

Hospice is where the heart is

Honouring a mother's life; ensuring a final chapter filled with warmth and love.



Often one of people's final wishes is to die at home. And although that was her wish, Molly and her family came to find out that home truly is where the heart is.

Last year when Molly moved to Hospice, it quickly became her home, filled with her family. Her home was not a house in Dover, it was the people in her Hospice suite - her kids and their spouses, her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren - telling stories, laughing, joking, and shedding a few tears.

"She wanted to stay at home and didn't want strangers caring for her. Everyone in our family stepped up to care for her. It was challenging, but we were able to longer than expected." But when her journey brought her to hospice care, Molly faced it with the same grace and strength that defined her.

Molly grew up in the city but adjusted quickly to country life with husband, Andrew. Molly was the

heart of her family—a devoted farm wife who worked tirelessly alongside her husband to build a life rooted in hard work and love. Her days were busy with three young boys - Mike, Bob and Rick - working in the field, then in the house preparing meals.

Molly was worried that the boys would not be happy with her when, 14 years after her last son, she was pregnant again. To her delight they all welcomed and doted on Janet, the only girl and baby of the family.

Molly dedicated herself to raising four children, instilling in them the values of resilience, kindness, and determination. Her wisdom and unwavering love built a cohesive family that is and will always be there for each other.

Beyond her role on the farm and in the home, Molly embraced life with an active spirit. She had an activity every day of the week, and a competitive spirit that was

contagious. Molly loved playing cards where she shared laughter and friendly competition with friends and family. She was a tough cribbage and backgammon opponent who taught her children and grandchildren all the tricks. Bowling was another passion, and she found joy in the camaraderie of her teammates. And when it came to golf, she appreciated the game not just for the challenge, but for the peaceful moments on the course and the friendships it brought her. When Molly wasn't busy out and about, she enjoyed puzzles, Sudoku and Words with Friends at home. "Whatever Mom was invited to; she would definitely be there!" her children shared.

When grandchildren came along, Molly would always make time to watch them and connect with them. Open and accepting with all the changes in the world, she treated everyone with respect.

In the summer of 2023, Molly began to slow down, cutting down on activities due to aches, pains and shortness of breath. Once she received a palliative diagnosis, Molly declined quickly. After being cared for at home by her family, the time came when Molly and the family knew the best place to receive the care she needed was at Chatham-Kent Hospice.

Ask the Expert...

Helping you navigate the uncertainty of Hospice care

Hospice Navigator, Amber, shares answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about palliative and hospice care!

QUESTION:

When is someone ready for end-of-life care?

ANSWER:

Someone may be ready for end-of-life care if:

- They are spending more time in bed and have difficulty walking from the bed to the bathroom
- They are spending most of their time sleeping
- Their appetite is changing; only eating a small meal a day or just snacking throughout the day and only having sips of water or juice
- They need help either bathing, dressing, or toileting
- Those who care for them at home are no longer able to do so, and there is not enough community support available to them



Amber
Hospice Navigator

Volunteer Spotlight: Cheryl



“ I volunteer at Hospice as it gives me a chance to serve and at the same time gives me a sense of purpose. It offers me an opportunity to be part of a great team that gives comfort and support to my neighbours and all the CK community during a difficult time. Everyone at Hospice is the best! I love being part of a team that reaches out to residents and their families, and honours their lives and memories. ”

Cheryl -Reception Volunteer

Upcoming Community Events

Steve Bilodeau Memorial Golf Tournament
Friday, June 20 at Willow Ridge Golf & Country Club

Military Heritage Days
Saturday, June 21 at Chatham Airport

Burns Broasted Chicken Dinner
Tuesday, July 15

For more information about these and other Community Fundraisers in support of Hospice please visit: www.chathamkenthospice.com/upcoming-events



SUNDAY
MAY 4, 2025

MUD CREEK
TRAIL

REGISTER FOR FREE AT:
HIKEFORHOSPICECK.COM

Collect pledges, get outside and hike Mud Creek Trail in support of Hospice families on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at 2:00 pm.

Pre-order your Hike for Hospice t-shirt or memorial sign before April 17th!

Power By: 



Supportive Care: The Importance of *Connection* in Grief

Grief can feel isolating, but connection is a powerful source of healing. When we are grieving the loss of someone significant in our lives, sharing our experiences helps us feel understood and less alone. Grief support groups provide a safe space to express emotions, find comfort in others with similar experiences, and gain insight into coping strategies. Being part of a supportive community reminds us that we don't have to navigate grief alone. If you or someone you know is grieving, consider joining a support group because healing happens together.

Grief Café

DATE: Every other Tuesday; April 1, 15 & 29, May 13 & 27, June 10 & 24

TIME: 10:00am - 11:00am

REGISTRATION: No Registration Required

Grief & Bereavement Walking Support Group

DATE: Wednesdays; May 7 - June 25 (8 sessions)

TIME: 10:00am - 11:00am

REGISTRATION: Registration and Group Intake Required

Together in Healing: Family Loss Support Group

DATE: Tuesdays; April 22 - June 10 (8 sessions)

TIME: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

REGISTRATION: Registration and Group Intake Required

Coping with Grief

DATE: Every other Thursdays; May 1st - June 12th (4 sessions)

TIME: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

REGISTRATION: Registration and Group Intake Required

Watch for more upcoming support groups by visiting: www.chathamkenthospice.com/upcoming-events.



“ The staff knew exactly what to do before anyone could ask. They took their time to make sure Mom was comfortable, treating her with dignity and compassion. There was a sense of community, knowing we were all taken care of. She was surrounded by caregivers who treated her with kindness and respect, and was able to find peace in a setting focused on easing pain and providing emotional support. ”

At Hospice, Molly was able to enjoy simple pleasures she had not been able to in a while, like taking a bath. “Mom and I enjoyed being in the cuddle bed snuggled up together watching Wheel Of Fortune and Jeopardy,” shared Janet.

“We asked one of the staff if we were allowed to bring some things in from home and they gave a little chuckle and said, ‘of course, this is your home, bring anything you want.’ Mom was never treated like she was dying. The staff understand what you are going through and are present with you in the moment, never rushing, softly being honest about what is happening.”

“I don’t think people truly understand Hospice until they experience it.” Hospice isn’t just about medical care—it’s about honouring a person’s life and ensuring their final chapter is filled with warmth and love. The caregivers helped manage her symptoms with gentleness, allowing her to rest without discomfort. They also supported her family, offering guidance and comfort through a difficult time. Though saying goodbye is never easy, knowing their Mom was treated with such dignity, brought the family a sense of peace. She was cared for not just as a patient, but as a person—one whose life was full of love, hard work, and joy. Hospice allowed Molly to leave this world with grace, surrounded by the love of those who cherished her most.

Shared in loving memory of Molly by:
The Devolder Family



Contact us to learn more or donate:

By mail or in person:

34 Wellington Street East, Chatham, Ontario, N7M 3N7

Online: www.chathamkenthospice.com

Or call: 519-354-3113

Please make cheques payable to:
Chatham-Kent Hospice Foundation

Find us on Facebook & Instagram: @ChathamKentHospice

We are grateful for your support of Chatham-Kent Hospice.
If you would no longer like to receive a copy of this newsletter
or wish to receive an electronic version, please let us know
by emailing: foundation@chathamkenthospice.com
or calling 519-354-3113 extension 2403.
Charitable Status #: 809001597RR0001