



# Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital

*Partnering to keep healthcare close to home.*

Media Release

Date: October 10, 2019

## **Outstanding Volunteer Contributions Recognized**

The Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH) and TDMH Volunteer Association hosted a Garden Dedication Ceremony on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> in recognition of Esther Parkhill's outstanding contributions as an active member of the TDMH Volunteer Association for the past 69 years.

Esther, also known as "Parky", began volunteering at TDMH in 1950 in various areas of the hospital, and for the past 34 years she has been a constant reassuring presence for patients and staff at the Information Desk. "You could find Esther manning the desk from 8:00 am to noon, Monday to Friday," stated Stacia Hanson, TDMH Volunteer Coordinator. "Her dedication and commitment to the hospital was exceptional."

"Esther has been an important part of our TDMH family and will be greatly missed," expressed Sandy Jansen, President and CEO. "True to her dedication to the hospital, she volunteered at the Information Desk the day before she passed."

The garden area is located at the front of the hospital by the circular drive and hosts a Ginkgo tree which symbolizes longevity, quite fitting considering Esther continued to volunteer into her 103<sup>rd</sup> year. What is also unique about this garden is the existing tree that was planted several years ago in recognition of Esther's daughter, Peg Hogarth, for her service to the hospital as a longstanding member of the TDMH Board of Directors.

"Volunteerism runs in the family," said Peg Hogarth, who also happens to be the 2018 recipient of the Town of Tillsonburg Citizen of the Year Award. "Both my parents felt it was important to give back to the community and they certainly set an example for all of us to follow."

The garden is being funded in part by donations from the TDMH Volunteer Association, hospital staff and Courtland Gardens.

-30-

Media Contact: Sandy Jansen, President and CEO  
Phone Number: 519-842-3611 ext. 5301  
E-mail: [sandy.jansen@tdmh.on.ca](mailto:sandy.jansen@tdmh.on.ca)  
Website: [www.tillsonburghospital.on.ca](http://www.tillsonburghospital.on.ca)



Esther Parkhill (1916 - 2019)