

LGH Legacy Newsletter



WINTER 2019 | Inspiring transformational giving to support the future of health care on the North Shore



Dynamic Duo

Say hello to the new legacy team at LGH Foundation.

Joanne McLellan, who has been shepherding the Foundation legacy program for more than 12 years is joined by Sandi London, our Donor Relations Manager.

Sandi, who is a North Shore resident, was one of the volunteer organizers of the very successful Grand Farewell commemoration event to give a community-wide send off to the old the North Vancouver General Hospital.

She has also been a past patient at LGH and in recognition of the care she received, is committed to improving care and conditions for future patients as well as staff. "As a patient I saw that the hospital was very much in need of an upgrade but the care I received was always considerate and consistent," explains Sandi. "To get the best hospital we can and the treatment we need, LGH needs a lot of love, support and attention. Through the Foundation we can help the community do that."

Joanne McLellan & Sandi London will be working together to help legacy donors achieve their vision.

Joanne, who many of you know through her role as Director of Planned Giving, will be taking a step back from frontline duties to provide behind-the-scenes support and share her many years of expertise of the legacy gift-giving program.

"I have loved building relationships with donors and seeing how their generosity makes such a difference here," says Joanne. "When I walk into The HOpe Centre or North Shore Hospice, I see the generosity of our donors and their legacy is now fulfilling a purpose in our community."

Sandi will be available to answer your questions on the phone or face to face and she will be happy to discuss legacy gift opportunities with you. She says: "It has been an honour and a privilege getting to know our supporters and hear their stories and learn about their vision and the type of legacy they would like to leave."

"Our donors come from all walks of life and I believe everyone can create a meaningful legacy."

Sandi's contact details:

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WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

Donors support the hospital for many different reasons. Some are inspired by the great care they received and want to give back to the department where they received treatment; others have a personal experience of a particular illness or disease. Many are motivated to give to the area of the hospital with the greatest area of need.

At Lions Gate Hospital, we can help you focus on what matters most to you.

Options include:

- ✦ Purchasing medical technology and equipment
- ✦ New facilities & infrastructure upgrades
- ✦ Supporting a specific area of care
- ✦ Staff education & training
- ✦ Supplementary therapeutic programs

A Secret Garden

Krista McPhail takes a break in LGH's only balcony garden.



YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY

When Carol Hird (right) first started working as a nurse in perinatal (maternity) at LGH in 1977 she says the North Shore was a little like Sleepy Hollow. A lot has changed since then but her connection to the hospital community and her commitment to improving health care remains as strong as ever.

Carol emigrated from the UK in 1972. She spent time living in Fort Churchill in Manitoba and Edmonton before settling on the North Shore.

In the early 1990s she was a member of a group of midwives that lobbied to change the law to give legal recognition for midwifery in BC. The campaign was successful and she later became one of the first registered midwives in the province.

In between working as an independent midwife and teaching, Carol spent a total of 18 years at LGH. In 2010, her outstanding contribution to perinatal services at LGH was recognized at the North Shore



Health Care Awards hosted by the Foundation. In honour of her pioneering work in support of mothers and babies and her motivational presence on the unit, she was named as the 2010 Leadership Award recipient.

As well as supporting thousands of women and their babies, Carol was a big supporter of the Foundation. She and her husband, Brian Burtch, a Professor Emeritus (retired in 2016) in the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University, were monthly donors when she was on staff.

"I realized that improvements in equipment and infrastructure are not always available through government funding and the Foundation has done a great job over the years making sure our equipment was up to date."

Legacies come in many shape and sizes. On the 4th floor of LGH tucked in a corner of the sub-acute ward, it comes in the form of an edible garden that brings tranquility to staff and patients alike.

The garden, which was created through a \$500 legacy of former patient Michael Cutler, provides a quiet sanctuary for staff, visitors and patients of the unit which treats many elderly and dementia patients.

Michael, who suffered from early onset dementia liked to garden with his young son and the unique space was created in his honour. With a legacy donation, staff were able to buy planter boxes, equipment and plants to transform a neglected balcony into a quiet green oasis.

The garden is maintained by staff with help from patients on the ward. "It is a really nice space that is maintained throughout the year," says Krista McPhail, Patient Care Co-ordinator on the unit. "The garden gives patients space to do an activity they enjoy and families can go there when they need a moment to themselves."

Eight years after the original donation, Michael's legacy lives on as the garden continues to bloom and grow.

Over the years Carol and Brian's contributions have been directed to many different areas of need, including perinatal services. However, an area of care that has particularly resonated with the couple is palliative care. "We had a friend at the hospice and the care was exceptional," says Carol. "The concept of palliative and hospice care is so humane and it provides the type of support everybody should get."

After many years as a monthly donor, Carol knew she wanted to have an impact on health care at LGH beyond her lifetime and she is confident that the Foundation will fulfill her wishes.

