

100 Women grant for Warkworth hospice will boost residents' comfort

BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT NOV. 17/16

BY JOHN CAMPBELL

Warkworth – The \$6,800 donation The Bridge Hospice received from 100 Women with Heart Northumberland is the kind of financial support it's counting on to operate this year.

Expenses are expected to reach \$160,000 -- \$30,000 more than was budgeted a year ago -- and the hospice is responsible for coming up with all that money, without government assistance.

To do that it holds three fundraisers a year -- a golf tournament, a walk and a run -- and it relies on "third party events" and other funding sources to make up the rest, secretary Craig Kerr said.

Cheryl Langevin, with the support of fellow Brighton resident Ruth Kerr, was responsible for obtaining the most recent grant. It was her presentation to the Northumberland chapter of 100 Women Who Care at a meeting held in Brighton in September that persuaded members of the charitable organization to vote in favour of making the donation (Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre in Cobourg also received \$6,800).

Langevin said she was moved to advocate on behalf of The Bridge because of how "impressed" she was by staff when she was making arrangements for her son-in-law's dying mother to spend her final hours there.

The donation from 100 Women will be used to purchase equipment, such as an air mattress, "to enhance the comfort of our residents," and to improve the hospice's "communication capacity" so that residents and their loved ones "can stay in touch," said Bridge chair Jill Hutcheon.

"The generous donation made by 100 Women with Heart speaks to the compassion, caring and community spirit across Northumberland County," she said in a release.

"There's tremendous goodwill for the hospice," Kerr said in an interview, but there's also "a little bit of confusion" about what it does.

Community Care Northumberland provides hospice care in the home.

whereas The Bridge Hospice, the only residential hospice in Northumberland County, provides care when "the stress and the strain is too much for a family to look after all the medical needs" of a loved one at the end of life, he said.

When it reaches that point, "we basically take over," Kerr said, so the family can spend "quality time" with a member who is dying, in a setting that meets all their needs.

"We're just the next natu-



Ruth Kerr and Cheryl Langevin, members of 100 Women with Heart Northumberland, presented a cheque for \$6,800 to The Bridge Hospice secretary Craig Kerr and chair Jill Hutcheon Oct. 28.
John Campbell/Metroland

ral step ... when the situation becomes intolerable at home," he said. "It doesn't happen in every case but frequently when people are working and they have busy lives and they're also trying to give 24/7 care to a loved one it just becomes overwhelming for them."

Added to all this are "the emotional burdens that are going on ... so we provide the opportunity for them to come here, (to) a home-like environment."

The Bridge does not charge for its services which includes round-the-clock health care that Saint Elizabeth Community Enterprise provides as part of a five-year agreement.

Percy Agricultural Society draw could be the answer to your prayers

BY JOHN CAMPBELL

Warkworth – Hatchimals are the hottest toy this Christmas and their maker is having a hard time keeping up with demand for the little creatures that come inside an egg.

So much so that finding one to buy now could prove in vain.

But don't give up hope. The Percy Agricultural Society (PAS) is offering a Hatchimal as a first-place prize in a draw that's to take place Dec. 21.

The toys are being sold on eBay for hundreds, even thousands, of dollars, but you could get one for just \$2 if you happen to

have the winning ticket from among the 1,500 the fair board is currently selling.

Costing \$2 apiece or three for five dollars, they're being sold at various locations in the village. You can also arrange to buy one by calling PAS president Greg Torrance at 705-924-3108.

"Hopefully we can make somebody happy," he said.

There's another agricultural society fundraiser that's taking place before Christmas, a Cookie Extravaganza that will be held at St. Paul's United Church Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"I'm up to around 150 dozen right now,"

of cookies of all varieties, Torrance said. Directors and associate directors are doing the baking along with "friends of the society."

The sale price is \$5 a dozen "and it's a mix-and-match," he said. Clam shell containers will be provided to carry the cookies.

"This is the first time (for the event)," Torrance said. "We're going to see how it works out. Hopefully, it will become an annual event. It would be a nice thing for Christmas."

A light lunch of soup and homemade biscuits will be served as well, for \$5.

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Fair board to establish fund to repair or replace the Red Barn/Cow Palace

BY JOHN CAMPBELL

Warkworth -- Percy Agricultural Society will launch a Legacy Fund in the New Year to raise funds to either replace or repair the Red Barn, popularly known as the Cow Palace.

The former rink "needs a lot of work" because of its age, fair board president Greg Torrance said. "We're probably looking at least a half-million dollars (in either case)."

He and his board of directors are still

working on the details surrounding the fund's establishment, such as how donors will be honoured for their contributions.

A formal announcement will likely be made the end of January.

The legacy fund is also seen as a way of honouring the work of the people who started the fair 167 years ago and have kept it going.

The organization will be looking for various funding sources to go with the revenue it earns by renting out space in the barn for the storage of campers, cars and

boats in the winter. It will be a long-term project to raise the necessary capital.

"We're hoping within five to 10 years at the most," Torrance said.

The barn is available for rental in the summer as well, for dances "or something of that nature," he said. "It's a really good venue for anything like that."

The only time it is used now for an event is the cattle show that's held every year during the fair.