



CANADA

VON Oxford Update

Vol. 7 Issue #1 | Spring/Summer 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hits for Hospice

Third annual Co-Ed Slo Pitch Tournament organized and hosted by Oxford Builders Women's Slo-Pitch Friends and Family, with proceeds supporting Sakura House residential hospice.

When: Saturday, July 23, 2016

www.facebook.com/HitsforHospice

Hike for Hospice

The 14th annual Hike is a family-friendly fundraising event in support of Sakura House hospice.

**** NEW DATE ****

Saturday, September 24, 2016

Registration opens in June 2016 visit www.vonsakurahouse.com or call 519-539-1231 ext 224

Greetings from the Board of Directors

Submitted by John Goodbun, Board President

On behalf of VON Oxford's Community Corporation, I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers who put so much effort into making all our VON services very successful.

Our fundraising department is presenting a culture of philanthropy throughout the VON Oxford site and communicating with the community about VON services and how donated dollars are working.

We are extremely pleased with the many donations that VON Oxford receives on a monthly

basis and thank all our donors and supporters.

The Board also welcomes Patrice Kean, our new Care & Service Manager for Sakura House hospice. Patrice is working closely with the Board to create and implement a plan to address some areas of the hospice that need updating and cosmetic attention. As well, we are working together on a long-term plan in anticipation of larger maintenance projects as the building ages.

Again we thank each and every staff member and volunteer for your passion towards VON Oxford.

A Little Smile Goes a Long Way

Tim Hortons Smile Cookies have been a part of VON Oxford's residential hospice, Sakura House, from the very beginning. The annual fundraising initiative allows Tim Hortons franchisees to direct the proceeds from the sale of the happy chocolate chip treats to a local charity of choice.

Since September 2008, the six Woodstock Tim Hortons locations have directed the funds from their Smile Cookie sales to the hospice. That first year they sold almost 9,000 cookies at \$1 each; by 2015 that number grew to an amazing 30,100 cookies sold in support of



The full \$1 from the purchase of each Smile Cookie is donated to charity

Sakura House!

In the last eight years, Woodstock Tim Hortons locations, owned by Leslie Farrell, Eileen Seabrook, and Jason Paquette, have donated over \$150,000 to VON's Sakura House through their Smile

Cookie Campaign.

Donor Impact on VON Programs

\$5,000 donation from the **Woodstock Legion's** poppy fund supported VON Oxford's Meals on Wheels program.

\$800 Grant from the **Oxford Community Foundation** purchased Montessori Activity cart supplies for use at our 3 Adult Day Program locations in Woodstock, Ingersoll & Tillsonburg.

\$2,000 donation from the **Tillsonburg Lions Club** allowed our Blood Pressure program to purchase 2 new BP machines. It helped ensure better service at our 7 Blood Pressure clinics across Oxford County.

The Fund Development Brief

It is an honour and a privilege to be part of the VON Oxford team. The passion of our volunteers, staff, and donors is truly inspiring and we feel fortunate to be supporting their efforts.

At the heart of the Fund Development team's activities is philanthropy – a voluntary gift (of time, expertise or money) to support the common good. In this tradition of giving and sharing, our team is committed to being open and transparent in all our interactions. We will continue to ensure that contributions are

used in accordance to our donors' wishes and that appropriate acknowledgement is given for all gifts.

As a charitable home and community care organization, VON Oxford relies on donor support and we would like to thank you for your ongoing generosity!

For further information about our team or to make a gift, please contact Catherine by phone at 519-539-1231 x269 or email at catherine.dorais-plesko@von.ca



VON Oxford is happy to welcome new Fund Development team members, Catherine Dorais-Plesko – Manager, and Angela Wildfong – Administrative Coordinator.

This is What Independence Looks Like

After 64 years of marriage, the love that is shared between Fred and Elizabeth is not lost. Because of her Alzheimer's diagnosis they may do things differently now, but they still enjoy their time together.

Fred and Elizabeth utilize services offered by VON Oxford in order to keep Elizabeth at home. Elizabeth attends the Adult Day Program (ADP) where she is able to explore her passion for the arts through painting & singing and she also experiences personal connections during social activities.

"Great isn't enough of a word to describe the care we receive from VON. The fact that the Adult Day Program staff can keep Elizabeth busy is so good for her. Elizabeth is always happy to attend," says



Elizabeth and Fred Heeney enjoying home-life together.

Fred.

Additionally, Elizabeth receives baths from the Bathing Program and participates in the Overnight Respite Program which offers her a safe, supervised night of

care.

Because VON Oxford is able to provide so many supportive programs, this gives Fred time to recharge and attend to his own health needs.

Community Support Services News

Our new partnership with the Woodstock Hospital for Hot **Meals On Wheels**[®] in the Woodstock area has been running since April 11th. We are pleased to see new clients joining the program and many clients enjoy the option to have a fresh salad arrive along with their hot meal, as this was previously not an option. Hot meals are delivered Monday to Friday in the Woodstock area at noon by our dedicated volunteers.

Thanks to the generosity of Handbag's for Hospice participants, our **Children's Bereavement Program** is nearly ready to begin. The Children's Groups will be called Kids Circle and we are expecting to facilitate our first group in July 2016.

VON Oxford is also offering a new program called, **When Families Grieve**. This 1.5 hour session will be offered in tandem with the first session of

Kid's Circle and will provide parents and caregivers with useful tools to support their children through their grief.

SMART[®] **Exercise Stroke Program for Stroke Survivors** is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 pm at the VON Oxford office in Woodstock. Our exercise instructor is specially trained. This class is for stroke survivors who are looking to exercise in a safe, friendly environment.



VON Week May 16 – 20, 2016

Our Story Starts With You was the theme of this year's VON week and VON Oxford celebrated our story by hosting events and a trivia contest, at our main office, Sakura House, as well as the Adult Day Program sites in Ingersoll & Tillsonburg.

The community was invited to visit and learn about the many programs we offer that help area residents remain independent and safe in their own homes. Some programs highlighted included: **SMART[®] Exercise and Falls Prevention, Adult Day Program, Meals on Wheels[®], Sakura House Residential Hospice, and our newest program – Children's Bereavement Support.**

Many thanks to all of you who dropped by and congratulations to all our trivia prize and photo contest winners!

Volunteer Perspectives

Martha lived and worked on a farm her entire life. Today she continues to live a very active lifestyle. She presently runs her own Bed & Breakfast and volunteers with her church; she also enjoys reading, crafts, games and playing cards.

Volunteering with VON was a good fit for Martha because she wanted to give back and help others. Many of VON's programs rely on the support of volunteers. Martha has been volunteering with VON Oxford for almost a year with the Friendly Visiting Program. She

has been matched with three clients with whom she visits on a regular basis.

One of her Friendly Visiting clients, an elderly widow, shared her feelings about their time together:

"It is nice to get out, we go to Tim Hortons and the mall and I do my banking. For a long time no one visited because all my family lives away; she has been a Godsend. Bless her heart."

Update from Sakura House

Sakura House residential hospice program welcomes a new Manager to their administrative team!

Patrice Kean, the new Care and Service Manager, is a registered nurse with a background in Palliative Care, Paediatrics/ Neonatology, Quality and Planning, and Public Health. Patrice is a Western University Nursing graduate and also graduated



from Athabasca University in 2012 with a Master of Health Studies degree.

VON Oxford

550 Ingersoll Ave, Woodstock ON N4S 4Y3

📞 www.von.ca 📞 519-539-1231 or 1-888-641-5197

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