

The Journey - by PP Wilbur Walrond

On August 1, 1994, Doreen, the wife of one of our members, Chuck Albert, succumbed to cancer, fortunately in the comfort of their home. In remembrance of her life and the circumstances of her death, Chuck requested that donations be made toward the start of a Hospice House in Richmond.

That, in more ways than one, was literally the first step into the unknown. Five days later, another fellow Rotarian, found himself in a similar situation, when his wife Connie Fetigan passed away, and he too made the same request in honor of her memory. Our Club thereafter invited our members to consider doing likewise with the result that the number soon grew to the eight, whom are now recognized on a plaque in the Hospice's foyer. The trust these families placed in our hands, with their funds, made us determined to honor that commitment.



In tandem with our fund raising efforts, we then set about to secure a bigger partner with whom we could work toward the realization of our goals.

In 1995 Brian Linkletter of the Salvation Army and then a member of our club, introduced Nancy Yurkovich, Chuck Albert, and eventually the members of our Club, to the concept and workings of hospices, through AGAPE- the Salvation Army Hospice in Calgary.

On August 23, 2000, our search for a partner ended with the signing of a deal with the Salvation Army. It was agreed that the Salvation Army would purchase the land, own and operate the Hospice, to be called the Rotary Hospice House. In return, our Rotary Club would commit to raising the sum

of \$500,000 to go toward the construction costs.

In making this journey, we owe our thanks to Larry Jaremkov, John Norton and Mildred Jarvis of the Salvation Army. They together with our Rotary Club's Hospice Committee, did the ground work for this project including the selection of the Construction Team. Since the ultimate success of every building project is the result of the working together of many disciplines, we are very pleased to recognize the following Consultants, who made it all possible.

- The Project Architects - Neale, Staniszki, Doll Adams, under the direction of Jerry Doll and Brian Rust.
- Structural Engineer - Krahn & Associates
- Geotechnical - Levelton Engineering
- Landscape Architect - Perry & Associates
- Mechanical - Yoneda & Associates
- Electrical - Falcon Engineering
- Code Consultant - LMDG Building Code Consultants
- Interior Designer - Alike Gladwin & Associates
- Surveyor - Murray & Associates
- Security Systems Consultant - SCI Smart-tek Communications

As our fundraising activities got into full swing we solicited the support not only from Richmond's other three Rotary Clubs- The Sunrise, Sunset and Steveston, but also the Vancouver South and Chinatown Rotary Clubs, and eventually through our combined efforts, we gained the much-needed financial support from the citizens of Richmond and Vancouver.

In May 2001, the first phase of construction commenced with the placing of the pre-load in keen anticipation of the long awaited opening which finally occurred on September 30, 2005.

This then is the Rotary Club of Richmond's brief History of the Rotary Hospice House. It is a story of one individual's dream that became a reality and one that will eventually be our legacy to the City and to the people of Richmond. It is a dream which came to fruition as the result of our combined Community spirit in action, epitomizing not only Rotary's efforts, but also that of everyone who participated in this project – a real exhibition of **“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**.

Richmond's Rotary Hospice House: From Dream to Realty

The Dream By Nancy Yurkovich



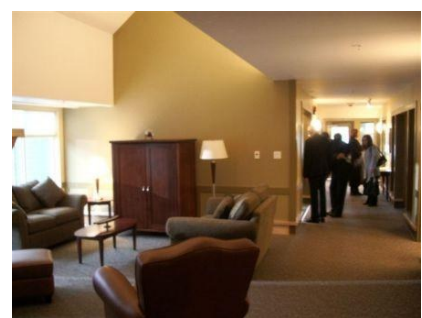
“Fifteen years ago, I had a dream and today it has come true. Today is for Peter and Heather and Ed and Andrea and Bob and Phyllis—all whom I loved—and it is for all of us. For in this home, Rotary Hospice House, families will be welcomed as guests for a short period of time. They will be surrounded with love as they travel the final part of their journey on earth. They will choose this place

when hospital and home are not an option—hospital because cure is no longer expected and home because caregivers are unavailable. Hospice is offered as sanctuary where the contribution of science is valued but does not dominate.

