



LAKESHORE LINK

MAY 2016

An array of serious ailments lands Ken Blackburn in the ER of the Lakeshore General Hospital

If you don't treat this man within five minutes, you may as well call the coroner," Ken Blackburn's friend breathlessly told a startled receptionist at a West Island walk-in clinic. The healthcare team rushed to Ken's side. Slumped over in a chair, the 71-year-old was turning blue and was delirious. An ambulance whisked him to the ER at the Lakeshore General Hospital.

The diagnosis: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) coupled with a heart attack and ulcerated colitis. Ken was in rough shape. He would be admitted to the intensive care unit and then to a hospital ward where he'd undergo a battery of tests. He'd spend the next 20 days in hospital. It was January 2011.

Thus started Ken's long-term relationship with the Lakeshore General Hospital. "I've been in and out of the hospital on numerous occasions and been seen in virtually every department," he says. "The care has been superb. Everyone—the nurses, nurses' aids, orderlies, doctors—absolutely everyone has gone above and beyond to help me. I only have good things to say."

In fact, Ken has become so familiar with the staff he occasionally dispenses his own medical advice. "One of my doctors always walked so quickly," he recalls, "so one time when she stopped by to see me, I told her I had a prescription for her. Once at home, I instructed her to have a glass of wine and put her feet up. She laughed, assuring me she'd heed my advice." Upon learning Ken was being discharged, that same doctor helped him pack and sent him home with a hug and a kiss.



Mr. Ken Blackburn

A lifelong smoker, Ken quit cold turkey after his initial hospitalization. Unfortunately, the damage was irreversible. He'll have to cope with COPD for the rest of his life, and to aid his breathing he has to wheel around an oxygen concentrator. But Ken counts himself lucky, noting a lot of people are worse off than he.

To show his appreciation for the exceptional care he received and continues to receive, Ken makes an annual donation to the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation.

"West Islanders are very lucky to have such an excellent hospital so close to home. We need to support the Foundation to make the hospital even better, which benefits everyone," he says. "I tell everyone, if ever they need medical help, they should go to the Lakeshore General Hospital. It is the best care they'll get." •





Our new five-year action plan



As they say, the only constant is change and we've really changed things up this year. The Foundation recently completed a strategic planning process. The plan guides the Foundation's growth and development over the next five years boosting our ability to support the Lakeshore General Hospital, guaranteeing even better patient care.

It was a powerful exercise that prompted us to review and renew the Foundation's goals and vision for the future. The timing couldn't have been better. We had just celebrated the Foundation's 50th anniversary and had welcomed new board members. Plus, the province's healthcare system was being reorganized.

To craft the plan, we met with a number of people including the Foundation's Board of Directors and staff, and the hospital's senior management team. From the start, we wanted to make sure the goals established were realistic and realizable. I am confident they are. Our five priorities are to:

1. Grow revenues by focusing our efforts and resources;
2. Nurture our relationship with the hospital's directors, health professionals and employees;
3. Expand communications activities to better share our story;
4. Reinforce governance, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness through best practices;
5. Develop talent and augment staff competencies.

Ultimately, we want to make life better for patients by ensuring the hospital has the best possible facilities and equipment and making sure staff have access to continuing medical education.

The good news is, we've completed 25 percent of the plan! Highlights of recent accomplishments: we hired two communications specialists, Jeanine Basile and Chloé Dugas, and we recruited Benoit Guillemette who will expand business development.

Progress requires change, and I am very excited and know the projects we've launched will propel the Foundation to the next level. I look forward to keeping you posted on our progress.

Heather Holmes,
Managing Director, Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation

Meet business leader John Frintzilas

New member of the Board of Directors of the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation

In December, John Frintzilas, co-owner of the Dollard-des-Ormeaux Bâton Rouge Steakhouse & Bar wound up in the emergency room at the Lakeshore General Hospital. He broke a bone in his hand. Mr. Frintzilas, a long-time supporter of the hospital's Foundation learned first-hand (pun intended) about the stellar care patients receive.

"The staff was terrific," said Mr. Frintzilas. "My visit underscored how important it is to have access to care close to home. My ER visit was timely, as the team at the restaurant and I were starting to organize the 6th annual Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation Gastronomy Event. The experience inspired me to make the event even better."

The Gastronomy Event held in March raised \$50,100 for the hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

Mr. Frintzilas said it's a pleasure to be involved in the annual fundraiser. "Everyone at the Bâton Rouge from the chefs to the bartenders volunteers their time. We get to work with the members of the Foundation and raise funds for a great cause."

In addition to hosting the Gastronomy Event, Mr. Frintzilas recently joined the Foundation's Board of Directors. "The Bâton Rouge has been on the West Island for 20 years. Becoming a board member is, for me, another way to give back to the community."

Mr. Frintzilas says he looks forward to working with other Foundation board members to help raise funds to meet the hospital's most pressing needs and ensure residents of the West Island have access to quality healthcare in their own backyard. •



Mr. John Frintzilas

Nick Di Tomaso

Volunteer, fundraiser...humanitarian



Mr. Nick Di Tomaso

A few weeks ago during the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation's Annual Gastronomy Event at Bâton Rouge Steakhouse & Bar, Nick Di Tomaso was in attendance, supporting his favourite charity and enjoying great food and good conversation. The night was rolling along as expected, right up until the Foundation announced the recipient of the *Humanitarian of the Year Award* and called out his name.

"It was a complete surprise and very humbling. I will always treasure this award because it is from my peers," he says.

