

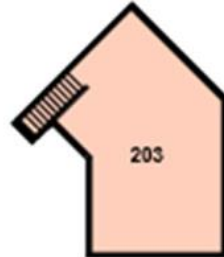
Huron Hospice Presentation To  
Ashfield Colborne Wawanosh Council  
May 5, 2026



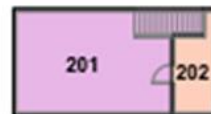
# Our Ask Today

- 1) A letter signed by the mayor to The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, asking her to fund and open two beds at Huron Hospice which have been closed for 18 months.
- 2) That ACW Councillors attending the AMO this year advocate with Ministry of Health representatives to fund and open the two beds at Huron Hospice. If the beds are funded and open by August, to thank MOH representatives.





SECOND FLOOR OVER  
STORAGE ROOM 121



SECOND FLOOR OVER  
PROGRAMMING 112



# The Problem With The Four-Bed Hospice Model

- There is a reason why there are only 2 four-bed hospices in Ontario
- Hospice Palliative Care Ontario is on record with the government that 4-bed hospices are not sustainable
- Not enough time given by the Ministry of Health to open as a six-bed in 2018
- Money provided by MOH to have architectural drawings for a 6-bed hospice completed before the 4-bed opened in May 2018



# Gifts of \$10,000 Or More To The Capital Campaign

Ontario Health

Town of Goderich

Municipality of Bluewater

Bayfield Community Group

Bruce Power

Tuckersmith Communications

Goderich Rotary Club

Usborne & Hibbert Mutual Insurance

Howick Mutual Insurance

Allan Avis Architects

Allen Ische & Nancy Arthur-Ische

McGavin Farm Equipment

Nancy and Kevin Kale

Margaret Roney & Family



# Gifts of \$10,000 Or More To The Capital Campaign

Maple Leaf Chapter IODE Goderich

Don & Linda Edward

Bryan & Lynda Vincent

Catherine & Michael Strickland

Estate of Jim Shanahan

Diane Aitken

Unifor Local 16-0

Daryl Ball

Estate of Doris Stanworth

Janmaat Family

JP Bickell Foundation

Orr Insurance

Mary and Harold Smith

Estate of Rita Coombs

Two Anonymous Gifts

David and Susan Bender



# A Short Chronology Of Events

- ✓ **January 2020:** First inquiry by Huron Hospice to Ministry of Health asking about the process to expand hospice from 4 to 6 beds in terms of capital and operating.
- ✓ **March 2020:** Capital campaign launched.
- ✓ **August 2020-August 2022:** Attended 3 meetings with ministry officials in which they indicated they could not approve capital funding to expand to six beds without first approving operating funding for the additional 2 beds. During this time Huron Hospice was directed by the capital division of the MOH to various branches of the ministry for the operating funds. Each branch said they were not responsible for this.
- ✓ **Early 2023:** The ministry had approved the 3 required steps in the capital approval process without following their policy of first approving operating funds. The Huron Hospice documents included 15 references to a 6-bed (not 4-bed) hospice and included completed drawings for a 6-bed hospice.



# A Short Chronology Of Events

- ▶ **May 2023:** Provincial direction was given to proceed with the capital expansion. With respect to the operating funds for the 2 beds, direction was given to obtain 2 letters of recommendation from local officials. A letter of recommendation was received from the Huron Perth Area Ontario Health Team. The letter from the West Region system planners, though requested, was not received (no letter was provided by them either recommending or not recommending funding).
- ▶ **Mid 2024 - mid 2025:** Huron Hospice was requested to maintain an average occupancy of 80% over 12 months to demonstrate need, after which the operating funding for the two beds would be considered. Occupancy over those 12 months was 79.9%. The operating funding was not provided. Over the past 18 months, occupancy has been 82%.
- ▶ **August 2024:** The ministry invited us to apply for 2 beds from the new 84 hospice beds announced in that year's provincial budget. We applied and were not funded.
- ▶ **Mid 2025:** The ministry informed us we can apply for operating funds for the 2 beds when the next round of hospice bed funding opens (based on historical trends, that is likely to be between 3 and 8 years).



# Consistent Support From Our MPP



# Summary And Current Situation

- ❑ 6 years of using regular channels.
- ❑ 14 meetings with ministry officials and several letters from the Huron Hospice board to ministry officials.
- ❑ Huron Hospice has acted in good faith by following every direction and recommendation from the ministry to obtain operating funding.
- ❑ In our view the Ministry of Health did not follow their policy of approving operating funds before approving capital funds.
- ❑ We have now turned away 71 people in the 18 months the beds have been closed because our 4 beds are full (the average number of people who die at HH each year is 45).
- ❑ Huron Hospice has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest rating (83% pre-admission death rate) of hospices in Ontario for those who die elsewhere when they wanted to die at Huron Hospice.
- ❑ Report of the Four County Labour Market Planning Board indicating that, from 2014-2024, there was an increase of 42% in those aged 65 and over (highest in Ontario) with a 10% decrease in the number of healthcare workers (the only region in Ontario).
- ❑ Hospice beds cost less than half a hospital bed and hospital beds are often taken by someone who would prefer to die at the hospice.



# Moving Beyond Regular Channels After 6 Years



- ❑ Since early January 155 letters have been written by family members of those who have died at the hospice, donors, volunteers, community partners and others to Minister Jones asking her to fund the beds.
- ❑ These letters have been personal and compelling.
- ❑ We are not aware of anyone having received a response from the Minister of Health's office (including the Board of Directors who wrote first).
- ❑ The Huron Hospice board has now determined the next strategies we are using in the coming weeks and months.

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