



PERRAM HOUSE ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TORONTO, May 26, 2009 – Effective June 1, Perram House has entered into a partnership agreement with The Dorothy Ley Hospice to retain the services of Ron Lirette as its Executive Director on a part-time basis. Lirette's new responsibilities at Perram House will be in addition to his current role as Executive Director at The Dorothy Ley Hospice, a position he has held for the past four years.

Perram House Board Chair Frank McCrea and The Dorothy Ley Hospice Board Chair Jack Cooper made the announcement jointly this afternoon.

Lirette's appointment as Executive Director for both hospices is a pilot integration project that will be evaluated by an external resource after three months, six months and one year before being formalized on a longer-term basis.

When Lirette assumes his responsibilities, he will be replacing Mary Ellen Hopgood who will be retiring after six years of dedicated service to Perram House. Perram House's board credits Mary Ellen's vision of a patient centric healthcare delivery model built on a sound foundation of policies and procedures, best practices, operating protocols, continuous feed back business practices, clinical management, and a strong underpinning of volunteerism.

"This partnership is a milestone in the evolution of residential hospices. It gives effect to a vision that the future of hospice should embrace the concept of sharing the resources of Executive Directorship among two or more residential hospices," said McCrea. "It is our shared view that this unique partnership will enhance the capacity of both organizations and further our rich histories of providing quality hospice palliative care in the community, while retaining the unique personalities of the partner organizations."

"This partnership is a logical move," said Cooper. "It builds on a number of partnerships already in existence between our organizations such as our shared history with the Toronto Grace palliative care physicians. It offers opportunities to achieve synergies between two organizations that share a philosophical approach and vision for what quality hospice care can and should be."

Lirette has more than 15 years experience as a senior manager in the health and social sectors. He has been the Executive Director for The Dorothy Ley Hospice for the past four years. Under his leadership, the hospice opened its new Palliative Care Centre in February 2009 enabling the organization to offer residential care to more than 150 people a year during their last weeks of life. The centre also provides a permanent home for the organization's community programs, which will offer support to more than 1,800 individuals this year.

Perram House is a pioneer in the delivery of residential hospice care in Ontario. Following two years of research, planning and facility renovation, Perram House opened its doors in September 2003 and has been functioning at occupancy levels in excess of 90 per cent ever since.

The Dorothy Ley Hospice is a volunteer-driven; staff managed organization offering compassionate care to people living with the challenges of a life-limiting illness or loss. Its programs meet the physical, emotional and support needs helping them to live life to the fullest.