New Denver Hospice and how it started - 25 years ago

History shows that New Denver and Silverton have always been communities with big hearts. One of our leading ladies is Agnes Emary. Agnes has volunteered in many organizations over the years that she has lived in New Denver and has been awarded the Queen’s Medal.

Agnes was one of the volunteers who helped move the residents from the “Old Man’s Home” to the new larger, brighter and welcoming home for the residents - The Pavilion! She was also instrumental in organizing New Denver Hospice.

In the late 80’s it became apparent that trained volunteers would be a help with residents and their families at the end of life. With the assistance and support of other hospices in the area, the hospital auxilliary, the Health Center staff, the community and a New Horizons grant, New Denver Hospice had its beginnings. The first meeting took place in November of 1990.

The Hospital Auxilliary (which Agnes was a part of and still is) was asked to survey the community regarding the need for hospice support in the area.

In the early years funding came from a private donor and then from the government “Closer To Home” program. At present IHA covers a third of our expenses and fundraising and grants the rest.

Hospice has evolved during the past years, training volunteers, providing information on end of life issues, running grief support groups and upkeep of the Pavilion gardens. The biggest change has been the designation of a palliative room in the Pavilion which Hospice has furnished. This room has a view of the lake and gardens.

In the past 25 years there have been four coordinators...Debbie Wiesbrich, Sue Davies, Tanya Thompson and our current coordinator, Julie Fry.

Agnes Emary, one of the people to start our local Hospice remains involved 25 years later. Those of us presently on the hospice board are very grateful to Agnes for her continued interest.

For years she was the treasurer of the society, now she is one of our biggest treasures! Ever the teacher, she corrects everything from our spelling to our sometimes mangling of Roberts’ Rules of Order.

She has been a wonderful, caring participant in the business of hospice and her long time service to hospice and many other community organizations is truly an inspiration. Our 25 year celebration is also a celebration of Agnes who we hope will continue her efforts to keep us all on track.

When asked: “Why did you want to help start a Hospice Society?” Agnes answered: “I feel that we all have feelings and concerns for everyone. It goes back to my parents who were homesteaders in the “Dirty Thirties” and raised four children. My mother helped nurse in the great flu epidemic (1914-18) and had much experience caring for others.

Homesteaders looked out for one another. The house parties, the hungry roamer, a bed for the not so fortunate, help for the sick and dying. I’m immune from the cause!”

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER?

Call Julie Fry at 250-358-7828 for information
Notes from the Chair . . .

The New Denver Hospice Board would like to thank all of the volunteers who participated in the broad array of events that took place this past year. Some of our volunteers have sat with people who are at the end of their lives and to them, for their dedication and caring spirits, we thank you.

Other volunteers have spent many hours in the gardens at the Health Care Center to make them the best they can be. This work greatly enhances the environment that surrounds the residents of the Pavilion whether they are dying or spending the last months or years of their lives there. It’s hard to imagine a more beautiful setting than the Pavilion and the work in the garden greatly honors that and the Pavilion residents. It is a privilege for Hospice to be the umbrella group that the garden committee finds themselves under. The board and the community thank them.

The board is also made up of volunteers and I, as the current chair, would like to thank them for all their hard work in this past year of many changes. Many hours are spent in the business of maintaining a society and more noticeably, planning and holding events that will generate funds that allow us to do what we feel is important for our community. Five members of the board are retiring this year having contributed a combined total of 27.5 years of service. Each of them has brought something different to the board and we have benefitted from every one of them.

The heart of hospice is what inspires us all. It’s about caring and compassion and teaches us all something of that when we get to be part of this local but worldwide movement.

BOARD POLICY CORRECTION

In the not too distant past, the board made and passed a motion to discontinue yearly membership dues for our Society deciding instead, that everyone who paid a $10 membership fee would be considered a life time member.

Recently we have been going over our Structure, Policies and Procedures Manual and our by-laws in detail and we have discovered that we are not able to make the above mentioned change to our membership policy. Any changes we make need to be supported by our existing by-laws and this is not. Therefore, until we make a decision about whether or not to change our by-laws, we need to revert back to a yearly membership fee which will be $10.

