LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Is a hospice needed in Milton?

On Monday May 2nd, we participated in an enlightening and frank discussion on Palliative and Hospice care at the Milton Ramada Inn. The evening started with a presentation on what Palliative Care can be, evolved into a discussion of the services that are currently provided in Milton and what is needed in our community.

Mayor Gord Krantz, senior local Hospital administrators,

Cindy McDonnel and Saul Stern and representatives of the home care facilities and many volunteers from our community in this arena attended the event. Everyone present came away saying how much they had learned.

At this meeting, a challenge was launched to our community. It was suggested by a member of the audience and supported by Mayor Gord Krantz, that the time had come for a hospice facility to be developed in the Milton community, similar to the ones that exist in Burlington and Oakville. Mayor Gord reinforced the view that people who needed hospice care in their last days of life should receive it "close to home" – and most importantly – close to their loved ones.

To see this goal achieved will take immense generosity from our community. It will require a purpose-configured building – which translates into a significant financial commitment. The good news is that our community has stepped up to the plate on similar projects in the past and seen them become a reality – Halton Women's Place and Martindale Gardens being two recent examples. If you believe as we do, that this is important – and are prepared to be "part of the solution" please contact me at (905) 876 1530. If there are enough of us and we pool our contacts and resources, we could make a much-needed Hospice in Milton a reality.

Tom Dusmet



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