



Hospice

Spring Newsletter
March 2026

South Shore Hospice Palliative Care Society

Our Vision

Compassionate end-of life care in an environment of choice.

Our Mission

South Shore Hospice Palliative Care Society promotes compassionate, accessible end-of-life care through partnerships, education, and the provision of resources.

ABOUT US:

Our Goals

- Promote the enhancement of community and staff knowledge related to current palliative care practices.
- Promote the expansion of existing palliative care services,
- Support the individual needs of palliative care patients and their families.
- Promote and support the establishment of a free-standing hospice for Lunenburg and Queens County residents.
- Promote and support the creation of designated acute palliative care beds on the South Shore.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

February has certainly reminded us of what winter can be like in Nova Scotia, and as we wait for our snow banks to start melting we can take some solace in the warming sun and a few more minutes of sunshine each day. We have reason to celebrate the arrival of 2026, as the new year was launched with the announcement of the opening of the hospice beds at Fishermen's Memorial Hospital. With staff now in place the five dedicated rooms have been utilized by palliative patients and are providing a place of quiet dignity for end of life care. We are so grateful to the staff, volunteers and community members who have made this a reality.

January blues drifted away as the Starry Night Gala packed the house at the Best Western. The sold out event brought in over \$70,000 as attendees enjoyed good food and conversation, had a chance to bid on an array of interesting items, and listened to motivational speakers, Tara Jaskowiak, Volunteer Visitation Coordinator, and Dr Eric Wainwright, describe their relationships with palliative patients. Bidding was fierce during the live auction, as participants challenged each other for everything from an autographed Olympic hockey jersey, to Blue Jays game tickets, or the Gala sparkling dinner jacket. It is heartening to our committee members to have the generous support of both the business community who donated items, and supported the events, as well as the community members who filled the room.

In January we learned that we were the recipient of a \$390,000 grant from the Fulcher Foundation. This grant will allow us to move into the next phase of our growth as it provides funding to hire an Executive Director for the Society. Having run as a volunteer Board for the past six years, the Society has grown to a place where professional expertise is required as we move forward, and this grant allows us to keep donations directly tied to patient care. We are sincerely grateful to the Fulcher Foundation for their belief in our work.

As we move into spring we look forward to continuing our work in partnership with NSH palliative staff, and our community partners. With 339 new palliative patients identified in 2025 we know that the needs are remaining constant in both Lunenburg and Queens counties. This newsletter outlines some of the upcoming events, resources available, and information on current programming.

With sincere appreciation for your support,
Trudy

STARRY NIGHT GALA HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUNTEER VISITATION PROGRAM

Volunteer Visitation Coordinator, Tara Jaskowiak
vvp@southshorehospice.ca

This season has been a meaningful one for our Volunteer Visitor Program, with both growth and reminders of why this work matters. We now have 24 volunteers, with 6 currently matched and 5 more in the process of being paired with clients. 6 volunteers are wrapping up their training and will soon be ready to be matched. Referrals continue to come in, reflecting the growing need for companionship and connection in our community. It's wonderful to see the program expanding while staying focused on the caring and connection that makes each visit so impactful.

Our monthly volunteer meetings remain an important space for debriefing, asking questions, and continuing to learn together. We're especially looking forward to welcoming Rhonda Lemire from the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia, who will be joining us to share practical tips and resources for supporting individuals living with dementia. Volunteers will have lots of time to ask questions and learn more, helping ensure visits remain thoughtful, responsive, and meaningful. Feeling seen and known is especially important during serious illness. When someone is palliative, their world can become smaller and more isolated. A regular visit, a familiar face, and someone who truly listens can remind them that they are more than their illness. Having someone hear their stories, share a laugh, and understand what matters to them helps people feel valued and less alone. This past month has also reminded us that the connections formed through this program extend well beyond weekly visits. Many of our volunteers have attended funerals to honor the clients they've supported, and families consistently express how much those relationships meant. One volunteer was recently invited by a client's family, after their passing, to return for one final visit, spending time together looking through old photographs and sharing stories. Moments like these show just how meaningful these relationships become.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who continue to show up with compassion, steadiness, and care. The relationships they build continue to matter, even after visits have ended.



