



Update!

exceptional Canadians

In November, The Toronto Commandery Hospice held its fourth **Exceptional Canadians** Dinner as its main fund-raising event for 2012. The speaker and guest of honour was Dr. Margaret Somerville, world-famous medical ethicist and academic. Host for the evening was Anne Medina, TV personality and eminent journalist.

Dr. Somerville follows previous Exceptional Canadians speakers, Richard Pound, member of the Order of St Lazarus and Olympic organizer, the late Hon. Lincoln Alexander, and Senator Linda Frum.

Continued ...

To Do List

1. Promote the hospice to friends and acquaintances. Refer them to the web site for further information.
2. Think of fund raising ideas large and small. One volunteer sold \$1,200 worth of preserves at the last Chukker! *What can you do?*
3. Let your municipal and provincial politicians know that we need their help!

Where Do We Stand?

After an 8 year search, the Hospice was donated a piece of land in our prescribed geographic area. The process of severing the land for us has been complicated by the development of a new Official Plan for Toronto. Just another challenge, but not insurmountable!

The official plan is the guide for city planners who are key players in the effort to sever the land and change whatever site specific zoning is necessary.

As with every other municipality in the province, hospices are not defined within the Plan. This leads to a lengthy process of educating bureaucrats and politicians to bring them on side.

Continued ...



Genesis of Hospice

The hospice project was seeded in the Toronto Commandery's Hospitaller's Committee (Marjorie MacKinnon, Martha Russel and the late Margaret Burka). After years of donating to worthy charities in Toronto and Southern Ontario, the Commandery was becoming increasingly frustrated that our approach was fractured and did not address the long term needs of the Community. Over \$750,000 had been donated by the Commandery, but were frustrated with its impact.

The first significant departure from making relatively small donations to varied organizations came when the association of hospices (now called the Ontario Hospice Palliative Care Association) was developing standards that would apply to all hospices. The Commandery donated over \$75,000 to ensure the project's success.

There was also an increasing awareness that Toronto had far too few residential hospice beds and some of life beds were going to disappear with a proposed move of the Toronto Grace Hospital to the Markham area.

Continued ...



exceptional Canadians

The evening was a great success in terms of interest and financial results. Hospice looks forward to continuing this series in the future.

Exceptional Canadians is intended to raise awareness of the need for more hospice care in our city, to draw in members of the community and our Order, as well as to raise funds for development and operation of our hospice facility.

The net funds raised to date through the **Exceptional Canadians dinners is \$182,848!**

Where Do We Stand? continued

Over the last year the board has been writing and speaking to municipal politicians and, through our planning consultant, city officials have been approached to promote our cause. The process is drawn out, but necessary and there are a number of possible avenues depending on decisions made.

Perseverance and patience are essential!

Genesis of Hospice! continued

A residential hospice, The Toronto Commandery Hospice, was our answer to increase the number of residential hospice beds in the city. By undertaking this project, the Commandery would be making a major contribution with a significant impact on our Community.

That said, it was never the intention for the members of the Toronto Commandery to pay for the whole project. As it was to have an impact on the communities of North York, East York and Scarborough, community involvement and support, both volunteer and financial, would be essential to the long term success of the project.

So how are we doing? Since the hospice was incorporated, donors' support has come from:

Commandery Members & Our Foundation:	43	14%
Corporations & Foundations:	10	3%
Community Contributors:	250	83%

We thank everyone for their on-going support and are encouraged by your commitment.

We hope that everyone will become and continue to be a **Friend of the Hospice!**

The Toronto Commandery Hospice Inc.

101 Bayview Ridge, Toronto, ON, M2L 1E3

Charitable No. 85136 7367 RR0001

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