



LAKESHORE LINK

SEPTEMBER 2016

Life can change in an instant

Andrew Storer spent months suspended between life and death

The 66-year old recounts his brush with death and the Herculean efforts to save his life.

“Without the skill, dedication and caring of the doctors, nurses and technicians of the Lakeshore General Hospital’s (LGH) Intensive Care Unit (ICU) my wife Suzanne would be a widow and my children fatherless.

This past January, I started to feel unwell. I was having trouble breathing and my heart was racing. Little did I know, this was the start of a massive, downhill spiral. I had sepsis, a life-threatening infection.

Life can change in an instant

I was admitted to the ICU. My breathing was unbearably difficult. I was convinced I was going to die. Thankfully, the highly-skilled ICU team, led by Dr. Robert Salasidis wasn’t about to let that happen. They put me in a coma and on a ventilator, a machine that took over my breathing.

The ICU team worked mightily to save my life

Quite frankly, I have absolutely no idea what happened because I was in a coma for two months!

My wife tells me the amazing ICU team worked around the clock to save my life as my kidneys, lungs, digestive system and heart were all impacted. I was operated on twice and had a tracheotomy to ease my breathing.

I was pumped full of antifungal and antibacterial medications. Finally, I began to slowly recuperate.

When I woke from the coma, I had lost almost 14 kg. I was extremely weak. I couldn’t sit up or stand. In fact, I could barely hold a book to read or a pencil to do a crossword.



Mr. Andrew Storer and his wife Suzanne

I spent six more weeks in the hospital before being transferred to a rehabilitation centre.

Full recovery expected

The great news, my organs did not suffer permanent damage. Even though I still rely on a cane to walk, my doctors assure me I will eventually make a full recovery.

I learned first-hand that life can change in an instant. I can’t begin to tell you how grateful my family and I are for the heroic efforts made by the ICU team at the Lakeshore General Hospital. Because of their dedication, skill and compassion, I have been given a second chance at life. Thank you—so, so much.” •





Your donations help advance patient care

Data management software speeds up diagnosis and treatment



Dr. Mladen Palaic, Chief of Cardiology at the LGH, Heather Holmes, Managing Director LGHF, Mr. Dennis Bell and Mr. Jim Marcolin of the Richard and Edith Strauss Foundation

Let me begin with a sincere thank you to the members of the Foundation's Board of Directors and the staff for their relentless efforts to raise funds for the Lakeshore General Hospital (LGH). Every year we invest millions to purchase equipment and fund hospital upgrades. I am excited to tell you about a recent Foundation purchase that is really improving patient care.

The Foundation acquired a data management system for the Cardiology Department. Now you wouldn't think a piece of software would generate a lot of fanfare, but the health care team can't praise it enough.

The software electronically tracks cardiac diagnostic tests such as electrocardiograms, stress tests and blood pressure readings and then generates individualized patient files. We're talking about a lot of data. Every day the LGH performs around 100 cardiac tests or about 36,000 tests per year. You can see why a data management system would come in handy.

Prior to the deployment of this software solution, the scheduling of cardiac tests, tracking results and diagnoses was done manually. Paper files were generated and stored in hospital archives making them cumbersome to retrieve. But now, the electronic data can be viewed instantly throughout the hospital and even remotely.

When representatives of the *Richard and Edith Strauss Foundation* (who we sincerely thank for supporting the purchase of this software) and I met with the cardiology team, we were amazed to see how quickly and easily they could pull up information, view images, comment on test results and forward the information to referring physicians.

Not only is the hospital staff impressed with this software, but the patients also benefit as it speeds up their diagnosis and treatment. It also creates a historical record of each patient's test results, helping doctors to easily monitor their heart health over time.

To continue with these impressive health care improvements, we hope our 2016-2017 fundraising campaign *Life Can Change in an Instant* (shown on page 4) will motivate you to make a donation in support of your community hospital.

Heather Holmes,
Managing Director, Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation

Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation welcomes new member to the Board of Directors

Howard Zingboim is actively committed to his community. The former D.D.O. city councillor has lent his support to numerous organizations and causes so when he was asked to join the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation's Board of Directors, he was more than agreeable.



Mr. Howard Zingboim

"I have been fortunate in life and I want to give back; also, I'm a consummate schmoozer which certainly doesn't hurt," says a smiling Mr. Zingboim.

He knows first-hand that life can change in an instant. Several years ago, his wife had an excruciating headache. When the pain didn't abate, he rushed her to the hospital. She had a hematoma; blood was seeping into her brain. It could have been fatal, but fortunately, she made a full recovery.

Excellence: every patient, every time

"The population on the West Island has exploded. With more and more residents, access to effective and efficient health care such as emergency services, clinics, surgery—everything is imperative," he notes. "Sure, I could simply sit by and let things happen, but I want to make a difference. I want to do my part in helping the Lakeshore General Hospital solidify its established goal of health care excellence."

Mr. Zingboim is very pleased to join forces with his fellow board members and the Foundation's unparalleled team. He says, everyone is brimming with new ideas and ways to raise awareness, support and pride for the Lakeshore General Hospital, a community hospital that provides high-tech, compassionate care, close to home.

