

## Province boosts funding for end-of-life care

Richard Hutton

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ST. CATHARINES — While the Province is boosting funding for hospice care across Ontario by \$13.9 million, a St. Catharines MPP has encouraged two Niagara hospices to continue with their fundraising efforts.

“I hope nobody thinks fundraising ends with this funding,” Bradley said as he announced the share of funds Hospice Niagara in St. Catharines and McNally House in Grimsby would be receiving.

“I encourage that to continue,” he said.

Bradley announced on June 10 that the Province plans to increase funding for hospice care by \$15,000 for each adult bed and \$22,400 for each pediatric bed. For Hospice Niagara, that means \$150,000 for its 10 beds while McNally will get \$90,000 for its six beds.

“We’re taking action to put patients first,” Bradley said. “This is something that we needed in the community.”

The \$13.9 million being invested in hospice and palliative care is part of a three-year \$75-million commitment the Province made in its budget announced back in February.

Carol Nagy, executive director of Hospice Niagara, was grateful for the new funds but also hoped that it was the start of a trend toward more money being set aside for hospice care.

“It’s an important milestone for palliative and hospice care,” she said. “I hope it’s only a first step,” she said.

Pamela Blackwood, executive director of McNally House, was also happy with the announcement of the new funds but said she looked forward to continuing to work with local donors, volunteers and the provincial government in creating a more compassionate community care model for end-of-life care

“We’re making it everyone’s responsibility for helping in end-of-life care,” she said.

Both women said that the work of their many volunteers in their respective organizations are what make the care at the Niagara hospices compassionate for both patients and their families.

“It can’t be done without our volunteers,” Nagy said. “We depend on them. They are the heart and soul of our operation.”

Currently, hospice Niagara is selling tickets for its annual Five Car Draw. Tickets are \$25 each for five for \$100. Vehicles that could be won include a 2016 Chevy Camaro LT, a 2016 Honda CR-V, a 2016 Fiat Sport, a 2016 Mazda MX-5 and a 2016 Chevy Silverado.

Tickets can be purchased by calling Hospice Niagara at 905-984-8766 or at [5cardraw.ca](http://5cardraw.ca). There will be an Early Bird draw on June 19 at the Niagara Falls Rotary Ribfest for a 2016 Harley Davidson Dyna Street Bob.

McNally House, meanwhile, will be holding its annual fundraising golf tournament on Sept. 15 at Peninsula Lake Golf and Country Club. The entry fee is \$250 per golfer and includes lunch, dinner, use of a cart and 18 holes of golf.

For more, contact Blackwood at 905-309-4013, ext. 22 or at [pblackwood@mcnallyhousehospice.com](mailto:pblackwood@mcnallyhousehospice.com).

Richard Hutton is a Reporter-Photographer for Niagara this Week, covering Niagara Falls. Covering everything from politics to community stories and everything in between, Richard has won a pair of Ontario Community Newspaper Awards for his work and has been recognized for his long-time commitment to the industry with the OCNA's Silver Quill Award.



St. Catharines MPP talks with McNally House executive director Pamela Blackwood, left, and Hospice Niagara executive director Carol Nagy at a funding announcement for the two hospices on June 10 at Hospice Niagara.

### Hospice care funding boost

St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley checks out a 2016 Chevy Camaro that's up for grabs in Hospice Niagara's 5 Car Draw. Bradley, who was joined by Hospice Niagara executive director Carol Nagy and McNally House executive director Pamela Blackwood, was at Hospice Niagara on June 10 to announce new funding for the two hospices.