



Olds and District
**HOSPICE
SOCIETY**

Helping people live until they die.

December 2011

Season's Greetings

from the Olds and District Hospice Society

Message from O&DHS President

Wow...welcome to our first official newsletter!

At this time of year, many reflect on the moments of the past year,...whether joy, sadness, peace, frustration, ...what has the year offered and what have we accomplished?

I am so proud of the O&DHS Board and our committees that have worked so hard in the past 4 years to arrive at this place. In the past year we have accomplished so much, from defining our model of care, to acquiring office space, working on our media kit, community education and communication, and finally partnering with the communities of Didsbury,

Sundre and Olds with the underlying aim to offer better hospice palliative care in our communities. Like so many community groups, these accomplishments are only possible with the support of people like you. We'd like to thank in a special way FCSS for the generous dollars, for we have been able to make leaps in our project with their support. We'd also like to thank all those who have donated to Olds and District Hospice Society in the past year. Your support is not only encouraging for our physical projects, but it encourages us as a board that we are on the right track.

I am so grateful for all the moments of the past year, our main theme is gratitude. Thank you to all those individuals on the board and the committees. Thank you for your commitment, your energy, your time and your vision. Thank you to all the people who have volunteered to be a part of Olds and District Hospice Society. We plan to gather all those interested in helping out early in 2012 to assist in some projects.

Thank you to all those volunteers who have offered their time to be with those who are terminally ill and/or dying. You are an inspiration to those around you,

and your presence is the truest gift.

Our thoughts and prayers to all who have lost loved ones in 2011, or who are journeying with a loved one at this time. Know that you are not alone. If you need us, we are here. Please call.

On behalf of the Olds & District Hospice Society may you find moments of joy and peace during this Christmas season, and may the New Year bless you in ways you do not expect.

Merry Christmas!

*Kathy Kemmere
President*

2011 - 2012 Board Members elected

The Olds and District Hospice Society held their Annual General Meeting on Oct. 12, 2011.

A ten member board was elected to serve for the 2011 – 2012 term.

The board consists of:

President: Kathy Kemmere

Vice-President: Harold Johnsrude

Treasurer: Betty Neufield

Secretary: Charlene Schramm

Regular Members:

Bev Katchmer

Marion Kasawal

Maryann Shier

Gerald Ingeveld

Shelley Bennett

Dr. Steven Turner

Do You Want To Go Green?

If you wish to receive future newsletters via email, please email Olds and District Hospice Society at hospice.olds@gmail.com



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**HOSPICE
SOCIETY**

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**Our office is now
open by appointment
only!
Call 403-586-9992**

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Upcoming Events

Speak Up - National Advanced Care Planning Day is April 16, 2012

It's about the conversations. It's about decisions. It's how we care for each other. This is a project managed by Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association. Watch for future details.

Hike For Hospice is Sunday, May 6, 2012

This is the 10th year for the Hike! This initiative is in conjunction with the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Assoc. so stay tuned for how you can help be a part of this adventure. 100% of the funds raised stay in our community.

Community Education

Olds and District Hospice Society believes in education of the public in regards to palliative care. Members will be contacted when there are education sessions scheduled.

Volunteer Training

Volunteer Training was held on Nov. 24 and 25, 2011. The O&DHS worked alongside the volunteer coordinators from Didsbury and Olds to train volunteers. The session focused on training individuals to assist palliative care patients and their families. It is a starting point for the Hospice but we are excited to finally have some volunteers. Thank you to Audrey Hobbs and Dawna Faryna for your hard work in organizing this event.

The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association Commends the Parliamentary Committee's Recommendations as a Strong Next Step for Hospice Palliative Care

(Ottawa, ON – November 17, 2011)

The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) sees the recommendations highlighted in *Not to be Forgotten: Care of Vulnerable Canadians* released by the Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care (PCPCC) as a positive step forward for palliative care issues in Canada.

In the report, several recommendations are made regarding palliative end-of-life care, including caregiver support, advance care planning, and community-integrated palliative care. In their 2010 report, *Blueprint for Action: 2010-2020*, the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC) made similar recommendations which

included:

- ◆ Ensure that all Canadians have access to high quality hospice palliative end-of-life care;
- ◆ Provide more support for family caregivers;
- ◆ Improve the quality and consistency of hospice palliative end-of-life care in Canada;
- ◆ Encourage Canadians to discuss and plan for end of life.

"Quality palliative care is the right of every Canadian, yet not every Canadian can access these services at a time when they and their families need it most," said Sharon Baxter, Executive Director of the CHPCA and Secretariat of the QELCCC. "This report will help to

ensure that the discussion on hospice palliative care remains at the forefront, and that all levels recognize the importance of a community-integrated palliative care system."

In the 2011 Federal Budget, the government made a commitment for the one-time funding of \$3 million to help support the development of new community-integrated palliative care models. This is an important starting point, however, based on the testimonials and recommendations in the report; more still needs to be done.

For complete article visit the CHPCA website: CHPCA.net