

# because you care Community Update

SPRING 2021

## The Nyenhuis Family

### “On June 6, we will hike for hospice”

On November 28, 2019, Dad had a seizure. It was a turning point for our family.

As Dutch immigrants, he and our mother had raised five children on a dairy farm near Kinkora. He was a kind, gentle and faithful man who set a good example for having a strong work ethic, being honest, instilling the importance of family, and volunteering.

Since Dad’s earlier diagnosis of end-stage lung disease, our family supported our parents during the day. But Mom was not sleeping well, fearful of his oxygen tube getting displaced. The seizure further added to her worries and she admitted she may not want to stay in their home with the memory of Dad dying in his chair.

From that night on, our family provided 24-hour care. Yet, even with a large family, we were quickly overwhelmed. Dad was referred to Rotary Hospice. By the time he moved in two weeks later, we were exhausted – and relieved.

Our family could go back to being the wife and children, spend quality time together, and not be responsible for Dad’s personal care; giving him back the dignity he so deserved.

The first night in the Hospice, I slept over on the pull-out couch in his room. We soon realized Dad was in good hands. The staff and volunteers were sensitive to our needs. Coffee/tea, a sweet treat or a bowl of soup were available anytime at no cost. Mom usually had an afternoon nap in the reclining chair at his bedside and she was often covered with a warm blanket brought in by a volunteer as she slept. Dad was offered homemade meals on his schedule. I remember a staff member



taking Dad’s breakfast order while kneeling on the floor so that she was at eye level with him as he lay in bed on his side.

On January 21, 2020, Dad suffered a stroke and died peacefully with his family at his bedside. Leaving Rotary Hospice for the last time, the staff and volunteers formed an honour guard. As part of the ceremony, Mom lit a floating candle in his honour as a final gesture of farewell. It was one of many touching moments.

Our parents were early supporters of Rotary Hospice. On Sunday, June 6, our family will Hike for Hospice so other families can have the same caring experience we did.

~ Dianne Parr (née Nyenhuis), daughter, Hospice volunteer



**Sunday June 6, 2021**  
Anywhere, anytime, anyhow!  
To register visit [rotaryhospice.ca](http://rotaryhospice.ca)



Your gift to Rotary Hospice makes these special moments happen. Thank you.



## What Rotary Hospice means to me...

COVID-19 presented unique challenges for all of us. As frontline workers, members of the clinical care teams at Rotary Hospice have continued to offer care and compassion throughout this time; their dedication to providing excellent hospice palliative care is inspiring.

*“Being a Personal Support Worker (PSW) is my second career yet my first “calling”, one that I didn’t embark on until after I had turned 50! In 2013 my mother-in-law was residing in a long-term care home. The care she received from the attending PSW was beyond beautiful; the compassion, empathy and genuine concern for my mother-in-law’s health motivated me to switch careers.*

*Making the end-of-life process as comfortable and as easy as possible for everyone involved is tremendously rewarding.” ~ Helene Byrnes, PSW*

Helene is part of a care team comprised of an RN, RPN (Registered Practical Nurse), and PSW. To read more about Helene and her colleagues, please visit the STORIES section at [rotaryhospice.ca](http://rotaryhospice.ca).

Interested in joining the clinical care team at Rotary Hospice?

Please email Kate Wiens, Director of Residential Care, at [kate@rotaryhospice.ca](mailto:kate@rotaryhospice.ca)

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# “How was your year?”

Optometrist Dr. Linda Bathe asked Ian Watson and his wife Janine Pearson this question each year at their annual eye appointment.

As senior instructors with the Stratford Festival’s coaching team, there were always successes to share. Yet, it was Linda’s updates about the hospice project she was involved in that interested Ian the most. The more he learned, the more he believed in its vision.

While Ian and Janine’s knowledge grew, their daughter Anik formed her own connection to the project participating in several fundraisers with Stratford Central High School.

So, the family’s interest began well in advance of Ian’s cancer diagnosis in 2018 and his mother’s death two years previous.

In April 2020, Rotary Hospice received a call from Janine; “how is your year?” she asked. Concerned about those who were living the journey that her family did with Ian, she knew that the care provided by Rotary Hospice would be more important than ever in this challenging time. Janine, Anik, Ian’s father and siblings all felt the time was now to make a gift to Rotary Hospice. It would be in memory of Ian, who had died at home in April 2019, at the age of 60, three months before the Hospice opened.

When the family saw the floor plans and virtual tour, they sensed what Ian had learned: the residents were at the heart of the building, and the energy of nature flooded the rooms. Coming together as a family to make this gift made it even more special.



Today, Ian Watson is remembered with an inscription on the plaque by the door to Resident Suite 8. Thy Life’s a Miracle, it reads. It was the view of poplar trees that led Janine and Anik to choose that room.

Words cannot express the gratitude Rotary Hospice has for this most generous gift, received at a time when none of us knew how to answer the question “how was your year?”.



SAVE THE DATE  
Join us virtually  
October 7, 2021

This event is an important fundraiser for us, raising almost \$90,000 last year.

## WE LOVE AND MISS OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Rotary Hospice is fortunate to have 130+ amazingly talented and caring volunteers! In honour of National Volunteer Week, we want to introduce two of these dedicated individuals: Board Chairs, Sue Wakelin of Hospice Care Avon Maitland (who oversees the operation of the hospice) and Dennis Young of the Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation.



*What is your vision for Rotary Hospice?*

**Sue & Dennis:** *To make it a comfortable ‘home’ although difficult with COVID, to all who need it and maintain the excellence in care that really does make every moment matter for our residents and their loved ones. In looking to the future, the addition of complementary services to offer a holistic approach to end-of-life care.*

To read more about Dennis and Sue visit the **STORIES** section at [rotaryhospice.ca](http://rotaryhospice.ca)

To ALL of YOU who VOLUNTEER,  
THANK YOU for your tremendous  
commitment to community!

**\$950,000+**

This is the amount Rotary Hospice must fundraise annually to cover the portion of our operations budget not funded by the Ministry of Health.

**Your gift matters.**

Opportunities for recognition are still available.  
Contact: Lucie Stuart, Fund Development Manager  
519-508-4900 x720 [lucie@rotaryhospice.ca](mailto:lucie@rotaryhospice.ca)

Donations of \$2,500+, will be acknowledged on the annual giving wall, to be updated annually and cumulatively.

Donations can be made securely on our website at [rotaryhospice.ca](http://rotaryhospice.ca)

## DONATION FORM

*I/we would like to make a difference with the following donation:*

\$2500  \$1000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency  One-time gift  Monthly  Quarterly  Annually

Every Day Counts | Pay for a Day of Care Chosen date: \_\_\_\_\_

One day of care for one resident \$350  One week of care for one resident \$2800

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more. Total Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: for tax receipt \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by credit card  Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp / CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by cheque Please make cheque payable to *Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation*

This gift is  in memory of  in honour of:  
(Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me, I am interested in:

making a gift with securities (stock)  
 leaving a gift in my will

*To keep you up to date on the impact of your gift, you will be added to our e-news mailing. You may unsubscribe at any time.*

Please mail this form with payment to:

Stratford Perth Hospice Foundation  
80 Greenwood Drive, Stratford, ON N5A 0J1  
t. 519-508-4900