



Heart of Hastings Hospice House

Update November 2011

The campaign to fund a dedicated Hospice House in one of the six communities of Stirling-Rawdon, Marmora and Lake, Centre Hastings, Madoc Township, Tudor and Cashel, and Tweed, has now reached a key point.

After extensive real estate search in the communities, an ideal home was located on a one-acre lot in Madoc Township at the edge of Madoc. This six-year-old house offers bedrooms for two terminally-ill patients in the final weeks of life, along with a bedroom for family members to be close to their loved one during the final hours; all at no charge. At the same time the office and training space for the Hospice volunteers has been moved from the old Medical Centre to the basement of the Hospice House, thereby saving rent monies.

Applications are currently with the Federal Government and the Ontario Trillium Foundation seeking funds for wheelchair access into and within the house, and for basic furniture and equipment.

A separate campaign has been highly successful in garnering the support of some 40 donors, across the six communities, to pledge \$500 each year over the years 2011, 2012 and 2013. This generous undertaking ensures full coverage of Hospice House insurance, taxes and utility costs, as well as general maintenance.

The key point now being addressed is the push to pay for the House purchase. Since January 01 of this year the fundraising campaign, conducted totally by volunteers, has raised \$240,000. If the Federal and Trillium applications are successful, there will still be a need to raise \$55,000 to have the House commence full operation on a debt-free basis.

Volunteers will be pressing ahead on a variety of fronts over the next six months in an attempt to raise these monies. This will include asking people in the communities to consider Hospice as a possible Christmas gift donation.

Anyone who would like to help make the Heart of Hastings Hospice House a reality is asked to call 613-473-5125.