

## Couple's legacy will benefit Hospice's family

**Donation: Boyd and Donna Langille's \$15,000 gift is part of a community-wide effort to support palliative care initiative**

SANDRA DAVIS - Telegraph-Journal - Published Saturday December 5th, 2009

SAINT JOHN - They wanted to leave a lasting legacy to the city, so Boyd and Donna Langille have donated \$15,000 to furnish a room at Bobby's Hope House.



*Peter Walsh/Telegraph-Journal*

Boyd and Donna Langille stand outside Bobby's Hope House with Hospice executive director Sandy Johnson, right, after they donated \$15,000 to furnish a room at the palliative care residence on Dufferin Row.

The stately old home on the city's west side is being transformed into a 10-bed residential hospice to accommodate patients and their families.

"I'd been thinking, as I get older and the inevitable faces me, that I'd like to leave something permanent," Boyd Langille said.

"When I toured the building about a year and a half ago, it was explained that they were looking for people to furnish the rooms. Fortunately, we were able to afford it."

The Langilles' \$15,000 donation will be used to outfit a suite, which will be named in their honour.

Both are retired hospital workers - Boyd as pharmacy director and Donna as a purchasing agent - and Boyd said their work has resulted in a better understanding of what a residential hospice provides.

"We certainly know the value of Hospice," he said. "It's a wonderful place for the event that, unfortunately, has to happen."

"So many of our family and friends have needed something like a (residential) hospice," Donna Langille said.

"It's a wonderful place, if you have to go. Someday we'll tour it and say, 'That's for some family in a time of sadness.' Hopefully, it will be a nice, comfortable room."

Other donations supporting a residential hospice over the past month include \$6,000 from Bruce Penny and Mike Smith of Fundy Insurance and Investment Solutions - a donation made possible as the result of an incentive that Sun Life offered its advisers based on achieving a specific sales level. The Sobey Foundation and local Sobeys stores combined forces to donate \$25,000. To recognize their donation, the second-floor family kitchen will be named in honour of Sobeys.

The Royal Canadian Legion's Branch 69, along with Fundy Branch 68 which comprises ex-servicewomen, has donated \$3,500 to help with the campaign.

"We're in the home stretch. These unsolicited, individual donations from the public have been gratifying," said Cathy Connolly of Hospice.

"To know that the general public is a part of the 'we believe' group offers renewed energy as Hospice continues to move forward."

So far, much of the \$1.6-million fundraising goal has been realized but more cash is needed for equipment, furniture and beds, said Dr. Nancy Grant, fundraising campaign chairwoman and founder of Hospice of Greater Saint John.

"This is a major innovation that will change forever the way terminally ill people and their families will be cared for," Grant said. "It's changing public policy. That's how important it is."

While acknowledging that the campaign goal is getting close, Grant says there is still much more cash needed and many ways that people can support the residential hospice.

For example, in addition to having a room or suite named in a donor's honour, there is also a Tree of Hope where names of loved ones will be engraved on trees, acorns on rocks for donations of \$100, \$500 or \$1,000, respectively. They will be permanently displayed on a wall.

Bobby's Hope House is located at 385 Dufferin Row. It will provide palliative care for people with terminal illness suffering from cancer, heart and kidney disease or severe stroke. The average length of stay in a residential hospice is two to three weeks.