



# LAKE SHORE LINK

SPRING 2019

## Had I come to the LGH sooner, I would not have lost my kidney

Pierre Karasarkissian, an Armenian from Syria and his wife Mary, have been living in Pierrefonds for the past 45 years and are a close-knit couple. Mary regularly completes Pierre's sentences, while he makes her smile with his caustic sense of humour. He speaks five languages, is a mechanic and has worked practically his entire life with his brother at the family garage on Gouin Boulevard.

**Suddenly, his life was turned upside down! To survive, he had to start dialysis treatments that would last four years.**

In 2011, Pierre went to a downtown hospital to meet a nephrologist. He didn't feel any particular discomfort, but his blood pressure was abnormally high: 200 over 96. And yet... "They didn't do anything for me. I was simply dismissed and sent back home without further consideration."

A year later, his condition worsened. His blood pressure was sky-high, so Pierre returned to the hospital, but this time to the Lakeshore General Hospital (LGH). Blood tests revealed dangerously high levels of potassium and creatinine. Dr. Bounatiro, nephrologist, alerted him that his kidneys were only working at 15% of their capacity.

Pierre had waited too long and needed immediate dialysis.

"It was the worst day of our lives as a couple, and it happened the day before my wife's birthday," recalls Pierre. Suddenly, his life was turned upside down! To survive, he had to start dialysis treatments that would last four years. In order to receive his dialysis, a semi-permanent catheter had to be installed in his chest. This procedure, which had to be repeated several times, required a special trip to a downtown hospital, accompanied by a LGH nurse. Each time, he lost an entire day's work.

Pierre and Mary went to the LGH three times per week for dialysis treatments that lasted five hours! His treating physicians were Drs. Bounatiro and Loertscher. "We have a membership at the LGH," said Pierre half-smiling. "The entire staff from the Hemodialysis Department knows us, the hospital is amazing, the nurses are wonderful and they are fun too! At each visit, we brought food, sweets, and we even wheeled-in crates of fresh fruit."

Being on a waiting list for a kidney transplant, the long-awaited day arrived in March 2016, on Easter weekend. A new kidney had been found for him! The first one was incompatible, but the second one arrived three weeks later and was a perfect match.



Pierre and Mary Karasarkissian would like to remind us that each organ donation saves up to 8 lives.

A small blockage in the new kidney meant surgery by Dr. Aris, who now uses the new Multifunctional Radiology Room. Today, Pierre lives his life fully and enjoys being with his three children and his five grandchildren. He likes to tease that Mary keeps him busy.

"High blood pressure is a silent killer, my condition was considered critical... had I come to the LGH sooner, I would not have lost my kidney. **It was our community hospital that kept me alive.** The LGH and all its staff are fantastic and I am very grateful to them." ●

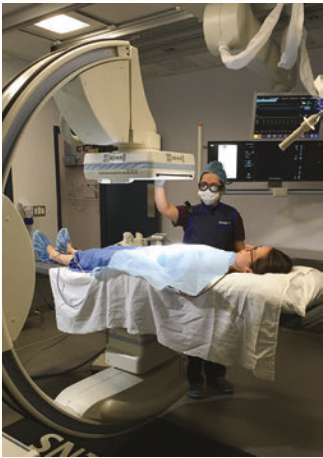
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## The Multifunctional Radiology Room Two Years in Operation



It was in July 2017 that the LGH's Multifunctional Radiology Room was inaugurated thanks to your donations. This state-of-the-art facility includes specialized high-level diagnostic equipment that offers a less invasive alternative to conventional surgical procedures. Most important is the

fact that patients can benefit from shorter procedures and a much quicker recovery.

Thanks to this room, the LGH is able to offer services which were previously only available downtown. Now, there is no need to go elsewhere. For example, in-patients on hemodialysis don't have to be transferred and accompanied by a nurse to a hospital downtown for a semi-permanent catheter insertion. As Pierre indicates on page 1, this procedure used to take a full day. It is now performed within an hour! Also performed on the spot is the installation of the vascular access for cancer patients, which is now done on-site. "It is very touching to see how happy patients are about receiving care in their community, close to home, surrounded by their families, without having to worry about transportation. This is a great timesaver and above all, less stress for patients", says Véronique Rodella, Medical Imaging Manager.

The Multifunctional Radiology Room has allowed 18% more procedures to take place in our Hospital!

## Two New Members Join The Outstanding Board of Directors of the LGHF

The members of the Board of Directors of the LGHF are a group of dedicated, conscientious individuals with deep-rooted ties to the West Island. They graciously offer their time, ideas, and expertise to the Foundation, to help improve the well-being of our community. We are pleased to welcome and present two valuable individuals, and would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their unwavering commitment and great generosity.

Dr. Fadi Aris obtained his medical degree from McGill University after completing a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Microbiology and Immunology. He completed subspecialty training in Vascular and Interventional Radiology at the Cleveland Clinic.



Dr. Aris is Chief of the Medical Imaging Department and holds an academic position as an Adjunct Professor at McGill University in Vascular and Interventional Radiology. Over the past 5 years, he has led the development of the Interventional Radiology Service at the LGH.



Serge Poirier is the General Manager of the Caisse Desjardins de l'Ouest-de-l'Île. He has been working for over 30 years in the financial institution sector and cumulates many years of social involvement in the community. His leadership and business development skills will prove to be great assets to maximize the outreach of the LGHF.