Michael Anderson, TD Wealth Management, with Fabrizio Contini and Drew Hooch Antink



One of the evenings most popular auction items:
Dinner by Chefs
Don Downe, Terry Ritcey, Mike Power

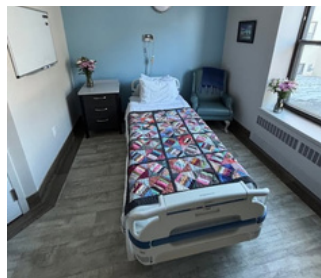


NSH Palliative Team Heather Cameron and Janet Carver enjoying the evening

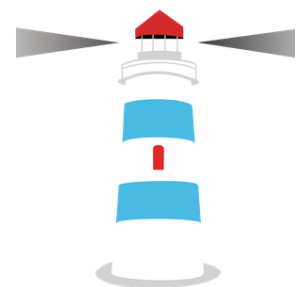
FISHERMEN'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HOSPICE UNIT



FAMILY ROOM



INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE ROOM





SSHPCS Board members:

Front Row: Trudy Johnson, Michele Flack, Rosalee Smith

Back Row: Mike Power, Jessica Eisenhauer, Ruth Anne Zwicker, Shelley Mann,
Michelle Wamboldt, Phil Bradfield, Marlene Wheatley Downe

Absent: Sally Oliver, Sue Taylor Foley

South Shore Hospice
Palliative Care Society

WE'RE HIRING!

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Visit our website for more details!

www.southshorehospice.ca

**Deadline for
application 4:00
pm March 13,
2026**



Visit the link below for more information.

[Job Description and
Information](#)



WHEN GRIEF IS MONETERIZED: THE UNAUTHORIZED REPUBLISHING OF OBITUARIES

While researching intellectual property breaches for a professional certification in risk management, I came across ‘obituary piracy,’ a term that would soon become painfully personal. For context, obituary piracy is the unauthorized copying, republishing, or fabrication of online obituaries in order to make money.

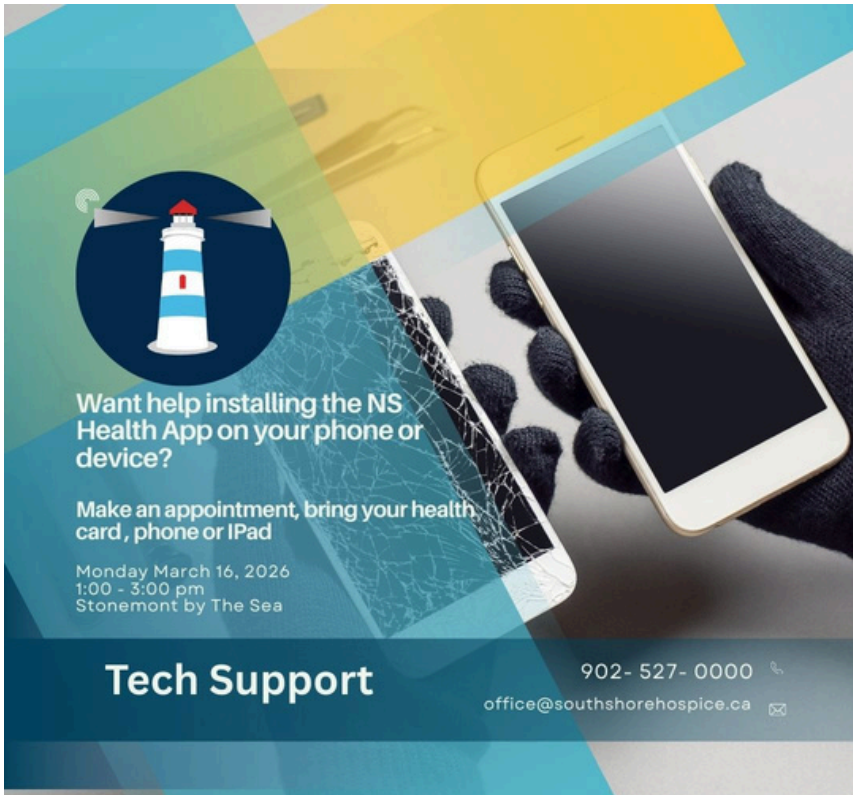
Then it hit home. I searched for my deceased son’s name and was shocked to find that a site called [Echovita](#) had republished his obituary without our permission, altered key facts, and offered memorial products like digital candles, trees, and flowers, presenting themselves as the original source. It had been live for over two years, completely unbeknownst to me or our family.

This troubling phenomenon isn’t unique to my family. CBC News reported in [August 2024](#) that Canadian funeral directors were warning about unauthorized obituaries appearing online, often without the knowledge or consent of families. Similarly, CTV News highlighted in January 2025 that more Ontario families are coming forward after discovering obituaries “scraped” from funeral homes or newspapers and republished on websites without consent.

Echovita, a Quebec-based company, republishes obituaries without authorization, often altering the content, and monetizes them by selling flowers, trees, and digital candles. La Presse reported in [February 2025](#) that some companies have earned millions from republishing obituaries, profiting from families’ grief while misleading the public into thinking they are interacting with the original funeral home. This practice undermines trust in legitimate businesses and inflicts real emotional harm on grieving families. The page was removed – not out of good faith, accountability, or recognition of harm – but through a hollow, transactional email acknowledging my request. As a bereaved parent, I found this deeply distressing; as a professional, ethically indefensible.

