



“We believe MV Hospice services are a godsend to the community.”



Gerard O'Malley

Dear Friend,

Last year, Gerard O'Malley attended the memorial butterfly release in Barry's Bay. He was handed a single painted butterfly and watched as it bathed its delicate wings in the warm sunlight. A few moments later, it took flight, leaving Gerard following it with his gaze.

It would be the last memorial butterfly ceremony hosted by the St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundation (SFVH) and Madawaska Valley Hospice Palliative Care Services that Gerard would attend.

The co-owner of the Barry's Bay Metro was familiar with local healthcare including MV Hospice. Gerard experienced Type 1/Juvenile Diabetes since childhood, and later suffered a hockey accident that left him a quadriplegic.

When he received a diagnosis of incurable cancer, Gerard met with MV Hospice Clinical Director Dylaina Wood to learn about what support services would be available to him.

“Dylaina followed Gerard from the onset of his cancer diagnosis. She was available for all oncologist telephone appointments, and made regular home visits. She also provided moral support to Gerard, his family, his caregivers and his coworkers,” Gerard's sister Joan Cybulski said.

Dylaina administered palliative care training to family and caregivers at the appropriate time. Gerard was fortunate enough to remain at home until his death on February 24, 2024.

“We believe MV Hospice services are a godsend to the community,” Joan said.

Many families have benefited from that same care and compassion offered by our local hospice palliative care staff and volunteers. Every year, many of those families return to the annual Memorial Butterfly Release.

Butterflies are an international symbol for hospice/palliative care because they represent change, hope and life.

The Memorial Butterfly Release is intended to be a time for families to reflect and honour their loved ones who have passed. The 8th annual event will take place on Sunday, July 28th, 2024 at the Water Tower Park behind the Opeongo Seniors Centre.

There will also be an option to pick up your butterfly and release it at home. If you are picking up your butterflies, it is very important that you bring an ice pack and an insulated lunch bag or cooler to keep your butterfly cool and dormant during transport.

The event will feature music and guest speakers, including a healing message from Julie Keon, Life Cycle Celebrant. Those picking up butterflies for a home release can tune into our Facebook page for the live feed that day.

Since it takes time to raise the butterflies, pre-registration is required. The **deadline to reserve a live butterfly is Friday, July 12th, 2024**. The cost to reserve a butterfly is \$35 each or three for \$100. Proceeds go toward hospice palliative care services in our community.

You can reserve a butterfly by contacting the Foundation at 613-756-3045 ext. 217, online at www.sfvhfoundation.com, or in-person at 7 St. Francis Memorial Drive (inside the hospital.)

As part of our grief and bereavement program, we hope that this event will provide an opportunity for you to honour your losses during this challenging time. Your support of hospice palliative care services in our community is appreciated.

Warm regards,



Lisa Hubers; Executive Director
MV Hospice Palliative Care



Erin Gienow; Executive Director
SFVH Foundation



*Memories from the butterfly release in
July 2023.*

P.S. Please help us spread the word and share the event details with your family and friends!