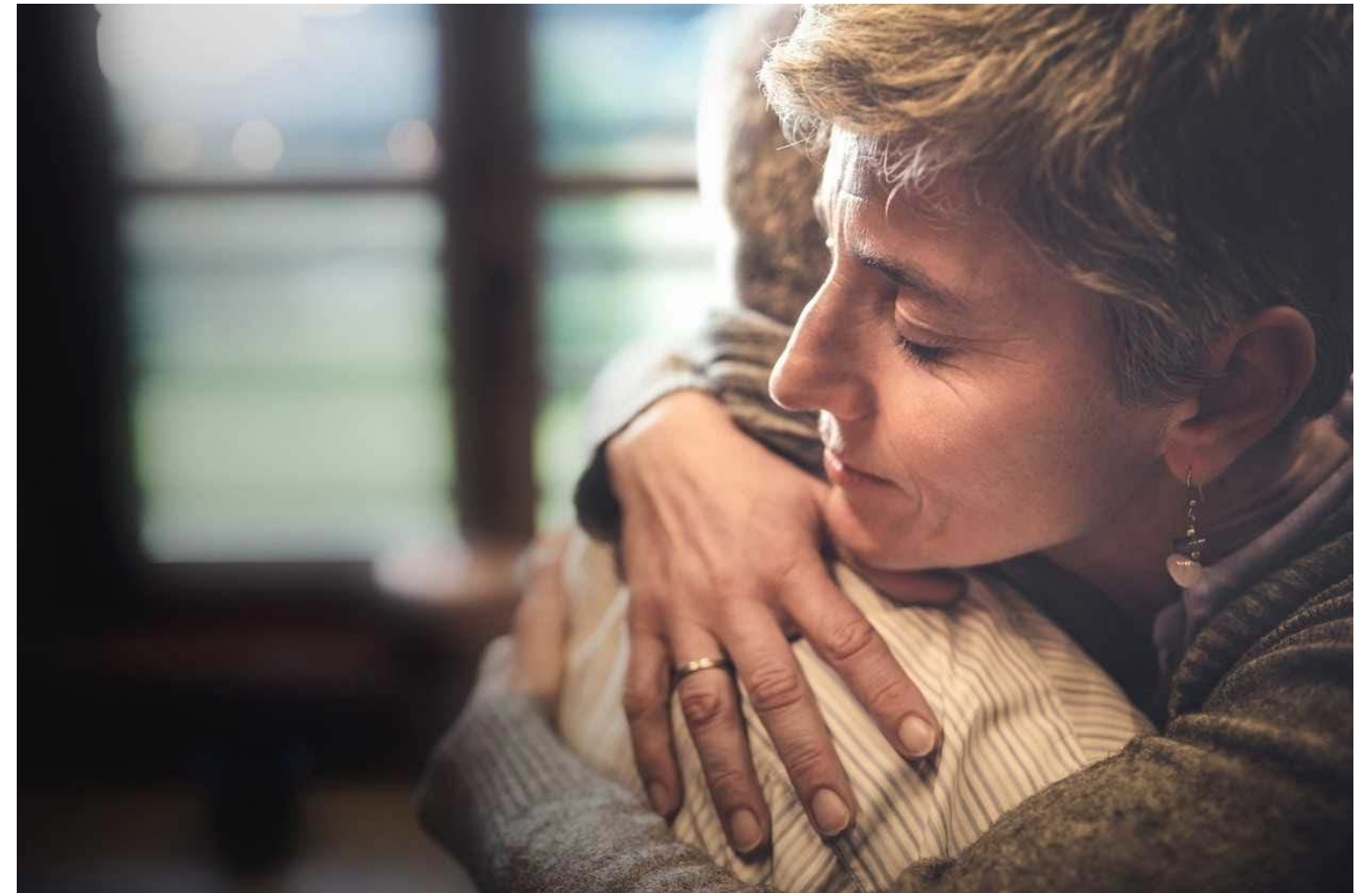
In Memory of Brian Rice

The world lost a good man on May 7, 2017



Brian worked tirelessly to make the Comox Valley a great to live. Touched personally by what hospice care could offer to the dying and their loved ones and caregivers, Brian also knew that our community needed to be a good place to die. As a director of the Comox Valley Hospice Society for 10 years, he gave generously of his time, expertise and passion. Brian knew that true hospice care was only offered in communities where people came together to fund all of the aspects of hospice care that complement the medical care of the person dying for people at home, in residential care and in hospital. And, he was instrumental in working with the community and Vancouver Island Health Authority to ensure people in the Comox Valley had access to a community hospice facility—the same access as others across Vancouver Island and the province—that also provided the unfunded emotional, spiritual and practical supports truly reflecting whole person care.

