

Celebrating 10 Years of Care!



On November 1, 2020, Bobby's Hospice will officially mark 10 years of delivering excellent in-patient palliative care in Atlantic Canada's first residential hospice.

When I first joined Hospice in June 2000, we were involved in providing non-medical palliative support services in people's homes - things like companionship, delivery of hospital linens, and drives to appointments. This same month, Senator Sharon Carstairs issued a report entitled "*Quality End of Life Care: The Right of Every Canadian.*"

This became a call to action and in 2002, I fortunate enough to be named to Health Canada's Palliative Care Strategy to advance access to palliative care in the country. While travelling the country to attend Health Canada meetings, I took the opportunity to visit other community hospices and learn about their programs and services. I discovered that Ontario and Western Canada had residential hospice care in addition to other community hospice services.

A residential hospice is a home away from that specializes in the delivery of expert palliative care for people who can no longer stay at home and don't require hospital care. I brought the idea back to the Hospice Board for consideration. After discussion and research, we decided this would be a good vision for our community and the next step for Hospice Greater Saint John in delivering quality palliative care services to those in need. We launched our vision and spent six years in research and development to make it happen.

Bobby "Catherine" Lawson was a 20-year volunteer with Hospice in 2005 when she had been diagnosed with a terminal illness. She believed in our vision of a residential hospice and wanted to help while she still could. She and her family made a very generous donation to Hospice that enabled us to move forward with the dream.

We were eventually able to partner with the Sisters of Charity to purchase St. Joseph's Convent and we moved in in 2008. We immediately got to work on a capital campaign to raise \$2.5M to cover the cost of renovations, equipment and supplies and hired an architect and a construction company. We also had multiple meetings with government officials to secure annual operational funding.

In July 2009, while continuing with raising capital funds and renovating Bobby's Hospice, we opened The Hospice Shoppe, a high-end, second-hand retail store with 100% of proceeds to fund care at Bobby's Hospice.

It took us two years and several delays before we could raise all the capital funds, complete renovations and secure a contract with the Department of Health for partial annual funding. After a lot of work by many people, we proudly opened Bobby's Hospice on November 1, 2010 and accepted our first patients.

It is hard to believe that 10 years have gone so quickly. We are proud to have admitted and cared for over 1,000 palliative patients in need of in-patient care and provided grief support to hundreds of family members. We have also supported the development of other residential hospices in the region and are pleased to collaborate with Hospice Fredericton and Hospice Halifax in the delivery of residential hospice care in Atlantic Canada.

None of this would have been possible without the dedicated leadership of many people over 10 years - the Hospice Board of Directors, politicians of all parties at all levels, our volunteers, our professional staff and YOU, our community who shows us every day how much you care with your donations and support. Because of people like you, we help others when they need it the most. ***Thank you from all of us at Hospice for being Hospice guardian angels.***

***Sandy Maxwell
Hospice Chief Executive Officer***