We have felt very supported by our membership in the past and hope that you will continue to be part of our local Hospice Society. To make membership easy to obtain, you can mail your fee to box 217, New Denver or phone 250-358-7828 and leave a message and someone could then come to your house.

It will also be possible to renew your membership at our AGM which will be held at the Health Care Center on May 28th. Hope to see you there!

-- Carolyn Parker, Chair

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New Denver Hospice has a lending library available for the public that includes books, videos and DVDs on end of life issues.

To access and loan books contact our office at 250-358-7828.

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For your information . . .

The New Denver Hospice Society is a community based program dedicated to providing support and compassionate care to terminally ill patients, their family and friends. Volunteer Support to palliative patients and families includes:

- Compassionate care for the ill person, time out for caregivers and information on resources and local services.
- Grief support
- Support with Advance Care Planning and funeral arrangements
- Seminars on end of life issues
- Bereavement Groups
- Library books, DVD’s and videos available at the Hospice office
- Webpage

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

New Denver Hospice Society is reliant for a large percentage of our funding on the generosity of our communities. Your donation provides direct care for individuals and families today, as well as helps us meet the need of end of life and bereavement care for tomorrow. Please consider making a donation to the New Denver Hospice Society. There are a variety of ways to make a donation:

- Send a check to New Denver Hospice Society
- Donate through Canada Helps or Pay Pal on our website www.newdenverhospice.ca
- Select New Denver Hospice as your preferred charity through the “Change it” program offered through Kootenay Savings Credit Union
- Consider New Denver Hospice as part of your legacy
- Support us at our fundraising events
- Donations by friends and family can be made to New Denver Hospice Society in memory of a loved one in lieu of flowers or a gift

We provide tax receipts for donations of $25 or more

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**Hike for Hospice**

Amanda Murphy leads the group in a pre-walk warmup.

**- Updates -**

**GARDENS**

The Pavilion Gardens have had a spring cleanup. Soaker hose and mulch have been laid on Ilene’s garden thanks to a volunteer work party.

There will be a thank you event in the gardens on July 8th between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. for all donors and volunteers. We are planning a yard sale in the summer so save treasures as you do spring cleaning.

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to saving these gardens!

**NDHS HAS A NEW CO-ORDINATOR!**

I’m pretty sure most of you know me, but for those of you who don’t . . . my name is Julie Fry. I’m 43 and my husband’s name is Matthew. We have lived in Silverton for nearly 7 years. In between growing up in South London, England and moving to Ontario, Canada in 2001 I was lucky enough to spend a lot of my time travelling (and working!).

Eventually around 8 years later I packed away my backpack, settled down and had a couple of kids, moved to BC and after a round about journey ended up in Silverton!

Hospice work is a new experience for me, but coordinating is not and although I am still on my learning curve, I feel comfortable with the challenges Hospice work presents. I’m looking forward to learning and growing with the Board as we move through an ever changing world of palliative care.

**Upcoming Events:**

**JULY**

Pavilion Garden Appreciation Party
A Thank You to our donors and volunteers - July 8. Time 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Yard Sale
for the Pavilion Gardens. Date: TBA

**SEPTEMBER**

Hills Garlic Festival
September 8, 2015, Centennial Park, New Denver
Coffee, tea, cold drinks and locally baked goods.

**OCTOBER**

Advanced Care Planning
Date: TBA

**NOVEMBER**

Sale of Amaryllis bulbs
Date: TBA

**DECEMBER**

KSCU Remembrance Tree
Date: TBA

**For Lilly . . .**

I miss you love and will always cherish you in my heart.

I wish you could travel the world so far.

Did you know that I still care, and did you know I remember those funky bolts in your hair?

You are in my head day through night. That day it all happened gives me a fright.

I can remember your voice bellowing in front of the school, when I heard you singing that song, I thought “my Dad must have taught you that tune.”

And when your name is said it brings silence to the room. People say it is better to forget but that is something I would regret.

Your heart is like an ember to me and this is what I say . . . Remember!

- by Molly, aged 11

**- CONTACT US AT -**

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