



Between Friends

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MONCTON HOSPITAL FOUNDATION INC.

FRIENDSFOUNDATION.CA

BE THE DIFFERENCE

FALL 2020

Woman Who Almost Died from Covid-19 Praises Compassionate Care at The Moncton Hospital

Debby Clements is grateful to be alive.

The 47-year-old, who has a history of asthma, said she tested positive for the Covid-19 virus and was rushed to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at The Moncton Hospital in early April, struggling to breathe. Debby Clements spent four weeks – three of those in the ICU – on a ventilator while being treated for the virus. Her husband, Mark Clements, who also tested positive but had only mild

symptoms, was not allowed to visit his wife in the hospital. The experience was extremely difficult for the entire family.

“I don’t remember a lot of my experience at The Moncton Hospital, but I am especially grateful for the very brave and kind doctors, nurses and other helpers. I know it was not only a scary time for me, but also for the caring professionals around me. I told them I could never do their job, and

I meant it. They are some pretty big heroes. I especially remember one time while going in and out of consciousness in the ICU, a nurse was trying to calm me down as I was hallucinating, couldn’t speak and was terrified. She said a prayer with me. I don’t know who it was, but she was so vital in that moment. Also, I will never forget the nurse who held my hand all

night while watching HGTV reruns.

At that point, I didn’t know what was real and what wasn’t, but just her being there holding my hand told me I was safe and not alone. This was especially important because my family wasn’t allowed to visit the hospital and I didn’t understand what was happening. Another sliver of time I remember was while I was waking up and two nurses were bathing me and washing my hair. They were so gentle and sweet. I felt safe and loved. And I am blessed that when I came home Dr. Daniel Smyth, Infectious Disease Physician, was kind enough to check on me because he knew going to the hospital was much too difficult. He has been so helpful in explaining what happened and answering my questions and that has helped me move forward and heal, body and soul,” says Debby.

Debby still suffers from extreme fatigue and breathing difficulties and the emotional scars caused by the traumatic experience are difficult to talk about. “Life since my illness has been challenging some days, I have lost over half my hair, my voice and throat are still problematic, and I still get tired very easily. I wrestle with the anxiety of the whole ordeal, but I just try to remember how far I’ve come since that time in April and press on. My family is my life and I am grateful that I am here for every extra day that I get to be with them.”



Debby Clements

“Thank you to the team of doctors, nurses, and many, many other people who supported me and my family during the most frightening time of my life. I will forever be grateful for your bravery and kindness.”

COVID-19 CARE FUND for TMH

The Foundation launched the Covid-19 Care Fund for TMH on March 31 to respond to emerging staff and patient needs from the pandemic. The response was phenomenal with over \$77,000 generated to date.

WHERE ARE COVID-19 CARE FUNDS GOING?



\$15,000 was spent on a Chest Compression System for the Emergency Department.



Two phlebotomy chairs with a pricetag of \$10,132 were purchased for the clinic at the Moncton Coliseum.



Seven iPads with stands were acquired to allow patients to communicate with their families.

The fund also covers the cost of TV service to patients who can't afford to pay.

After More than 31 Years Leading the Foundation, Linda Saunders Retires



As the first and only President and CEO for the Foundation, Linda has built the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation into an active and successful fundraising organization with thousands of loyal donors playing a critical part in helping The Moncton Hospital (TMH) deliver exceptional healthcare to meet the needs of our communities.

“Through hard work, dedication and many years of loyal leadership, Linda has guided the Foundation to become the respected and dynamic Foundation that exists today,” says Patricia Armour, Foundation Board Chair. “We are tremendously grateful for her clear vision, her spirit of optimism and her genuine concern for the well-being of those in our

community. Throughout Linda’s years with the Foundation she has been a light to the staff, to donors and volunteers, to our many Boards of Directors and to all who have met her in our communities and across the country.”

“We wish Linda well in retirement, a time when she can further enrich her own life as she has helped enrich the lives of so many others,” says Armour.

