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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Rotary Lakeshore Creates Major Garden at St. Catharines Hospital Site**

**St. Catharines May 10 2022** — The Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore has announced that it will create the ***Clarice West Hobbs Contemplative Garden*** at the St. Catharines site of the Niagara Health System.

#### **Fulfilling a Local Rotarian's Dream**

Clarice West-Hobbs, a long-time member of the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore and Chair of the Club's World & Community Service Committee, had a dream of establishing a beautiful garden at the St. Catharines Hospital site, where patients and staff could enjoy a brief respite. After her untimely passing in 2020, the Club decided to support her dream by developing the Clarice West-Hobbs Contemplative Garden to be located along the entire west-facing facade of the hospital building.

With the support of the Niagara Health Foundation; building maintenance personnel from BGIS; and hospital staff and stakeholders; plans have been created to take advantage of the existing concrete walkways, benches, pergolas, lighting, flowering trees and other amenities already in place to create a full and extensive perennial garden that will fulfill Clarice's vision. Already heavily used by staff, patients and visitors alike, easily accessible from all parts of the hospital, and removed from the major parking and entry areas, this site offers the perfect opportunity for a quiet, restful garden.

*“To be completed in phases, Phase 1 of the Plan includes soil upgrades, planting hardy perennials and bushes in all of the beds along the west-facing wall of the hospital and mulching during 2022.”* said the Club’s Garden Chair Eric Jones, *“Future Phases already planned for later this summer and into 2023 will include installing a drip irrigation system, signage for the Garden, new benches and expanding to the other side of the walkways to the west along the existing emergency roadway.”*

#### **The total projected budget for the Garden’s first two Phases is \$40,000**

*“While we are just launching our public appeal for support today, the word is out there already and the response has been incredible. The Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore has committed over \$11,000 to the project. With additional donations from individual Club members, other local Rotary Clubs, local chapters of organizations like Friendship Force Niagara and interested citizens at large,”* Jones continued, *“we already have the Funds in-house for Phase 1 and are now looking to fund Phase 2.”*

**For more information and specific inquiries on the Garden project**, please contact Eric Jones, Clarice West Hobbs Contemplative Garden Chair at (905) 682-3693 or by email at [ejones@vaxxine.com](mailto:ejones@vaxxine.com).

**For more general information on the Clarice West Hobbs Contemplative Garden overall**, Clarice herself, the Phase 1 Planting Plan and an opportunity to donate, please go to Garden website link on the right hand side of the Rotary of St. Catharines Lakeshore home page at [www.rotarylakeshore.com](http://www.rotarylakeshore.com). Direct link to the Garden Website: <https://rotarylakeshore.com/page/support-the-clarice-west-hobbs-contemplative-garden>

[Photos and Captions]

[Photo HOSPITAL LAB Printable.jpg] Caption: The Phase 1 Planting Plan.

[Photo 4 - Overview of Labyrinth Area RED.jpg] Caption: Existing Garden site.

[Photo 7 -Example bed on South end RED.jpg] Caption: One of the existing beds prior to garden installation.

### **About Rotary and the Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore**

[Rotary](#) connects 1.2 million members from more than 35,000 Rotary clubs in almost every country in the world.

The Rotary Club of St. Catharines - Lakeshore supports many local and international projects. Locally, the Club provides financial and hands-on assistance to the Food4Kids Niagara Program. Our "SCHOOL TO HOME READING PROGRAM" has increased a student's literacy skills, while encouraging the love of reading! Other local projects include Happy Rolph's, St Catharines Academy of Fine Arts children's programs, Community Care, Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara, RAFT, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Internationally we have supported the Nepal Community Schools Project to support infrastructure for water, sanitation and buildings, Tabitha Foundation Canada lifting Cambodians out of poverty, Children of Chernobyl, Ryan's Bowl (feeding the poorest school children of Uganda), Creating Opportunities in Guatemala and Rotary's efforts in the eradication of Polio world-wide. Our Club is also involved in supporting the annual Rotary Medalists, Vocational Excellence Awards and Youth Exchanges at our local secondary schools. Visit us at [www.rotarylakeshore.com](http://www.rotarylakeshore.com) for full details.