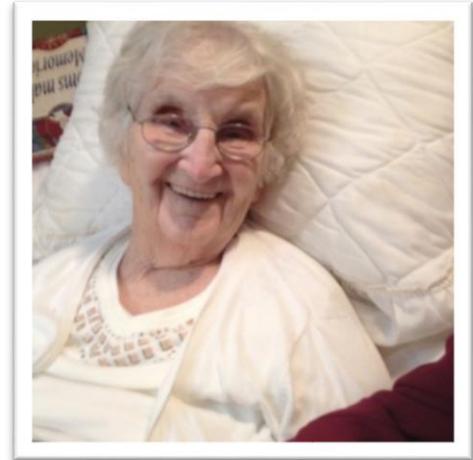


## Trip of a Lifetime – Homecoming for Neta

The health journey for 104-year old Aganetha Martens of Hamilton has been an ebb-and-flow experience.

Until a few months ago, “Neta” was living in a long-term care home in Abbotsford B.C. in poor health after falling and breaking a hip while visiting one of her daughters. Neta wasn’t expected to live long and to make matters even more tragic, Neta’s daughter in Abbotsford passed away.



Her other daughter Virginia flew from Hamilton to British Columbia to be with her Mom. When their visit was coming to an end after two weeks, Virginia realized she didn’t want to leave her Mom in B.C.

Through careful planning to get Neta from B.C to Hamilton, Virginia bought airline tickets to make the trip home on WestJet. According to Virginia, the airline did its best to accompany Neta for the lengthy trip and went so far as to provide a Hoyer hydraulic patient lift to transfer Neta onto the plane in Calgary to another plane headed for Hamilton. Virginia describes the trip as a miracle from start to finish.

“All I did was ask God if it was possible to bring Mom home,” Virginia said. “So many things went well and, even though she had to sit up straight with no reclining for the entire trip, she made it.”

After a 10-hour journey in a wheelchair, Neta arrived at Virginia’s home. From that point, it took three months for Neta to get an Ontario health card. Fortunately, as a nurse, Virginia has experience in palliative care and can provide care for her mother at home. In addition, HNHB CCAC became involved in Neta’s care journey with a care plan to keep her at home for as long as possible.

HNHB CCAC’s Clinical Nurse Specialist Julia Appleton with the palliative care team says Neta is happy and relaxed at home. “The most beautiful part of the story is that her daughter Virginia had the courage to go get her Mom and bring her back to Hamilton where they could be together.”

“I wonder how many other people may have relatives living a long distance away who think the situation can’t be improved,” Julia said. “Situations can be improved. It may cost money, time and effort, but in Neta’s case—she’s home and really happy!”