The financial generosity of Brian, Carol and their family funded the furnishing of the family space in our community hospice—where one can still find a lovely commemorative container of rice. The container of rice is reflective of Brian’s humility—he never asked for accolades or recognition—Brian simply cared about others in the community and he wanted everyone to have the care that mattered most to them. The presence of Brian Rice’s absence is everywhere.



2017-2018

Annual Report To The Community

35 Years of Caring



CVHS acknowledges the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia Community Gaming Grant





The Comox Valley Hospice Society became a registered not for profit organization in 1983. Formed by a group of dedicated community volunteers the Society now serves hundreds of people each year in the greater Comox Valley with a small staff and dozens of volunteers. The Comox Valley Hospice Society has been recognized locally, provincially and nationally for program innovation.

At Hospice we believe that living with an illness, dying, caregiving and grieving are normal parts of life.

Our hope is that those who are living with a life threatening illness or dying in our community will experience dignity and peace; their caregivers will receive the help they need; and they and their families and friends, will be supported in their grief.

We remain committed to supporting each person in the care that matters most to them. To us hospice is a philosophy of care that takes place in people's homes, in care facilities, in the community hospice and in hospital.

The Comox Valley Hospice Society provides education, care and support when you are healthy, when your care needs change and when a death occurs.

2017- 2018 Care At A Glance

- CVHS offered care, support and education directly to 1,005 people
- CVHS volunteers donated 20,466 hours.
- CVHS volunteer hours translate in to a donation of \$409,320.
- In 12 years, CVHS volunteers have contributed \$4,225,225 to support compassionate end-of-life care in our community.

Chances Casino, Courtenay
Manager Kent Hockley presents a
cheque to Monique Thompson
(CVHS).



**Approximately 70% of the
Comox Valley Hospice Society's
funding comes from
generous donors.**

**Thank you
for your kind support.**



Our 2017-2018 Board of Directors:

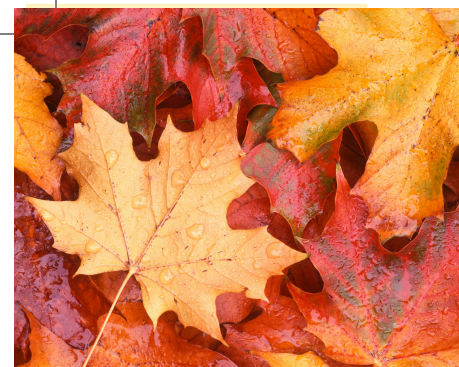
Paula Horky - President
Sasha Nowicki - Vice President
Tracey McGinnis - Sec./Treas.
Audrey Craig - Past President
Brendan Abreu - Director
Jill Ambler - Director
Carol Baert - Director
Lynn Brandon - Director
Joan Collinge - Director
Samuel Ennis - Director
Dianne Lineker - Director
Aaron Macluskie - Director
Debi Sargent - Director

Our Staff:

Terri Odeneal - Executive Director
Christy Linder - Program Coordinator
Ruth Barry - Palliative Coordinator and
Counsellor
Brenda Stanton - Bereavement
Coordinator and Counsellor
Nicole Burgess - Music Therapist
Monique Thompson - Office Manager
Camilla Rosnes-Cockburn - Program
Assistant
Diana MacLaren - Program Assisatnt

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“Our community is lucky to have such a wonderful program like Comox Valley Hospice right here.”

Paula Horky (l) and Audrey Craig (r) present the 2017 Ultimate fifty/50 winner James Brandy of Comox with a cheque for \$25,000. Also pictured is daughter Tanya Brady.



Brendan Abreau - CVHS Director receives a donation from the Comox Legion.

“Thank you so much for the grace, dignity, serenity and support you provide.”

Brendan Abreau - CVHS Director (l), and Paula Horky - CVHS President (cr) receive a cheque from Jay Clarke - TELUS Field Support Manager (cl) and Cam Moyls - TELUS Employee (r).



President’s Message

2017-2018 was another successful year at the Comox Valley Hospice Society while also challenging the board, staff and volunteers to meet the emerging needs of people who are living with dying, caregiving and grieving in our community.

As the population of the Comox Valley grows and ages, the demand for our services is continuing to grow exponentially. This, coupled with adapting to technology challenges created by multiple service locations, integrating care and supports in to a new Island Health hospital and awaiting Island Health’s decision on the location of the community hospice beds continues to require considerable organizational flexibility.