Reprinted from Angela Hartwich - Grief Gatherings

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Want help installing the NS Health App on your phone or device?

Make an appointment, bring your health card, phone or iPad

Monday March 16, 2026
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Stonemont by The Sea

Tech Support

902- 527- 0000
office@southshorehospice.ca

Monday, March 16, 2026

Tech Support at Stonemont

1pm - 3pm

Monday, March 16, 2026

Kindred Connections

Luck of the Irish Event

1 pm - 2:30pm



Kindred Connections
Luck of the Irish
March 16, 2026

Join South Hospice Palliative Care for sweet treats, games of chance and fun.
1:00-2:30 at Stonemont by the Sea,
Cookville NS
(enter through the back parking lot)

RESOURCES



Bereaved Families
Helping those grieving since 1990

**Are you grieving?
Has someone you love died?
We can help!**

We offer FREE support and grief-specific programming throughout Nova Scotia. Services are offered virtually and in person.

- Support & Share
- Living with Grief
- Loss of a Spouse/Partner
- Loss of a Parent/Grandparent
- Loss of a Child
- Loss of a Pet
- Traumatic Loss
- Adolescent Grief
- Resilience & Wellbeing
- One to One Confidential Support
- Grief Training & End of Life Literacy
- Corporate Programs

902-564-6795
info@bereavedfamiliesns.ca
www.bereavedfamiliesns.ca



Our programs are made possible with the support from our core funding partners and other local sponsors.



- NS Health Palliative Care
<http://www.nshealth.ca>
- Healing Pathways -Grieving Well
<http://healingpathways.nshpca.ca>
- actionforhealth.novascotia.ca

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF TO MAKE DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SERIOUS ILLNESS EASIER

Advance Care Planning Presentations Available

Have you done your estate planning? Do you have a will? Do you have a personal directive?? The personal directive is a document that names a person (your substitute decision maker) who can make your health care decisions if you are unable to do so. Does this person know your values and what you might want with regard to health care decisions??

These are all topics that we discuss at an Advance Care Planning presentation. These presentations can be tailored to whatever time is allowed for them - 30min to 90 minutes. Members of our Education Committee have all been trained to give these presentations and would be happy to do so. If you have a group - church group, service club, coffee club - and would like a presentation on Advance Care Planning, please contact our office and let us know so we can arrange one for you.

Shelley Mann Education, Chair SSHPCS

HEALTH CANADA

Caring for Someone with Serious Illness

Supporting someone through serious illness can be both rewarding and challenging. A palliative approach to care recognizes the needs of caregivers as well as the person who is ill and offers guidance, understanding, and support along the way.

It can help you and the person you care for understand the illness and what to expect, manage stress, and find support through every stage of illness. It also includes grief support for caregivers, patients, and families while helping people cope with change and loss, both during and after illness.

To learn more about how to have important conversations with your health care team, visit Health Canada's guide: [What to Do When Facing a Serious Illness](#).

Visit Canada.ca/palliative-care for more on a palliative approach to care and its benefits.



Palliative Care: Support for Living Well at Any Stage of Serious Illness

Some think that palliative care is only needed at the end of life, but that's a common misunderstanding. Palliative care is for anyone living with serious illness, at any age and at any stage. It can be provided alongside treatments aimed at curing or managing the illness.

It focuses on improving quality of life and helping people live as fully as possible by addressing physical symptoms as well as emotional, psychological, social and spiritual needs. It also supports families and caregivers through the challenges of serious illness.

A palliative approach to care can be provided by your family doctor, nurse, or others. If your care needs become more complex, you can be referred to a palliative care specialist for more comprehensive care.

Starting the conversation early with your health or social service provider can help you better understand your options and make choices that align with what matters most to you. Learn more from Health Canada's helpful guide: [What to Do When Facing a Serious Illness](#).

To learn more about the benefits of a palliative approach to care, visit Canada.ca/palliative-care.

CONTACT US

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Bridgewater, NS

Phone: (902) 527-0000

Office Hours Monday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm

The office will be closed Spring Break

March 16 -20, 2026

Email: office@southshorehospice.ca

www.southshorehospice.ca

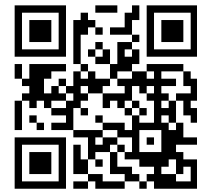
HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

The South Shore Hospice Palliative Care Society is a not for profit organization that relies on donations and support from the community.

By phone or in person

Online

CanadaHelps.org



Cash, cheques, credit cards, securities

Electronic funds transfer from your banking provider can be sent to:

treasurer@southshorehospice.ca