



On May 7th, 2023, Amanda, Jack, and Tracey Button shared their story with the hikers at our annual Hike for Hospice Calgary. Jim Button meant a lot to our Calgary community and we are honoured that Rosedale Hospice could help Jim, and his family, during his final months.

Amanda and Jack

When we first found out that my dad would be moving into hospice care we were told he had days to weeks to live. He ended up being there for over two and a half months. We were given the gift of time, and Rosedale Hospice helped us use it to the fullest extent. Rosedale provided us the opportunity to make many important memories and celebrate special occasions with our father. The staff went above and beyond to help us with holidays, birthdays, and so many special visits with friends and family.

My Mom's birthday was pretty soon after my dad had moved in to Rosedale and we celebrated it in the dining room. Giving us access to space for our family to gather where we felt 100% comfortable with my dad's access to staff and care if needed. We also got together in the dining room with our extended family on Christmas Eve, where we ordered Swiss Chalet as our warm up turkey dinner.

As we approached the holiday season and still had pops around, the goal of getting him home for Christmas started to be more realistic. In the days leading up, his team of caregivers helped make him as comfortable and strong as possible for the big day, as well as help prepare the three of us. With a very detailed list of medications and a very happy dad we got to go home and have the most special day. We wouldn't have been able to have that amazing memory if it weren't for the entirety of the staff and volunteers who all helped cheer him on.

The staff came by and asked my parents if they had made any plans for New Years eve. When they said no plans had been made the staff mentioned that the guest suite was still available and that they could arrange for both of my parents to stay there. To round out their evening, two couples that have been friends with our parents since we were toddlers joined them for dinner. They were able to spend time in one of the other common rooms and brought New Years Eve in a basket for the staff, the enthusiasm that the staff had made the evening all the more memorable. It was incredibly special for my parents to get to sleep next to each other after two and a half months of separation.

My dad was a popular man, and his time in hospice allowed him to connect and say goodbye to people in a way that we never could have expected. The timing of the 2022 Fifa World Cup lining up with being in Rosedale could not have been more perfect as soccer was his favourite sport. He invited people over to watch all of Canada's games and could not have been more content. One day Rosedale's kitchen even obliged and boiled some hotdogs for us so we could have the true game watching experience.

The compassion and kindness of Rosedale Hospice's staff and volunteers is a true gift and we could not have been luckier to have gotten to say goodbye to our dad in such a loving and positive environment. The facilities and resources available offered many different supports and has helped our family in countless ways. We are forever grateful for the opportunities that hospice care provided not only for our father, but for our family as a whole.

Tracey

Our whole hospice experience was remarkable. From the first moment we arrived at Rosedale we were welcomed into a warm and supportive environment. A friend had said to me that "Rosedale treated the whole family as the patient" and I couldn't agree more. It was such a relief for us to be so well supported after the past seven years of Jim's difficult cancer journey. It was a gift for me to be able to step out of my caregiving role and to again become a wife for this period of time.

We greatly appreciated how flexible things were at the hospice. We were able to be with Jim whenever we wanted to. I was even able to stay on a cot in his room for the last week he was with us. It gave both of us great comfort to be together. Our children were also able to stay in the guest suite during that time so that they were close at hand. It was a very precious time for us as a family.

It is very apparent that those who work or volunteer at Rosedale Hospice have a calling. The compassion we were all shown was remarkable. Everyone there regardless of their role was highly trained, warm, compassionate and understanding. The medical attention and spiritual care Jim received was exceptional, all of his needs were well taken care of so that he was made as comfortable as possible.

The physical environment added greatly to the experience. Jim was able to organize his room to his liking. He loved watching the bird feeder at his window. The many common areas at Rosedale that you can reserve allow for gatherings with friends and family. A spa room allowed Jim to have regular baths, which he loved. Jim was able to set his daily schedule, this allowed him to block off periods of time during the day for a nap and to have visits with just his immediate family. He was able to gain back some control over his daily life as he was in charge of his schedule.

One last thing I would like to mention is the dedicated staff who work in the kitchen. Jim had been on a highly restricted diet for over two years. When he arrived at the hospice they encouraged him to eat what he wanted to, and eat he did. He got so much pleasure out of eating good food each day. The staff prepared his favourite meals including a special dinner of chicken-a-la-king on vol au vents, which he hadn't had since childhood. Our family was always asked if we would like to be fed while we were there. It was such a relief to not have to scramble to find something to eat, we could just focus on spending time together.

We will always remain connected to Rosedale and are forever grateful for every kindness that was extended to us. My family and I would like to thank you for your efforts today to ensure that others will have the same opportunity that we did.