

My Brother's Final Journey

Two years ago my brother was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour and was dying. He had reached the stage that he required 24 hour care and could no longer stay at home. He was transferred to the palliative care unit at RVH in Barrie. It was a difficult and distressful time for everyone.

After a week or two at RVH, we were fortunate enough to have him transferred to Hospice Simcoe, a 10 bed Hospice facility nearby. This facility was dramatically different from RVH. It was as close to being like home as possible, but with trained empathetic staff 24 hour a day. The only similarity to RVH was the hospital bed.

When we entered Hospice Simcoe, the first thing we saw is a large cosy living room complete with a fireplace. Beside the living room was a huge kitchen where homemade soup, muffins and cookies were available to all residents and visiting families. Each resident had a large private room, beautifully furnished complete with TV, stereo, refrigerator and Murphy bed if needed. We were allowed to wheel my brother outside in his bed to enjoy the sunshine, birds and flowers, to share a home cooked meal with him in the kitchen or to even have a glass of wine together.

It felt like home away from home. The entire ambiance allowed the residents and families to relax and to have more quality time with the residents. My brother became more at peace with himself after he arrived at Hospice Simcoe, and our family knew this was the ideal place for him to be in his final days.

We will always be immensely grateful to Hospice Simcoe and their fabulous staff for helping my brother in his final time of need. As a result, we strongly support the need for a similar Hospice facility in North Simcoe.

Greg Rothwell, Midland Ontario

October 2017