



GEORGINA

External Briefing Note

Subject: Letter of Support for Hospice Georgina

To: Mayor and Council

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Date: September 11, 2024

Briefing: Proposed letter of support for Hospice Georgina

BACKGROUND:

[Hospice Georgina](#) is a not-for-profit charitable organization that provides special care to people who are near the end of life and have stopped treatment to cure or control their disease. Hospice Georgina offers physical, emotional, social, and spiritual support for patients and their families, through the delivery of services such as support groups, drop-in programs, day hospice, home visits and care giver support, etc. Hospice Georgina is governed by a Board of Directors and supported through a dedicated team of employees and volunteers.

As mentioned in their 2023 annual report, Hospice Georgina provided 668 hours of bereavement support for children, youth, adults and seniors; 1,667 hours of home visiting and caregiver support and the leading of 260 groups; with dedication and support demonstrated through 11,321 volunteer hours.

In November 2023, Hospice Georgina put forward a community grant request to the Town for \$1M to support the site acquisition, architectural design, construction, staff training and launch/outreach of a new residential hospice location in Georgina.

In December 2023, staff met with the Executive Director (Laurie Knapp) and Board Chair (Mary Margaret Thorburn) of Hospice Georgina to discuss the grant request. The following staff recommendation was put forward to Council in January 2024 as part the non-profit grant administration program:

- That Council refer Hospice Georgina to the Strategic Initiatives Department for further discussion on the proposed Health Care Strategy in order to determine the most appropriate manner for the Town to support this initiative. And further, that Hospice Georgina be invited to present their project to Council at an upcoming meeting.

In February 2024, Hospice Georgina [presented to Council](#) outlining the need for a residential hospice in Georgina as the current infrastructure falls significantly short of the need, with a current total bed capacity of 25 for all of York Region, none of which are located in Georgina.

The presentation included a request to consider a land donation (11614 Metro Rd N, Willow Beach, ON L0E 1S0 - portion of the property for Hospice), financial support with the capital build of new residential hospice beds (\$1M through Community Grant request) and dollars for ongoing operations. Further, the presentation highlighted a need for support from all levels of government to assist Hospice Georgina with launching their capital campaign that included a recent letter of endorsement from MPP Caroline Mulroney.

The presentation provided by Hospice Georgina was received by Council, and the requests for land donation and financial support referred to the Chief Administrative Officer and Strategic Initiatives Department for consideration, in conjunction with the healthcare strategy and 2024 budget process as per RESOLUTION NO. [C-2024-0038](#).

In June 2024, Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Georgina, Southlake Regional Health Centre and Northern York South Simcoe Ontario Health Team that formalized a collaborative relationship between the parties for the purpose of improving access to health care in Georgina. Included in the recommendation, was that the Town's Health Care Strategy Initiative be modified to deliver on the scope of the MOU with leadership provided through Southlake and the NYSS OHT through the adoption of Report No. [SI-2024-0014](#).

Shortly following the Council meeting on June 19, 2024, staff received communication through the Mayor's Office from Hospice Georgina requesting an update on their need for support, as outlined in the February 2024 presentation.

Town staff met with leadership from Hospice Georgina and their Board in June and again in July 2024. The July meeting also included staff from Southlake RHC, Better Living Health and Community Services (representing Margaret Bahen and Doane House Hospices). The purpose of both meetings was to get a better understanding of their request from the Town and determine how the Town and other partners could best support them moving forward.

At that meeting, Hospice Georgina mentioned that their desire to pursue the original land request to Council has temporarily shifted to a focus on exploring community partnerships that embrace step forward opportunities and also on recruiting a resource that will support the advancement of a residential hospice in Georgina.

NEXT STEPS:

Based on the meeting discussions, the more immediate next steps would include the following:

1. That the Town provide a letter of support to Hospice Georgina (attached), that would assist the organization with requests for provincial and federal funding.

2. That Hospice Georgina work on exploring community partnerships and recruiting a resource to pursue the advancement of the residential hospice project, including the development of a detailed business plan and future updates being brought forward to Council.

It is clear that Hospice Georgina provides a vital service to the residents of our community and that more will be needed to support Georgina's growing population well into the future. Hence, staff are recommending Council approve the letter of support in an effort to advance and continue to improve access to healthcare in our community.