Over the past year we have continued to focus on continuously enhancing the delivery of the compassionate hospice palliative care for which we have become known. This whole-person approach to care is made possible thanks to our community’s on-going and kind support. Donations fund more than 70% of our work. We receive each gift with gratitude and remain committed to carefully allocating every dollar to optimize care and support.

Almost every day we hear heartwarming stories from people—young and old and from all walks of life—on how hospice care has made such a difference in the living and dying of so many of loved ones, neighbours and friends. And, we have an abundance of faith that, with the on-going support of the community, the Comox Valley will be a great place to live and a good place to die.

Paula Horky
President & Chair
Comox Valley Hospice Society



“It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us”

-Jackie Mutcheson

Goals and Values

Our Goals

Goals of the Comox Valley Hospice Society are:

- To ensure that the people with life-limiting illness have equitable access to quality end-of-life care in our community.
- To provide support to family members and caregivers as they care for their loved ones and come to terms with their impending loss.
- To assist the bereaved as they strive to go on living.
- To educate and inspire Comox Valley residents to fully appreciate those individuals and families who are experiencing end-of-life transitions.
- To educate Comox Valley residents of all ages about the importance of advance care planning.

Our Values:

Values provide a touchstone for grounding us in the many major or minor situations that we face in life. Our values can help us respond in consistent, effective and meaningful ways.

At CVHS, we believe that each of us has the right to die pain-free and with dignity, and that our loved ones and caregivers will receive the necessary support to allow us to do so. This spirit governs relationships among clients, families, staff, volunteers and those we serve in our community.

Person Focused Care and Service—the person is the centre of all activities and is entitled to individualized, compassionate quality care and support.

Personal Autonomy and Choice—we believe that individuals retain their rights to personal autonomy and choice, informed consent and established standards of care. It is understood that personal autonomy includes respect for the rights and safety of others.

Excellence and Innovation in Care and Service—we strive for excellence in care and innovation in programming.

Collaboration and Team Work—we believe that through collaborative interdisciplinary team process we offer the highest quality of care to the people we serve.

Trust, Honesty and Integrity—we believe that these are the values that guide our interactions with our clients, families, employees and volunteers.

Responsible Resource Management—we believe that effective and efficient use of available resources ensures that the Society's tradition of providing excellence in care will be sustained from the present into the future.



Programs and Services

Today, hospice palliative care recognizes the need to provide information and support early at the very difficult time when a diagnosis of a life-limiting illness is given. Patients and families are often overwhelmed with the complexity of managing a serious illness, understanding the health care system and knowing how to access appropriate services at the appropriate time. The Comox Valley Hospice Society provides the following care and support.

Palliative Care

Hospice counsellors work alongside medical and nursing staff, offering emotional and spiritual support to people who are dying and their families and loved ones at home, in care facilities, in hospital and in Hospice at The Views. This compassionate companionship is based on each person's individual values and beliefs and is complemented by well-trained hospice volunteers.

Grief and Bereavement

Hospice counsellors offer individual and group counselling support free of charge to assist people in moving from pain to healing upon the diagnosis of a life-limiting illness or the loss of a loved one. When requested, CVHS also offers support to other organizations who often encounter the first signs of grief such as schools and churches. Well-trained hospice volunteers complement this care.

Settling Program

The Settling Program offers Music Therapy and Healing Touch with the purpose of calming and settling patients while aiding in the transition from evening to nights where people are often restless. These hours are often the most difficult as both patients and families are fatigued, fears and anxieties are often heightened and feelings of loneliness increase. This often results in increased pain, agitation and poor sleep. This program has been extremely successful in assisting palliative patients and their families and caregivers during these very tender times.

Caregiver Support

In partnership with the Healing Touch Network, hospice staff and volunteers offer an on-going Self Care Clinic. This free service is offered in a relaxing, safe environment where participants receive 'hands on' treatments such as Reiki and Healing Touch. The goal is to support caregivers in a compassionate place that can provide an emotional and spiritual retreat.

Hospital Bed Delivery

Well-trained hospice volunteers deliver (free of charge) loaned electric hospital beds and pressure relief mattresses offering comfort and safety to people who choose to be cared for at home.

Lending Library

The Comox Valley Hospice Society has a comprehensive selection of books, audio and video tapes/CD's/ DVD's for lending to the public. Excellent books and videos are often of great assistance to professionals, individuals or groups desiring more information.

Community Education and Advanced Care Planning

While dying is not the easiest subject to talk about there's 100% chance it's going to happen to each of us. CVHS offers community education and workshops to assist people in ensuring their voice will be heard and their loved ones will be confident to speak on their behalf if they are ever unable to speak for themselves about their desires for medical care.

"Volunteering is at the very core of being human. No one has ever made it through life without someone else's help."
—Heather French Henry