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Subject: Try to attend and spread the word to Huron Hospice and Jessica House please.Thanks.

Date: 15 Jul 2017 11:42

From: Judith Lamportja <jamaica993@outlook.com>

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Some renowned names in palliative care are coming to Grand Bend this fall for a conference aimed at strengthening the discipline in Sarnia-Lambton.

The Lambton Palliative Care Retreat, Oct. 5-6 at the Oakwood Inn, is also the first of its kind, organizers said, to be entirely funded via a charitable cycling event – the second annual Bluewater International Granfondo, slated for Aug. 6.

"It's amazing that we're going to be able to do this in kind of a small area," said Dr. Glenn Maddison, medical director of St. Joseph's Hospice in Sarnia.

"The expertise and the level of speakers is really up there," he said.

Among them are representatives from Pallium Canada, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, and the University of Maryland; As well, the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Palliative Medicine, and other authorities in end-of-life care, are booked to speak.

About 120 palliative care workers, mostly nurses but also some doctors, are expected to attend, officials said. Another 50 personal support workers and volunteers are also attending a concurrent event, and Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu – who's bill to establish a framework for palliative care in Canada is currently before the Senate – is also expected to speak at the conference dinner event.

"That kind of ties in really well," said Maddison, also one of the granfondo organizers, calling Gladu a "huge proponent of palliative care."

Sarnia has 20 beds between the hospice and palliative care in hospital, but palliative care across Canada in general is insufficient, with just 15 per cent of those who could benefit receiving services, Maddison has said.

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Plans are to use funds from the granfondo – expected at more than \$40,000 this year – to fund the conference every other year. On off years, funds go to local health-care providers' trips to the International Congress on Palliative Care in Montreal.

The local conference is about improving caregivers knowledge so they can better care for their patients, but also getting the word out about palliative care so it's more accessible for people in need, Maddison said.

Meanwhile, the granfondo is nearly fully booked with 730 registered riders, said Kenneth MacAlpine, its chairperson.

The cap is 750.

"I think we'll probably sell out in the next week or so," he said.

Riders are coming from across Canada and the United States, including the Canadian junior time trial champion, he said, after the signature cycling event was ranked 11th in Canada by Gran Fondo Guide for 2017.

"So some very good recognition out of the Lambton area," he said.

Plans are to push the 50-150k rides – with staggered starts and timed sections for competition – to 1,000 registrants next year, he said.

All proceeds go to palliative care, he said.

"There's never been anything like this done where an event has paid for a conference of this magnitude."

To register, visit bigf.ca [1].

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The exciting second annual Bluewater International Granfondo welcomes cyclists to the Lambton County's Bluewaterland, starting and finishing in the City of Sarnia ...

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