

Raises record-breaking \$55,000

Sun shines on second annual Hike for Hospice



HOSPICE hikers are launched by the Town Crier.

After a week of steady rain and grey skies, the sun made a welcome appearance on Sunday, May 25, just in time for the second annual Hike for Hospice. Around 80 enthusiastic supporters took to the trails in support of the Hospice Hub, raising \$55,000 to fund vital palliative and end-of-life care services in the region.

“A huge thank you to all who hiked, volunteered, donated, and cheered on the walkers at the second annual hike,” said volunteer Margo Bell. “The support from the community means the world to us.”

One of the highlights of the fundraiser was when **an anonymous donor** stepped up with a generous challenge—pledging to match all new donations made through May 31, up to \$5,000, which they did. This matching gift helped the organization go beyond the \$50,000 fundraising goal, arriving at \$55,000.

All funds raised will go directly to support the growing programs of the Hospice Hub, including the Home Support

Program, Grief and Bereavement services, educational seminars, and help navigating the healthcare system. A new Day Hospice program is also set to launch in October, offering added support to individuals and families—completely free of charge.

The Hospice Hub, serving the same catchment area as the Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital, was incorporated in 2023 and designated a registered charity this April. With rising demand for its services, the organization now operates with a strong base of volunteers, three part-time staff, and its first full-time employee, recently hired to lead the Day Hospice initiative.

Looking ahead, the Hospice Hub has set a goal of opening 4–6 hospice beds within the next three years. Its mission remains clear: to create a community where people are supported to live fully, age with dignity, die on their own terms, and grieve with compassionate care.

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