

## Hospice participates in first volunteer education conference



Hospice volunteers and staff pose for a photo after the day-long Kingston conference on March 7. North Hastings was well represented by this bunch at the first Hospice Palliative Care Volunteer Education Conference.

Three carloads of staff and volunteers from Hospice North Hastings travelled to Kingston for the first ever Hospice Palliative Care Volunteer Education Conference on March 7. Organized by the South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), the conference offered a full day of workshops and plenary sessions designed to support those who work with terminally ill patients. The workshops focused on ethics, advance directives, cancer care, spiritual care, support for caregivers and how to treat palliative patients. The full day of learning was paid for by Hospice North Hastings who attended the conference as an independent group because our local hospice does not receive health-care dollars from the LHIN.

Hospice co-ordinator Heather Brough says she was thrilled that so many staff and volunteers were committed to attending the event. "Our team represented North Hastings beautifully," Brough says. "We not only learned some great new things but we also had the opportunity to be proud of all of the services we already offer in our community. We are providing great programs and services to a large number of clients and we do it all independently with the support of our community. This is really something to celebrate." The Hospice volunteers and staff enjoyed the long day of learning but also took time out for a dinner in Napanee to celebrate the close relationship that this team has nurtured over the years.

"We'll be applying all of our learning right away," says Brough. "Our volunteers and staff are always eager to do more, to connect more and to learn more when it comes to supporting those in need in North Hastings."