

# The Toronto Commandery Hospice

Concetta Conforzi Place

A Residential Hospice

119 - 660 Eglinton Ave. E., Box 417, Toronto, ON, M4G 2K2



## Hospice Update

Newsletter, December 2017

### ***It Takes Time To Develop***

A City councillor recently reflected the time it takes to achieve things in Toronto. Small things, like parking tickets are achievable in a reasonable amount of time. Large projects, like building a community centre or a hospice probably take 20 years.

While we have seen a few hospice projects zoom ahead at great speed and take only 10 years, we have learned that these are exceptions. Patience and perseverance are essential. We understand that it is difficult to see the progress of a development that seems to move so slowly, as so much progress is in areas that are not visible. We understand! We all yearn for the photo ops on that day when a shovel will go in the ground!

### ***Hurdle No. 1: Find A Site***

Those of you who have been with us for a long time are probably aware of the long list of sites considered for our hospice. It is clear that one of the most significant challenges for hospices in Toronto is to find a suitable location, one that is the right size and is unhampered by city barriers. Land is not just expensive, it is scarce. Lots large enough for a hospice are also large enough for developments like condos or town houses, so the competition is fierce, and all our competitors have deep pockets.

We were overjoyed when land was donated, in memory of **Concetta Conforzi**, for us to build at 75 Kincort, but after an euphoric victory at the Committee of Adjustments, which approved and endorsed our project, we were quickly blocked by the Ontario Municipal Board. The land is in an 'Employment Zone', which is reserved for selected industries and the encroaching garment district. The concern is that while we might accept conditions as they are, once we were established, planners and our neighbours expect that we would attempt to disrupt the existing industries because of noise or whatever.

### ***A Message From Anne-Marie Malek President & CEO of West Park***

*West Park is on a bold path to transform its campus into a world-class rehabilitation centre and an integrated campus of care. Our development is comprised of the construction of a new hospital and a non-hospital development. The transformation of the campus will pave the way to meet the future healthcare needs of Ontarians and help patients get their life back. Our non-hospital development aims to be a thriving, mixed-use hub that provides a range of health, home and community services in a supportive and accessible destination, surrounded by the healing effects of nature. Its services will complement West Park's existing programs and offer people better access to a continuum of care and services.*

*As part of our commitment to strengthening access and providing people with more options for home and community-based services, we recognize the tremendous need a hospice would fulfill in extending the continuum of care on the campus. A hospice represents a vital and much needed service in our region, and will be a highly valuable addition to the campus and resource to the region. To this end, we are excited to continue to develop our relationship with The Toronto Commandery Hospice.*

*We are currently in the RFP Open period on our new hospital development and are making great progress toward realizing our vision for the future. We are well positioned to work with The Toronto Commandery Hospice to successfully transform West Park's vision for an integrated healthcare campus into reality. We look forward to a future where every person in Ontario has access to quality care, including quality hospice palliative care.*



### ***Find a Site, continued ...***

The Hospice currently holds the land as an asset and will sell it as a commercial site at some point in the future.

### ***Our New Home***

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**But there is good news!** We have found a future home on land owned by the West Park Healthcare Centre. We are to be part of a healthcare park, in one of four new buildings dedicated to healthcare related organizations.

The site is located at the north-west corner of the West Park campus. **Concetta Conforzi Place** will be 25,000 sq. ft. on the first 2 floors of the building depicted below.

### ***It Was Just a Movie, But...***

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Recently I watched a movie about a New Brunswick couple in their late 80's. After 60 years, they are still as together as any couple might imagine. Although she has



dementia, he is determined to build a small, one floor house so they can stay together, and he can care for her.

The movie demonizes the bureaucrats who are determined to force the old fellow to do things their way, with fees, regulations and standards, even though we all know that he is building them a sound home on land they own. It also highlights the couple's importance of staying together rather than have her institutionalized. He would rather have a tough time supporting and caring for her than assigning the task to others.

The movie is a four Kleenex tearjerker. But as I was watching it, I thought about a number of the people who I have known, who have gone through very similar struggles in their late years. They needed those close to them. Separation when one partner is hospitalized or institutionalized is painful for both partners.

It reminded me of the role that hospice should be playing in providing comfort, providing care and providing a full life for as long as possible, while enabling the family to stay close at any time of day.

It reminded me how hospitals are not designed or able to provide the supportive environment needed by the whole family at life's end.

It reminded me how much the hospice care will mean to people in our under-serviced Community.

### ***Appeal***

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We all face the end of life and we hope to die a peaceful death with little or no pain. Today, reality is cruel as less than 1 in 10 Canadians facing life-threatening illness receive adequate end-of-life care. If you or a loved one were suffering from a debilitating disease, where would you choose to spend the last months: in a hospital or at home? Who would provide care? Would they be prepared to handle your needs? Caring for someone with a terminal illness requires balancing the on-going demands of life with the needs of an ill loved one. It is emotionally and physically demanding.

Our Funding Goal is to raise \$10,000,000 to build a new, residential hospice. We will be part of a health care related complex that is under development on West Park land.

Little or no government funding is currently available to build or create a hospice. The burden falls upon the Community. Together, we can and must take on this challenge and succeed. Without more hospice, there will be too much suffering and the cost of caring for people in hospital will be passed on to us.

Please give to support the Hospice. Consider making the Hospice part of your annual giving, perhaps with monthly installments.

***Thank you for your support!***

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## The Toronto Commandery Hospice

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Mailing address: 119 – 660 Eglinton Ave. E, Box 417, Toronto, ON M4G 9Z9

*All donors will receive a charitable receipt. The Toronto Commandery Hospice treats all personal and financial information in strict confidence. No information will be shared.*

*All funds received go towards building and supporting a new, residential hospice.*

*The Toronto Commandery Hospice is registered charity no. 85136 7367,*

*Your support is very much appreciated!*

**Thank you!**

### Monthly Giving

*Have you considered monthly giving? Regular donations enable the Hospice to create and properly plan sustainable programmes!*

Donation in Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Make a Pledge!**

I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per Month or Year (*Tax receipts will be issued upon receipt of funds*)

Cheques payable to: "The Toronto Commandery Hospice"; For PayPal: <http://ttch.org/giving.php>

MasterCard or VISA

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Please send my tax receipt to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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