

Handbags For Hospice auction will survive the COVID crisis

It wasn't all that long ago residents were going about their daily lives without a care in the world.

But now, as the community copes with the COVID-19 pandemic, daily routines have been turned upside

down. More than half of all Canadians have been asked to transition out of the workplace and work from home. Residents are leaving their homes only when absolutely necessary and when they do they

practice strict physical distancing, frequent hand sanitizing, while donning non-medical face masks to protect themselves and others.

Society is adjusting to new ways of doing business even as several busi-

nesses remain closed. And from the start of this unprecedented health crisis dedicated first responders and health care providers have been giving of themselves while putting their own health at risk to help others. Countless volunteers are stepping up to help wherever help is needed. Several local businesses have generously provided personal protective equipment and/or financial help to area hospitals and long-term care homes.

And throughout the pandemic,

local hospices have continued to offer compassionate support to patients and families with essential end of life bereavement care.

"These last few months have been unprecedented," noted Heidi Griffith, executive director at The Heart of Hastings Hospice, "but it seems to have brought out the very best in all of us. Our dedicated team has continued to support our community clients through personal phone calls, virtual meetings online and with care packages, email notes