

## PRESS RELEASE

It is with great excitement we have the pleasure of welcoming Beth Ellis as our new Executive Director of The Toronto Commandery Hospice. Beth has been involved in hospice palliative care for more than 20 years, first as a volunteer founding member of Haldimand Norfolk Brantford Hospice Palliative Care Advisory Committee, then as the first Executive Director of Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice in Hamilton. During her sixteen years with the Kemp Hospice, Beth's vision, determination and leadership steered the organization from its modest beginnings of two volunteers and one client in a rented church basement to a successful 16,000 square foot Centre for Hospice Palliative Care. Included in the facility was a full spectrum of programs such as a day hospice, volunteer visiting, spirituality and bereavement for adults and children. It was the first established residential hospice for Hamilton.

Beth's strong belief in working and collaborating with other Hospice Palliative Care providers led her to becoming a founding member of the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand/Norfolk Brant (HNHB) Hospice Palliative Care Network, sitting as Chair for three years. Beth also chaired the provincial Working Group creating Standards for Residential Hospices in Ontario and was involved in the writing of **Hospice Palliative Care Ontario's Hand Book** and **Tool Kit on How to Develop a Community Residential Hospice**.

Ms. Ellis was on the Board of Ontario Palliative Care Association (OPCA) and is currently a member of the of the amalgamated OPCA and HAO, **Hospice Palliative Care Ontario**, sitting as Board Secretary. Beth has also participated in the hospice provincial conference for many years in the role of conference committee and co-chair for a total of 8 years. Beth has presented at the conference on several occasions.

Beth successfully worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, politicians and the Provincial Association (HPCO) to secure both operating and partial capital funding for the first hospices to be built in the province of Ontario.

We look forward to a successful and prosperous working relationship with Ms. Ellis as we move forward into this new and exciting time for The Toronto Commandery Hospice.

In Beth's own words "I am excited to have been given the opportunity to work alongside a very dedicated and passionate Board of Directors that wishes to provide a total hospice experience for those living with a life limiting illness.