

For Immediate Release:

Book Chronicles 25 years of Progress

“I Know an Angel”, a book by Eleanor Davies of Stratford, is a historical review of hospice palliative care in Prince Edward Island. Eleanor, a 25 year volunteer with Hospice, writes about a small group of dedicated Islanders who recognized a need for hospice palliative care. They encouraged others to join and promote changes to the health care system ... changes that would allow people with a life threatening illness to live their remaining days in an environment of good symptom control surrounded by compassionate caregivers and family. Their motto became **“MAKE EACH DAY COUNT”**.

To date, this non-profit organization, has trained over 1500 volunteers who have provided in excess of 45,000 hours of care in a variety of settings including the community, patient’s homes, and palliative care beds in acute and chronic care facilities. Volunteer chapters exist throughout the province and are a valued part of the integrated palliative care program. The provincial organization is part of the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association and has been recognized nationally for its work. Mrs. Davies notes “we have come a long way from that first meeting but there is much more we can do.....this is not about dying; rather it is about living each day to its fullest potential in a caring environment.”

More recently a home care drug program and a compassionate care benefit have been provided by government. A commitment has been made to construct a stand alone Palliative Care Centre and work will soon begin on its design and components. Mrs. Davies went on to say she is very pleased to see government’s commitment to hospice palliative care and this will ensure that Islanders throughout the province will benefit from this invaluable service.

Please contact Ellen Davies at 902-368-4498 to obtain a copy of the book. Cost is \$20. and all proceeds go to Hospice Palliative Care Association of PEI.