## A New Recognition Wall

Have you recently been to the LGH to visit a patient or for yourself? Did you come in through the main entrance? If so, you may have noticed the brand new Recognition Wall located in the corridor of the LGH's main entrance.

Inaugurated last November, this dynamic and modern-looking work of art has been designed to honor those who, since the

inception of the LGHF in 1964, have generously and significantly contributed to improving health care for West Islanders.

We invite you to take a few minutes, during your next visit, to discover this work, which presents a brief history of the Foundation, some examples of our achievements and vibrant patient testimonials. Do not hesitate to revisit it, as it will evolve regularly with time.



Air Canada Rouge, proud Partner of the LGHF

## A New Partner Lends a Hand to Our Cause

The LGHF is pleased to welcome Air Canada Rouge, Air Canada's leisure airline, into its group of Annual Partners.

"We are delighted to have the support of a company of this calibre whose values are similar to ours. Knowing that Air Canada Rouge cares enough about the health of its employees and the community to be involved with our local hospital is heart-warming," indicated Heather Holmes, Managing Director of the LGHF.

"For more than 50 years, the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation has been at the heart of the West Island community. Air Canada Rouge, as part of the Air Canada group of companies, has been operating over 80 years serving Canada, Quebec, Montreal and the West Island. We are excited to launch a partnership with the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation as it will benefit the well-being of our respective employees, airport community and those that live and work in this region", announced Duncan Bureau, President of Air Canada Rouge.

Desmond Beaumont, Director of Finance at Air Canada Rouge experienced first-hand the professionalism and expertise of the LGH employees, as his two boys were born at the Nick DiTomaso Birthing Centre. Here is what he had to say: "The nursing staff calmly answered all our questions attentively and in a caring manner. [...] the confidence and experience of the staff put us at ease [...]. They were welcoming and caring from the moment we arrived in the early hours of the morning to the day we left. Since those days I have been a promoter of the Lakeshore General and have nothing but positive things to say. Thanks again Lakeshore team."

With flights to over 70 destinations around the world, Air Canada Rouge's team of 2,000 employees and 53 aircraft have served more than 25 million customers since its launch five years ago. ●

## All New at the LGHF!

This is a very exciting moment for the LGHF! We have the immense pleasure of announcing the launch of our new "Dollars & Destinations" lottery. We have put together this fundraising initiative thanks to the collaboration of two of our Annual Partners; Air Canada Rouge and TWMG Inc. Financial Services. This simple lottery, but oh how attractive, offers four prizes: two return flights for two people to the city of your choice in Europe, and two cash prizes of \$2,500 each.

By participating, you directly contribute to the purchase of equipment to improve the LGH's Birthing Centre, which helps to deliver close to 1,800 newborns a year! You can purchase your tickets right now by calling 514-630-2081 or at [www.fondationlakeshore.ca](http://www.fondationlakeshore.ca) ●




Improve the Birthing Centre  
by participating in our new lottery!

**WIN 1 OF 4 PRIZES!**

<p><b>Prizes 1 &amp; 2</b></p> <p><b>FLIGHT to EUROPE</b> for 2 (Select <b>YOUR</b> city)</p> 	<p><b>Prizes 3 &amp; 4</b></p> <p><b>\$2500 CASH</b></p>  <p><b>TWMG Inc.</b> Cabinet en services financiers Financial Services Firm</p>
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**TICKET \$20**

Please buy your tickets today:  
**[fondationlakeshore.ca](http://fondationlakeshore.ca) or 514 630-2081**

Draw: September 17th, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.



## Our Annual Partners

### A Very Precious Commodity

The Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation seeks to improve the level of health care available to West Islanders, by not only being close to you, but by listening to your needs.

To help us achieve this honourable goal, we encourage our community to help elevate the quality of care at the LGH. The Foundation appeals to the generosity of small, medium and large companies who take to heart our community's health. Thus, we are proud to have in our ranks close to 28 Annual Partners who want to make a difference and stand out in terms of social responsibility. By joining the Foundation, they contribute to the acquisition of state-of-the-art medical equipment, they support major upgrading of our hospital infrastructure and of specialized programs and training for professional LGH staff.

"The impact of donations from our Annual Partners is easy to see in the faces and voices of grateful patients and their families. Our partners are invaluable and we thank them all for their support," says Heather Holmes, Managing Director of the LGHF.

If you would like to join us as an Annual Partner, please contact Carole Ravenda at 514-917-1226. •

## A Glimpse at Our Heritage



Marie-Claire Kirkland-Casgrain, Dr. Alphonse Couturier and Clarence S. Campbell at the inauguration of the LGH

One of the first Chairs of the LGH Board of Directors, who inaugurated the hospital in May 1965, was Clarence S. Campbell. He is best known as President of the National Hockey League (from 1946 to 1977). A trophy in his honour has been awarded annually in the NHL since 1968. Many remember him as the one who suspended Maurice "Rocket" Richard. His notoriety and his network greatly helped the fundraising efforts that allowed the construction of the Hospital.

Thank you to Alain Carette, who retired March 31<sup>st</sup> after a long career at the LGH, and who generously shared his passion and interest for archives.

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### OUR PARTNER FOR HEALTH



### OUR PARTNERS FOR WELLNESS



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