



## **NEW RESIDENTIAL HOSPICE WILL SUPPORT COMMUNITY'S GROWING NEED FOR PALLIATIVE CARE**

KITCHENER - June 19, 2014. Partners and stakeholders from across the community met with representatives of Lisaard House today for a special groundbreaking ceremony to launch the construction of a new residential hospice in southwest Kitchener that will help address the growing need for palliative care in Waterloo Region.

Innisfree House, named for the W.B. Yeats poem *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*, will provide comfort, care and closure in a home-like setting to support residents and their families through their end-of-life journey. The new hospice will be operated through Lisaard House, a six-bed hospice in Cambridge that has provided palliative care and support for more than 1,100 residents since its opening in 2000.

According to Sheila Ainsworth, Chair of Lisaard House's Board of Directors, hospices such as Lisaard House and Innisfree House bridge the gap between institutional care facilities and home care, providing an alternative for the growing number of palliative patients in our community who do not wish to spend their final days in hospital, but require more support than can be provided at home.

"At Lisaard House, we are dedicated to support living every day to the fullest with dignity and meaning," Ainsworth said. "We look forward to continuing that culture at Innisfree House."

Referrals for palliative beds have increased significantly over the past five years. From January through May of this year, Lisaard House received more than 150 referrals for palliative care: the existing facility could accommodate only 74 of them.

Innisfree House will provide 10 additional palliative care beds in the community to serve the needs of approximately 250 individuals and their families each year. The new facility will open in Spring 2015.

A community campaign has been launched to raise the \$4.4 million required for the development of Innisfree House. During Thursday's event, Jackie Hatherly-Martin, Chair of the Innisfree Capital Campaign Committee, acknowledged the Manfred and Penny Conrad Family Foundation, The Cowan Foundation, Mike and Hennie Stork, Keith and Sheila Ainsworth and Bob and Judy Astley for their generous support for the project and revealed that the campaign has raised more than \$2 million towards its overall goal. For more information, visit [www.innisfreehospice.com](http://www.innisfreehospice.com)

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Charitable Registration Number: 87274 9536 RR0001



## **Background**

### **What is the project?**

Lisaard House, Waterloo Region's only residential cancer hospice, will build a new residential hospice in Kitchener for residents who require palliative care. The new hospice, Innisfree House, will be built in southwest Kitchener on lands owned by Conestoga College. The college has agreed to provide the land on a long-term lease at nominal cost to Lisaard House. The new hospice will provide end-of-life care for individuals with all palliative diagnoses.

### **Why is it needed?**

There is an increasingly urgent need in our region for an alternative to institutional and in-home care for individuals facing end-of-life diseases.

Lisaard House's current 6-bed facility in Cambridge, opened in 2000 to provide palliative care to cancer patients, can no longer accommodate the growing number of individuals who seek admission. In 2013, 147 patients were admitted. An additional 244 admission requests could not be met.

By opening an additional hospice in the region, Lisaard House will respond to the growing community need for palliative care in home-like settings that provide comfort, dignity and support to individuals and their families through the end-of-life journey.

### **When will it be completed?**

Innisfree House is targeted for completion in Spring 2015.

### **Will Lisaard House continue to operate when Innisfree House is open?**

Yes, the Lisaard House residential hospice in Cambridge will continue to provide quality end-of-life palliative care in a home-like environment for its residents.

### **How will Innisfree House be funded?**

Like Lisaard House, Innisfree House will provide care to residents at no cost to themselves or their families.

The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network will provide dedicated funding through the Waterloo Wellington Community Care Access Centre to support bed-side nursing and personal support services for residents.

Funds for the construction of the new facility – estimated at \$4,400,000 – will be raised through a capital campaign.

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Private donations from individual and family donors will continue to be essential to the hospice's ongoing sustainability.

**How can I support the project?**

Donations to support the development and ongoing operation of Innisfree House can be made through Lisaard House, a registered, non-profit charitable organization without religious affiliation. Donations can be made online at [www.lisaardhouse.com](http://www.lisaardhouse.com), or by phone, mail, fax or email. Receipts will be issued for all donations of \$20 or more.

**Where can I find out more?**

Visit the Lisaard House website at [www.lisaardhouse.com](http://www.lisaardhouse.com)

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