The award recognizes Mr. Di Tomaso for his outstanding contribution, his unwavering commitment and his true passion for the betterment of the West Island community.

A humanitarian is a person who works to make other people's lives better.

(Merriam Webster)

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Mr. Di Tomaso is a businessman, volunteer and philanthropist with an outgoing personality and endless repertoire of jokes.

He grew up poor in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. His mom had nine children before the age of 29. The seven surviving kids had to share beds growing up. In some cases it was three to a bed.

"We were so poor, when a burglar came to our house they would leave something behind," he jokes.

His mother Rosaria made it clear the family's modest means were not a barrier to anything. She was a true cheerleader, telling her children they were smart and could achieve anything they wanted. "My mother was a great motivator. She was a devout churchgoer who was always giving back to the community and helping the less fortunate. She believed helping others was a blessing, not a chore," he says.

SUCCESS ON ALL FRONTS

Mr. Di Tomaso graduated from Concordia and attended the Program for Management Development at Harvard Business School. He worked his way up the ranks at Petrofina and Spur which was eventually purchased by Ultramar. He held the role of President of the corporation, working in Montreal, Toronto and New York. But despite his business success, Mr. Di Tomaso is most proud of his volunteer work.

For almost 23 years, Mr. Di Tomaso has been supporting the Lakeshore General Hospital (LGH), first as vice-chair and then chair of the hospital's Board of Directors, and then as vice-chair and chair of the LGH Foundation's Board of Directors. He is still an active member of the board. He has been tireless, regularly clocking 1,000 hours of volunteer work per year in support of the hospital and several other West Island charities.

His lobbying and fundraising efforts have brought much-needed healthcare services to the West Island. He played an instrumental role in securing government financing to expand the hospital's ambulatory care department and helped fundraise to renovate and enlarge the hospital's birthing centre, which was named in his honour. In total, he has raised millions for the hospital.

TEAMWORK

Mr. Di Tomaso is quick to share the credit. A staunch believer in teamwork, he says everyone he's worked with "wears the same sweater... we're a team and when we work together, everyone is a winner."

"I had a fantastic career but nothing beats being a volunteer. It's the highlight of my life. I've met so many wonderful people and made many, many lifelong friends. My mother was my role model so I hope she knows I'm helping others." •

OUR PARTNERS FOR CARE



NEWS & EVENTS



Join the fun Upcoming Foundation events

We hope to see you at our upcoming events. By attending and/or sponsoring these activities, you ensure state-of-the-art healthcare and you contribute to the betterment of the West Island community. Together we can make a difference to ensure that good things continue to happen for the Lakeshore General Hospital.

Swing into action for our Golf tournament June 1, 2016

The 19th edition of our Golf Tournament will be held at the prestigious Royal Montreal Golf Club. In addition to a pleasant game of golf on the beautiful private blue course, you'll enjoy brunch, cocktails, and an exquisite dinner. This event also includes an elaborate silent auction and many surprises throughout the tournament.

20th annual National Bank Duck Race! September 17, 2016

The Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation invites you to participate in the 20th edition of the National Bank Duck Race, which will be part of the *Naturellement, Sainte-Anne* event. The first ducks to cross the finish line will win one of many fabulous prizes. Funds raised during this family-friendly and festive event will go to improving the Intensive Care Unit.



Annual Lakeshore Ball November 12, 2016



The Montreal Airport Marriott In-Terminal Hotel welcomes one of the Foundation's flagship events: The Lakeshore Ball, where glitz and glamour await you!

For more information about these events or to volunteer please visit **fondation-lakeshore.ca** or follow us on **Facebook**. For information about sponsorship opportunities please call Anne-Marie Milard, Event Coordinator for the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation at 514-630-2081. •

Your donations are making a difference

Each year, thousands of people are treated at the Lakeshore General Hospital (LGH) for a range of conditions, from common illnesses to life-threatening diseases. Your generous gifts to the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation support the modernization of the hospital allowing West Island residents to access great care close to home.

As of today, the Foundation has raised over \$4.2 million in just under a year. So far, we've disbursed over \$1.3 million and allocated another \$2.5 million.



(l. to r.) Véronique Rodella, Head, Nuclear Medicine & Electrophysiology; Heather Holmes, Managing Director, LGHF; Benoit Morin, President & CEO, CIUSS – Ouest-de-L'Île; Dr. Shadia Armanious, Chief, Medical Imaging; Sophie Ouellet, Director, Multidisciplinary Services.

Projects undertaken include building a new multifunctional radiology room. The total cost of the project is \$1.7 million and to date, we have distributed \$130,000. The specialized digital imaging equipment will provide an alternative to conventional surgeries and promises to reduce wait times, minimize invasive procedures and improve recovery times.

Other significant hospital improvements include:

- \$300,000 for enhancements to the Emergency Department,
- \$362,000 for improvements to the operating rooms,
- \$332,000 to purchase a gamma camera, for early detection of tumours and disease which will speed up diagnosis and treatment,
- \$185,000 for improvements to inpatient units.

Upcoming projects include:

- \$300,000 to purchase operating room equipment,
- \$370,000 for a quality assurance software system for surgery,
- \$325,000 for a fetal monitoring system.

Your vital gifts are making a profound difference in the lives of many including those receiving treatment for cancer, undergoing heart surgery or receiving dialysis. On behalf of the thousands of people who rely on the LGH for care each year, the Foundation thanks you for your generous support. •

OUR PARTNERS FOR CARE