"Support from the community makes a huge difference and I know how the Foundation works and it has always been transparent about what it plans to spend the money on and its goals. I have every confidence that it will use it in the best interests of our community."

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Nell Gray (right) first came into contact with Lions Gate Hospital in the mid-1980s following a move from San Diego in California to be closer to her daughter. Her husband Scott was fixing up the house and during a home maintenance mishap he cut his leg and suffered a bout of blood poisoning for which he was hospitalized.

Impressed by the care and consideration he received from staff and physicians, the couple decided to become monthly donors to the Foundation. "The treatment was excellent and whenever we have dealt with the hospital the staff are always very caring and empathetic," says Nell. "Had we been in the States when this happened we would have been bankrupt. We felt fortunate to still have money left and that is why we started donating."

Through three decades of support, the couple's



monthly contributions have had an impact on many of the Foundation's most important projects including The HOpe Centre, the new Outpatient Care Centre, the ground-breaking \$100 million Medical & Surgical Centre campaign and North Shore Hospice, where Scott passed in 2011.

As well as being a monthly donor, Nell has made a gift to the Foundation in her will. "It is important for people to support the Foundation," she says. "When you give to the hospital you can support so many different areas. The Foundation knows where the most help is needed and whatever you give will benefit many different people."



Joan & Denis Creighton will have a long and lasting impact on thousands of LGH patients.

A Name to Remember

More than 20,000 outpatients a year benefit from the exceptional generosity of Denis and Joan Creighton. The West Vancouver couple were long-time supporters of LGH and their \$2.5 million estate gift to the LGH Now campaign helped to revitalize an area of the hospital that was close to their hearts.

Denis and Joan were the biggest donors of the campaign and the Foundation was delighted to name the Denis and Joan Creighton Outpatient Care Centre in

their honour. The purpose-built unit, which is located on the ground floor of LGH, provides a range of centralized services to patients including surgical pre-screening, the infusion clinic, respiratory therapy sessions, the Joint Replacement Access Clinic and the Rapid Access Spinal Clinic.

Denis and Joan's donation was part of a successful \$8.5 million campaign which also supported the renovation of the new atrium which has been updated and transformed.

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

Our legacy donors support the future of the hospital and we celebrate their generosity through the Legacy Society. If you have made a gift in your will to the Foundation, please let us know. We would like to thank you personally. You will also become a member of the the Legacy Society where you can meet like-minded people at special social events hosted throughout the year.

Your donation is important to us and the future of the hospital and it is an honour for us to be given the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate your support.

Dozens of Legacy Society members attend the mid-summer Strawberry Tea and the Winter Chairman's Tea hosted by the Foundation. For more information go to www.lghfoundation.com/get-involved/planned-giving/





An engraved plaque on a sleeper chair in honour of Maurice Skiffington celebrates his outlook on life. The chair itself provides comfort for overnight visitors staying with patients on the palliative care unit at LGH.

HONOURING YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Our donors are important to us and we proudly honour them wherever they have had an impact. Donors are recognized in many different ways by the Foundation.

Everyone who makes a legacy gift to the Foundation automatically becomes a member of the Legacy Society. (See page 3 Friends story.)

Legacy donors who give a cumulative gift of \$1,000 or more will be listed on one of the Foundation's prominent donor walls

Special plaques inscribed with donor names are displayed at the entrance of hospital units and outside rooms.

Plaques are also attached to equipment purchased through legacy donations.

Naming opportunities are available for exceptional donations.(See page 3).



TECHNOLOGY WHERE IT'S NEEDED

In the past year, LGH Foundation has spent more than \$2 million on equipment. Here are some of the areas of the hospital that have benefitted from donor generosity.

- 1. Vein viewer** Pediatrics and emergency are two of the departments which benefitted from the purchase of **vein viewers** which cost \$20,000 apiece. The technology enables medical professionals to view a patient's blood vessels in seconds using infrared light.
- 2. Digital imaging** This sophisticated **dual fluoroscopy and digital X-ray unit**, which was funded through \$1.125 million in donations, has increased X-Ray capacity at LGH by 50%.
- 3. Mobile monitoring** A portable vital signs monitor used on the general surgery ward on the 6th floor was a gift from a family to honour the care their loved one received at LGH. The technology allows staff to collect patient information with ease so they can make quick decisions about treatment and future care.

Learn about Legacies

LGH Foundation regularly hosts free seminars on estate planning presented by independent professional advisors. The sessions provide unbiased information regarding the issues to consider when leaving a legacy.

Past speakers include representatives from Miller Thomson LLP, RBC Wealth Management, Pawson Law and Heritage Law.

If you would like to attend a future event, please contact Sandi London for details of the next seminar.

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Get Connected: Visit Lions Gate Hospital Foundation at lghfoundation.com



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