

Finding help and healing together



Feeling alone, lost, overwhelmed—this is how the participants of the Spousal Loss Support Group described how they felt when they lost their spouses. The group of seven have been getting together once a week for the past eight weeks to understand their grief and learn coping strategies to move forward.

The theme of the support group was “Embracing Tomorrow Together” and it provided a safe and supportive environment to foster healing, resilience, and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Led by Hospice Intake and Group Program Coordinator, Lisa Adams with assistance from Supportive Care Volunteer, Sandy, the participants had varying backgrounds and experiences but, because they had all lost their spouses, they shared that mutual understanding.

“My family members have experienced loss but not specifically spousal loss, so it was hard for them

to understand what I was going through,” shared Victoria. “With this group, I could share openly with others who had been through the same thing. That makes it a bit easier. When I’m at home, I have to be strong for my children so the group gave me a place where I could be open and vulnerable.”

“I lost my spouse after being his caregiver for over 10 years. Afterwards, I questioned my purpose. This group allowed me to grieve openly and provided me with good coping skills. I now feel good about myself again and my decisions,” shared Pat.

Each week, the group would discuss different topics or theories such as continuing bonds with loved ones, caring for ourselves, or dealing with special days. Discussion included checking in with everyone, answering questions, and providing coping strategies.

Individuals were encouraged to share at their own comfort level and the pace of the discussion was controlled by the group.

“ I was not used to asking for help,” shared Donna, “but this group helped me move from a dark place to where I feel happy again, which I didn’t think was possible. I now know I can handle whatever life throws at me. Without the group, I don’t think I would be where I am. ”

“This group helped me understand myself a lot more and I know I’m not alone,” shared Cynthia. “I have a long way to go yet but I’ve got a lot out of this group, and I am really glad that it was available.”

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“I knew I needed help but didn’t know where to go,” shared Joe. “The biggest help this group has offered me was the opportunity to meet with others who have been through the same thing.”

“My loss was quick, and I was just a puddle. I tried to talk to family members, but they were going through their own grief,” shared John. “I’m not a big talker but just listening to others in the group has helped me get through.”

Shared in memory of James, Ben, Donald, Shannon, Karen, and Joanne

Chatham-Kent Hospice offers a variety of Grief & Bereavement supports to anyone in the community who has experienced the loss of a loved one.

The loss could be sudden or not and the loved one did not have to be cared for at Chatham-Kent Hospice. The supports range from individual counselling to a variety of group options, and are offered at no cost.

For upcoming grief & bereavement groups, online resources or more information please visit chathamkenthospice.com.

Hot Rods for Hospice Brings Family Fun to East Kent



SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH RIDGETOWN CAMPUS | 8:00AM - 3:00PM

Now in its third year, this community fundraiser truly has something for everyone and has quickly become a favourite for car enthusiasts and the entire community. This year, Hot Rods for Hospice will feature more than 300 cars, live music, a soapbox derby, kids’ activities, vendor market, 50/50 draw, quilt raffle, and much more.

Hot Rods for Hospice is organized by a group of dedicated volunteers that form the Ridge Runners East Kent, automotive enthusiasts in the Ridgetown area. In 2023, they came together with the idea to bring a fall festival back to the Ridgetown area and to give back to the community. Event organizer Emily Vollans says, “It was an easy decision to support Hospice. The members who had experiences with Hospice spoke so highly of the staff and services that it was a unanimous choice. Each year, we hear more and more stories about Hospice that help to affirm that choice.”

In just two years, the community fundraiser has raised more than \$62,500 for Hospice care in Chatham-Kent.

For more information on the upcoming Hot Rods for Hospice, visit www.hotrodsforhospice.ca.

Admission by donation to the Chatham-Kent Hospice Foundation.



Upcoming Community Events

Papa’s Walk for Hospice

August 8, 2025

Hudson ATV Ride for Hospice

September 20, 2025

Handbags for Hospice

October 16, 2025

Visit chathamkenthospice.com/upcoming-events for details about these and other events.

You make a
difference!

See the difference
you make!

In this edition of the Hospice Happenings newsletter, you'll find our Annual Impact Reports that share the difference you made possible last year in our community through the Chatham-Kent Hospice and Foundation. We want you to know how your donations are helping our community and be transparent about the management of your gifts.

*If you have any questions,
please give us a call.*

Congratulations Elaine McCorkle On your June Callwood Circle of Outstanding Volunteers Award

Elaine has been a dedicated supporter of Chatham-Kent Hospice since it opened in 2016, filling a variety of roles wherever needed. In her current role at Reception, she warmly welcomes every visitor, especially during the evenings and weekends. Elaine's support goes beyond visitor interactions. She mentors new volunteers, nurtures friendships, and meticulously preserves Chatham-Kent Hospice's archival records, ensuring our shared history is accessible for years to come. Eager to continue learning, she participates in educational opportunities, both virtually and in person. We are truly grateful for her commitment. Elaine's unwavering support—welcoming visitors, mentoring volunteers, and preserving hospice archives—has enriched Chatham-Kent Hospice.



Volunteer Elaine McCorkle with Jennifer Wilson, HPCO Board Chair.

Benefit GALA

Friday, October 24, 2025

The Chatham Armoury
44 William Street, Chatham
6:00PM Cocktails | 7:30PM Dinner

★ Highlights ★

Memorial Experiences
Silent & Live Auction
Golden Ticket Draw
Mitton's Jewellers' Diamond Draw
Hospice Family Guest Speaker
After Party

★ Tickets ★

Tickets are \$200 per person
(\$50 donor receipt)

To purchase, please call 519-354-3113 ext. 2403
or visit us online at ckhospicegala.com.
Please note, processing fees apply to online orders.

Thank you to our
Title Sponsor



Chatham-Kent Hospice Foundation



A few words from Brock McGregor...

I'm incredibly excited to write to you for the first time as the new Executive Director of the Chatham-Kent Hospice Foundation. I officially stepped into this role on June 9th, and I'm already feeling so welcomed by the team and the community.

First, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Jodi Maroney, our outgoing Executive Director. Jodi's dedication and leadership have been instrumental in making the Chatham-Kent Hospice and Hospice Foundation what it is today, and we are all so grateful for her contributions. She leaves behind a remarkable legacy. Happy retirement Jodi!

The dedicated, talented, and resourceful team at the Chatham-Kent Hospice Foundation have been absolutely integral to the ongoing sustainability of hospice services in our community, and it's a true privilege to be part of such an exceptional group.

I also want to acknowledge the incredible Chatham-Kent Hospice team. Their compassion, skill, and unwavering commitment to providing the highest quality of care to individuals and families in our community is truly inspiring. It is already clear to me that Hospice is a place of profound impact, thanks to the extraordinary staff and volunteers working hard every day to provide compassionate end-of-life care, and the incredible support from the community.

As I settle into this new role, I'm eager to connect with you, the community that makes this all possible. I've spent many years serving Chatham-Kent, and I understand the deep value we place on caring for one another. That's why I'm reaching out to you.

I want to hear about why hospice care is important to you.

What does it mean to have compassionate, end-of-life care available in our community?

Your stories and perspectives are invaluable as we continue to grow and sustain the vital work of Chatham-Kent Hospice.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at bmcgregor@chathamkenthospice.com 519-354-3113 ext. 2402. I look forward to connecting with many of you in the coming weeks and months.

Warmly, 



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**

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