

Hello,

As the new **program and volunteer coordinator**, I am now settling into my part-time role at the Sea to Sky Hospice Society and I am delighted to work with such a compassionate and passionate team!

As I meet the Hospice staff, VCH partners and many of the volunteers I am reminded about the gifts we all have and share in this wonderful community, and how precious and privileged I am to live here, on the unceded ancestral lands of the Squamish Nation. I am a visitor to these lands, initially attracted by the mountains, my husband and I chose Squamish as our home in 1998, and as we grow our son, our roots and connection to this community of people have grown too!

My background working as a project manager for a health care company, prior to starting our family, and my last 12 years volunteering and working as a volunteer coordinator in the Sea to Sky community, will inform and support my work in this new role. I have much to share and much to learn about Hospice Palliative care, and I am delighted to be supported by all the volunteers, staff and community partners.

What is happening relative to Programs and Volunteers?

We have our weekly **Wednesday Bereavement Walk** back running as a drop in, through to the end of July thank-you to Volunteer Marika for her interest to restart this week.

Marie is visiting the Hospice twice a week as you will read in her **Hospice Volunteer** story below. Nurses are keen to have volunteers at the unit for 1-2 hr shifts between 10 – 6pm. **Chemo tea service** has been running since before I started, and Nancy shares her volunteer story – and the joy it brings, so do read on below!

We plan to begin our community **Visiting Volunteer** program again, as soon as we get requests and reconnect with trained volunteers ready to re-engage in community. Hilltop House is also ready to restart the **Vigil Volunteer** role, as soon as we get our Vigil Volunteer contact list updated – much to do, so a busy time ahead.

We also had a lovely **volunteer garden gathering** and “work party” last night. A real pleasure to have so many conversations and giggles while bundling up donated art for fundraisers, brightening Hospice room walls and igniting memories. Many Sea to Sky Bereavement packages were also assembled, resonating how “many volunteer hands make light the work”! **Thank-you** to all who were able to come out, and to the **Garden volunteers** who have been tending such a lovely garden to work and visit in. We even ended early!! So very grateful for your gift of time shared!

Lastly, I am also very excited to work with Nicole Carothers over the Summer months to update the Volunteer Hospice Training, and we are excited to be offering the annual Volunteer Training session this Fall (likely end of September -TBC).

We are actively **recruiting new volunteers** prior to the training, so please spread the word and weblink, and any current volunteers who would like a “refresher” are also welcome, and will be invited.

If you are a volunteer I have not yet met, I am excited to meet you in the weeks and months ahead and encourage you to reach out anytime with your program ideas, volunteer interests or questions. I can be reached by email: diana.gunstone@seatoskyhospicesociety.ca

Happy Summer 2022!!
Diana