

## 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HOSPICE MEMORY TREE HELPS TO EASE THE PAIN OF GRIEF OVER THE HOLIDAYS

**WINNIPEG, MANITOBA** - Hospice & Palliative Care Manitoba officially launched its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Memory Tree at St. Vital Centre at 10:30 am today, providing Manitobans who are grieving with a meaningful and symbolic way to remember their loved ones over the holiday season.

Well-known performer Steve Bell was the entertainer for the event. "It's a humbling moment when someone tells you your music has sustained them through troublesome days," said Bell.

"The Hospice Memory Tree provides a means for people to remember their loved ones during the holidays when a sense of loss can become overwhelming amid the seasonal celebrations. This is a special place where people are invited to hang a card of remembrance for their loved one and then receive a companion card to take home," said David Northcott, Executive Coordinator of Hospice & Palliative Care Manitoba.

Last year, 3,000 cards were placed on the Hospice Memory Tree. This service to the community is provided at no cost to anyone wishing to mark the memory of their loved one. Volunteers from Hospice & Palliative Care Manitoba are on hand at the Hospice Memory Tree to offer information on bereavement services or just to lend a listening ear. Volunteers will be available November 28 - December 24, 2005 (during store hours) and December 27-29, 2004 (noon to 6 pm).

For the eighth year in a row, Manitoba Hydro lent its people-power, expertise and equipment to assist Hospice & Palliative Care Manitoba with the transport, assembly and decorating of the 20-foot tall Hospice Memory Tree. Manitoba Hydro's partnership with Hospice & Palliative Care Manitoba was established when United Way's "Day of Caring" program brought the two together to undertake this worthwhile project.

Hospice & Palliative Care Manitoba would like to thank the College Jeanne Sauve Senior High School Choir under the direction of Simone Gendron for providing entertainment at the event.

Hospice & Palliative Care Manitoba is a volunteer-based charitable association that champions and promotes the availability and accessibility of quality-end-of-life care and bereavement services for all Manitobans.



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