



LAKESHORE LINK

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It was a day like any other until...

A brain aneurysm burst leaving Lucie Brodeur weak and befuddled

On December 9, 2014, Lucie Brodeur, age 46, went to the gym, ran a few errands and attended a meeting downtown. Back home, she sat down in her living room to read and wait for her husband before starting dinner. That is when her life turned inside out.

Ms. Brodeur had a sudden, excruciating headache. The unbearable pain, centred right behind her eyes was like nothing she had ever experienced. Something was seriously wrong. She called her husband for help, but he was stuck in traffic. She called her dad. He rushed over to find his daughter lying on her bed. She didn't answer when he called out her name. He dialed 911.

Life can change in an instant

"I was very active and healthy and then bang, I'm on the floor unconscious, suffering a hemorrhagic stroke and heart attack virtually simultaneously. A brain aneurysm burst and my entire life exploded," Ms. Brodeur says.

She needed emergency brain surgery to staunch the bleeding and then she needed a whole lot of patience on the long road to recovery at the Lakeshore General Hospital (LGH). The nurses and social workers helped her regain her physical stamina and overcome lingering cognitive deficits or changes in thinking.

One consequence of the hemorrhagic stroke was Ms. Brodeur had some odd and, at times, rather fantastic thoughts. She was convinced the Queen of England was about to call. She sat by the phone for hours, patiently waiting. In another instance, she thought her hospital room was a hotel room. One day she flung her towel over her shoulder and announced she was going to the beach.



At the age of 46, Lucie Brodeur suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm. She is profoundly grateful for the care she received at the Lakeshore General Hospital.

"We were overwhelmed by the entire situation. The only thing we could do was support Lucie," recalls Ms. Brodeur's dad, Philippe. "She couldn't do anything. She was like a baby. The care at the LGH was very personal. The nurses and social workers would talk and socialize with her which was amazing. Also, because she was unsteady on her feet, they would get her up and walking. Her care coordinator, was excellent, super-efficient."

Ms. Brodeur spent two months recovering. "It took me a very long time to feel I was back in control of my body, my life. Everyone at the Lakeshore General Hospital deserves major kudos, MAJOR KUDOS," she says.

Today, Ms. Brodeur has made a full recovery and has fulfilled a lifelong dream of opening her event planning and PR company. •

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