"When it comes to peoples' health, you do what you can to make their lives better," he says. ●

Critical care nursing Dedicated to healing and helping

“It’s go, go, go for the nurses in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Lakeshore General Hospital,” says Sophie Caron, Head Nurse of the unit. “We take care of the sickest patients and we also support their family members who are often in deep distress. My team of nurses is exceptional. They react quickly and know just what to do when a patient is in crisis.”

The ICU’s highly trained team of 52 nurses is used to working in an intense, fast-paced and stressful environment. They treat people who have suffered a heart attack, stroke, major injuries, breathing disorders or other ailments as well as patients recovering from major surgery. “Team work is essential,” says Ms. Caron, “because not only does it make the job easier and more efficient, it enhances patient care.”

Great joy and great sorrow

“It can be a very emotional job. We get very attached to our patients, some of whom are with us for months at a time. We experience unimaginable joy when they recover and come back to say thank you,” adds Ms. Caron. “But we also cry with family members when a loved one doesn’t pull through.”

“The nurses in the ICU treat patients with extremely complicated medical conditions. My team is ultra-specialized and incredibly skilled and dedicated. Being a nurse is something that is part of us, part of our DNA. You have to love what you do, you have to be compassionate and willing to give 100 percent every day,” concludes Ms. Caron. •



Far left: Sophie Caron, Head Nurse, ICU and (2nd row) Dr. Robert Salasidis, Chief Intensivist with some members of the ICU nursing team.

The man behind the mascot Bill Wexler says volunteering is just ducky!



Mr. Bill Wexler, in and out of costume

If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it must be a duck! Right? Wrong! It might be Bill Wexler dressed up like Lakeshore Louis, the giant-yellow duck mascot of the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation. Waddling around like a duck might sound daffy, but Mr. Wexler says representing the Foundation during the annual Duck Race (celebrating its 20th anniversary this September) and at other Foundation events is loads of fun and a great way to raise awareness.

“It is rewarding to see the big smiles of kids and adults alike when Lakeshore Louis gives them a high five, air kisses or a loud “quack quack”. I love to get folks laughing,” he confesses. “Add music and I’ll dance around, wagging my tail. I’m normally pretty shy but, as the mascot, I act like a silly goose!” Yes, the duck dance is part of his repertoire.

It might sound easy, but it is a tough gig. The costume weighs about 14 kg. Plus, goofing around on a hot day means the temperature inside the costume can climb to 38 degrees Celcius.

Expressing his gratitude

Mr. Wexler has been volunteering with the Foundation for over 10 years. “A number of years ago, I was very sick and spent three weeks in the Lakeshore General Hospital. I received superb care and remain grateful to the doctors and nurses. Dressing up as Lakeshore Louis is one way of giving back,” he confesses. •

*Volunteers are the heart of the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation. Would you like to make a difference?
Join our team of incredible volunteers.*

To sign up for volunteer opportunities go to foundationlakeshore.ca or call 514-630-2081.

NEWS & EVENTS



Have fun, socialize and support your hospital

The Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation hosts various annual events and activities to raise funds to purchase medical equipment, support major upgrades and advance patient care at the hospital. Attend one of our signature events and you'll have a great time while helping to elevate the quality of care for our community!

Lakeshore Ball – November 12, 2016



The *Lakeshore Ball* is a glamorous affair held at the vibrant Montreal Airport Marriott In-Terminal Hotel. It is an evening of elegance, fine dining and premier entertainment. Cocktails, champagne, open bar, five-course meal, dessert table, live band, DJ, high-end silent auction and other surprises await! It is a great way to socialize while you support a terrific cause.

Annual Gift Wrapping Fundraiser From mid-November to December 24, 2016

The holidays are always a blur of activity. Why not make your life easier by getting your presents wrapped at the Foundation's gift wrapping booths at the Fairview Mall? Our volunteers will give your gifts that special touch. Look for us on the first floor in front of the SAQ and on the second floor in front of Sports Experts. •

For more information about all our events, to purchase tickets or to volunteer please visit fondationlakeshore.ca

To find out about sponsorship opportunities please call Anne-Marie Milard, Event Coordinator at **514-630-2081** or ammilard.odi@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

A sincere thank you to our corporate allies Business leaders invest in their hospital

We are grateful for the immense involvement and dedication of our many supporters. Local business leaders are making a socially responsible investment supporting the delivery of quality health care on the West Island.

"As a business in the growing senior-care industry, we recognize the need to help purchase essential medical equipment for those who need it most," explains François Théoret of Plus Belle la Vie.

"We are proud to support the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation as it ensures residents of the West Island have easy access to great care. It is gratifying to contribute to the well-being of our community, our clients, our family and our friends!" say Rick Stamegna and Shannon Fitzpatrick, owners of L'Espace Beaconsfield.

"At Broccolini Construction, we know how important it is to live in a vibrant, healthy and cooperative community," states Joseph Broccolini. "Just as we depend on each other in our company, we must support each other in our local communities."

We welcome your interest in our Annual Partnership Program. To learn about the various visibility packages please call Carole Ravenda or Benoit Guillemette at **514-630-2081**. •

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Life can change in an instant

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Please give generously

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