And Rotary Hospice House is about hope—not hope for cure and prolongation of life, but hope for forgiveness and thanksgiving and a gentle closure to life. It is hope for reconciliation with loved ones, for meaning in what life has been and... a time to say good-bye—for final reunion. At Rotary Hospice House, guests and health professionals, in community with one another, will renew and sustain hope within the reality of impending death. They will experience a depth of human relationship in which they are reminded of their shared humanity and the mystery of life and death. It is here that the possibility exists for an understanding of the human condition, the human spirit, and the human journey that cannot be replicated in any other way. *(Hawthorne & Yurkovich, Palliative and Supportive Care, 2003, 2004)*

Thank you to all who have made this dream come true. And blessings on all who enter in.”

- Nancy J. Yurkovich September 30.



Rotary Hospice Official Opened on September 30, 2005

An award well deserved



Nancy Yurkovich was awarded by the Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory in recognition of her outstanding community leadership and dedication to the Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House.

Pres. Barb unveiled the leaf



The tree of life is created for the Hospice opening by the Salvation Army. Each donor, when they have their turn to speak, pulled off "their leaf" to reveal the amount they had donated.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



In front of the Tree of Life



Over 150 people attended the official opening



Special Presentation to MLA Linda & PP Chuck

“Service Above Self” - Congratulation to Richmond Club

By Gordon Dalglish, Assistant Governor, Richmond/Delta

Excerpt from original article posted in the District 5040 website (along with photos from the opening)

Three days into her tenure as MLA for Richmond East, Linda Reid met with Nancy Yurkovich, and heard about her dream of a Hospice House being established in Richmond. On the 30th September 2005 – 15 years later – that dream was realized.

In 1993, members of Rotary Club of Richmond pledged to raise \$500,000 towards making the dream a reality.

A partnership was born that included Federal, Provincial and Municipal authorities, Health Care organizations, business sponsors, private individuals, foundations and not least, a labour of love and commitment from the Rotary Club of Richmond, and other local Rotary clubs.

So, on 30th September, 2005, Richmond’s first free standing community Hospice opened its doors. **THE SALVATION ARMY ROTARY HOSPICE HOUSE**, owned and operated by the Salvation Army, is a 10-bed, home-like facility, providing quality end-of-life care to residents of Richmond and Vancouver.

Over 150 supporters of the Hospice attended the official opening and heard from many of the sponsors of the facility. The most significant aspect of every speech was the personal touch that everyone – from Minister of State Raymond Chan to Rotary Club President Barbara Duggan – brought to the occasion. All had a story to tell, not just a speech to make.

Capital cost of the project: \$2,891,968

- The Government of Canada, through CMHC, is contributing a \$300,000 capital grant through the Canada-BC Affordable Housing Agreement The Province of BC, through BC Housing, is contributing \$300,000 towards the capital costs of the development. The Salvation Army is providing the total equity of \$543,968 consisting of \$329,000 land equity and \$214,968 cash equity.
- Annual operating cost: \$1,111,908 per year.
- Vancouver Coastal Health will contribute \$839,908 annually to the operating budget.
- The Salvation Army will contribute \$180,000 annually.
- Private and foundation donations totalling \$1,748,000 have been made to the project, including: Rotary Club of Richmond ; The Sutherland Foundation; Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation Canada; Chippendale Foundation; Milan and Maureen Ilich Foundation; BMO Bank of Montreal; Glentel Inc. Hsu & Hsieh Foundation; Larkspur Foundation; Arthur Skidmore Foundation; TCG International Inc. and Vancouver Foundation

Be it the eradication of Polio worldwide, or the establishment of a Community Hospice, partnership is a fundamental requirement in our endeavours to provide “Service Above Self”. Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Richmond, and many other contributing Rotary clubs in the District, who helped make this partnership, and this dream, a reality.

Major Donors Appreciation Luncheon - Oct 12, 2005

To express our appreciation, Service Above Self pins were presented by members of our club



Joan Appel representing Richmond Sunrise



Rebecca Ng, Director of the BR Care Foundation



Kelly & Bob Barski

Major Donors Appreciation Luncheon - Oct 12, 2005



Milan Illich



Vivian Barr



AG Gordon Dalglish



Patsy Hui



**Cliff Beaumont representing
Vancouver South**



PDG Cory Holob



Nancy and Tony Yurkovich



Steve Olenick



Rotarian Henry Fetigan