

Media Release

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Sneak Preview Tour Showcases New Residential Homes at Hospice Village

WINDSOR- Hospice patient and family design consultants, donors and the local media joined Hospice's Design team members on a special preview tour of the newly built 8-bed residential homes in the Hospice Village. Around the clock care will be provided in the home for eligible residents with a life-threatening illness beginning at the end of April.

Hospice patient and family design consultants originally met with Architect, Dan Amicone of Architecttura Inc. Architects in 2005 to recommend design elements that would best meet the needs of people and their families affected with a life-threatening illness. The recommendations included many of the features incorporated in the current homes, including fireplaces and separate heat controls in each room, a hydrotherapy bathtub, living room areas and garden views. Each bedroom is filled with natural light and has a fireplace, sofa and an Internet connection. Family members and friends of residents will be welcome to stay at all times. Support for families is clearly demonstrated in the design of the residential homes. A nearby kitchen, dining room and living room offers a change of pace and a place for residents and families to enjoy meals, music, TV or conversation.

Wayne St. Louis, one of the family consultants, whose wife Gayle fund-raised for the homes and passed away from breast cancer in 2005 would have been proud to see the homes and village, "I am sure she would be thoroughly impressed with all the work that has gone into the homes and the beautiful results. It's like everyone's dream for the homes are now a reality," said St. Louis.

"We are grateful to our community's donors, volunteers and supporters for their support. It is because of this community's tremendous spirit of giving that we will be able to add another level of care for people in our community," said Carol Derbyshire, Executive Director. "Our goal is to help people and their families facing a progressing life-threatening illness to be in a home-like setting when staying at home is not possible. The residential homes will also offer care at a lower cost to the health care system, free up acute care beds in local hospitals and result in less emotional strain on the patient's family than traditional acute care," said Derbyshire.

The base funding specifically for personal support and nursing services in the residential homes comes from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care through the Erie St. Clair Community Care Access Centre (CCAC). Betty Kuchta, Executive Director of the Erie St. Clair CCAC said: "The addition of residential beds at Hospice makes it possible to offer of full range of end-of-life care options to residents of Windsor and Essex County facing a life-threatening disease."

Admission to the homes will be based on the Erie St. Clair Community Access Centre's (CCAC) determination of eligibility for the service and the Hospice's ability to accommodate patients. We want to make sure the right patient is in the right bed at the right time," said Director of the Hospice Residential Homes, Sandra Kroh. She added that more information about eligibility is available by calling the Hospice directly or by contacting a CCAC Case Manager.

"This is an opportunity for Windsor and Essex County to celebrate a tremendous success story. Together, we have been able to build Canada's First Hospice Village and create a place of compassion and care for people in our community, added Carol Derbyshire.

The public is invited to tour the new homes and participate in a grand opening ceremony featuring live music, a ribbon cutting and reception on Monday, April 16th at 10am.

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Backgrounder

The Residential Homes are the newest additions to Canada's first Hospice Village. When completed, the Hospice Village will provide an entire range of compassionate care and services on one site and consist of our newly constructed Residential Homes, the Wellness Centre and all of its programs, Pain Clinic and the Children's House. This new service complements the existing community-based support we provide to over 800 individuals and families in their homes, hospitals and long-term care facilities across Windsor and Essex County each year

Total Floor Area: of Homes: 10,000 square feet

NOTE Corrected Cost: Approximately \$2.3 million

Architectural Design of Residential Homes: Architecttura Inc. Architects

Construction of Residential Homes: De Angelis Construction

Interior Design for Residential Homes: Jeff Cada

About Hospice: Founded in 1979, the Hospice of Windsor and Essex County is the largest community-based palliative care facility in Canada. To date, our innovative programs and services have supported and educated more than 30,000 people. For more information about our services please visit www.thehospice.ca

- Hospice Nurses made approximately 2200 visits in home and hospital in 2006.
- Hospice Social Workers made approximately 640 visits in home, hospital and hospice in 2006.
- Hospice palliative physicians made 785 visits in homes in 2006.
- 231 Hospice volunteers provided 1342 patients (not repeated) 3497.25 hours of service, plus their transportation to/from patients' locations for a total of 15582.25 hours and 14108 contacts