

# Hospice named finalist for award it's won twice

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SAINT JOHN - Things are moving full speed ahead to establish Atlantic Canada's first and only stand-alone residential hospice on the city's west side.

Not only has construction on Bobby's Hope House resumed, Hospice of Greater Saint John has once again been named as a finalist for the 12th annual Donner Canadian Foundation Award for excellence in the delivery of services to seniors and outstanding non-profit management practices.

Hospice of Greater Saint John has been nominated for the award a handful of times and has won twice. Last year, the organization received honourable mention.

The annual Donner Non-Profit Awards are Canada's largest non-profit recognition program.

The awards, sponsored by the Donner Canadian Foundation and administered by The Fraser Institute, were established in 1998 to recognize and reward excellence and innovation among non-profit agencies at the community level.

"We just really appreciate the independent audit and certification," Hospice executive director Sandy Johnson said.

"The way we're running our business is meeting best practices and standards across the country.

"You can certify for donors and supporters that you're doing a really good job because you've had this independent review and certification."

Winners will be announced in Toronto on Friday, Oct. 16, and receive a \$5,000 cash prize.

Meanwhile, bathrooms and new windows are being installed this week at the 10-bed residential hospice, located at 385 Dufferin Row, and Johnson expects renovations should be complete before Christmas.

Hospice has taken out a bank loan to complete the facelift, so the group is still fundraising to make up the \$200,000 shortfall. On top of that, cash will also be needed to purchase beds and other equipment.

"Altogether, we might be short \$400,000," Johnson said.

Hospice continues to work out an operational contract with the province for 2010, Johnson said, with a view to accepting patients in the spring.

The residential hospice will provide palliative care for people suffering from any terminal illness, such as cancer, heart and kidney disease or severe stroke. The average length of stay in a residential hospice is two to three weeks. Each year the hospice will provide community care to 150 people who would otherwise occupy acute-care beds at the hospital.