

# The Story of Our Logo

## *Dragonfly inspires volunteer to create vision for the Crossroads Hospice Society Logo*

It was February 1998 when Laurie Canta first encountered “What to Say to a Dying Person”, a workshop presented by Crossroads Hospice Society’s Volunteer Coordinator, Pete O’Reilly. After participating in the volunteer training program, her life was forever changed. Seeing other artists and entrepreneurs donate their time, energy and resources inspired Laurie to do the same.

Inspired by a photograph captured one summer while camping, Laurie created a monochromatic acrylic image of ‘tetracanthagya plagiata’ (the dragonfly). The photo reflected the experience of a dragonfly which had visited her son throughout its final day, landing in the palm of his hand and remaining there in the evening stillness until it expired. Its wings remained outstretched, its colours vivid, until it curled its tail and finally succumbed. “My son said he felt like the chosen caregiver and that he had helped in some way”.

Some research on dragonflies lead us to discover that:

The dragonfly resolute in its mission, demonstrates strength and endurance with its constantly outstretched wings.

- The wings of the dragonfly give off an aurora of light, similar to the light that people often see as they near death.
- When we see dragonflies, they are a message that we will experience a change, or that we need to express our emotions differently.
- The vivid colours in the wings are measured by the maturity of the dragonfly, and don’t we all earn our “colours” by life’s lessons. The more we mature, the more we gain confidence and that glow of acceptance of things we cannot change.
- In early Native lore, it was accepted that dragonflies had come from the land before time and were messengers of what was to be.
- The greatest totem of course is that dragonflies curve their tails just as they begin the dying process.

“Though many people often discover the silent, dignified workings of the society through some personal loss and grief, the society’s on-going work and vision are an intrinsic part of the Tri-Cities community health services. To have the graphic logo of the dragonfly chosen to represent the capital campaign, and now adopted as the new logo for Crossroads, is very exciting for me. I feel it signified the strength, endurance and on-going work of Crossroads Hospice Society in their provision of a free-standing hospice. In this way I feel like an ambassador, still able to support the realization of their goals.”



Laurie Jones Canta