

New Hospice Initiative in the Maritimes Kick Started by the Order

Members of the Acadia Commandery of the Order of Saint Lazarus, Grand Priory in Canada have undertaken a journey to raise funds and capital for the establishment of a 5-10 bed residential hospice in Digby, NS. There is no service of this type in the province at this time. Donations can be accepted online by visiting www.stlazarus.ca/acadia/atalantahospicesociety where tax receipts will be issued.

Referring to themselves as the *House of Fundy* component of the Acadia Commandery, this group aims to create a residential form of hospice designed to provide the critical services to those requiring end-of-life care; to relieve the stress and financial duress of family members.

The hospice will ensure this care is based on respectful, dignified and caring support that dovetails with the Order's hospitaller and chivalric origins. It will focus on quality of life and provide a comfortable, non-institutional environment for patients and families to focus on their loved ones while trained staff and volunteers tend to their medical and nursing needs.

The name *Atalanta* originates from the name of the ship commanded by Admiral Robert Digby who helped evacuate about 1,500 United Empire Loyalists from the United States arriving in Conway (renamed Digby in 1787) in early June of 1783. The House of Fundy registered a not-for-profit in the province of Nova Scotia under the name of the *Atalanta Hospice Society*. The Society will solicit funds and market the hospice to purchase and modify an existing structure or build the hospice from the ground up. The image of a ship with sails at rest is relevant to the final journey taken by those requiring end-of-life care.



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