“I have truly had the best job in the world,” Saunders says. “Every day I have been privileged to work with wonderfully committed people - staff, volunteers and thoughtful, generous donors - who want to make a difference, who want to do their part to help The Moncton Hospital deliver excellent healthcare. We saw that caring commitment again recently, as people reached out to support their hospital and its healthcare team during the Covid-19 crisis. I am sure it will continue, and continue to grow, in the years to come.”

Linda joined the Foundation in 1989, having worked at The Moncton Hospital since 1983. Her replacement is Greg King who assumed the CEO role at the end of September.

An endowment has been set up to honour Linda.

Donations can be made at FriendsFoundation.ca/Donate
Choose Linda Saunders Endowment Fund in drop down box.

Your Generosity in Action!

Construction has been completed on a beautiful new outdoor awning for the Dr. Sheldon H. Rubin Oncology Clinic. This is a welcome and important addition to the building to protect cancer patients from the outside elements.

The entire venture cost was \$137,500. Special thanks to the estate of Gilbert Bowness for contributing \$75,000 to the Foundation towards this venture. The remainder of the funds came from the NB Doctors Cycling

Against Cancer fundraising.

Jennifer Rogers, Nurse Manager of the clinic, is very appreciative, “The new canopy will provide much needed coverage from the weather for our patients when they are dropped off or picked up at the front door. The canopy will decrease the amount of snow and ice that often accumulates outside the door in the winter and keep our patients dry in the summer. It is also aesthetically pleasing and ties in nicely with the design of the building.

We are all very proud that the NB Doctors Cycling group and their donors to help us make this a reality.”



YOU help save lives and improve health

“I want to give back”

Cancer patient battling Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer cycles to raise funds for hospital

Gini Bourque of Moncton, battling breast cancer for a second time, was one of the participants in the physician-led NB Doctors Cycling Against Cancer Ride (NBDocsCAC) raising funds for the Dr. Sheldon H. Rubin Oncology Clinic and the inpatient unit at The Moncton Hospital. *And raise funds she did.* Due to remarkable support from family and friends, her initial goal of \$2,000 was blown out of the park, raising over \$25,000!

There were many days the 47-year-old struggled to muster the energy to cycle, in what changed to a solo ride due to Covid-19, but she persevered, knowing where those funds were going. You see Gini is a fighter. She was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015. In 2017, she returned to work and was on the path of getting her life back with an “I’m a survivor” mindset. It was not long before “it” was back. She received the devastating news in November 2019 that this time the cancer had metastasized to her bones. Even that blow didn’t stop Gini. For her own mental wellbeing, she joined the other solo cyclists in this year’s ride. After all, she first rode in the event in 2017 and she wanted to do it again to give back for

all the great care she continues to receive while she battles this terminal illness.

“I feel lucky and loved. I have a team of admins, schedulers, psychologists, technicians, nurses, doctors, surgeons, phlebotomist and Friends Foundation staff who have all been kind, empathetic and patient with me during this cancer journey. I’m at the clinic approximately 7 to 10 times a month and am thankful to visit a safe beautiful clinic full of lovely people who are now part of my life. I want people to see how a patient like me can actually help others.”

Bourque believes you should keep moving when you have cancer and says being active helps her keep going and she feels good about helping support other patients like her. The 2020 ride raised over \$100,000 - the most in its 6-year history. These funds will go towards the acquisition of a \$234,000 digital slide scanner to help pathologists detect cancer. This system will result in quicker turnaround of test results, allowing patients to receive their diagnosis and treatment more quickly. The entire purchase is being covered by the NB Doctors Cycling Against Cancer ride.



Gini Bourque and her oncologist Dr. Mohammed Harb participate in the NB Doctors Cycling Against Cancer Ride



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Come in 135 MacBeath Ave., Moncton, NB E1C 6Z8
Call 506.857.5488
Click FriendsFoundation.ca
Email Friends@HorizonNB.ca

We would love to hear your comments and suggestions. Call or write **Julie Thébeau** at 870.2699 or Julie.Thebeau@HorizonNB.ca

**YOUR
GENEROSITY HAS
A HUGE IMPACT**



The new advanced ultrasound has arrived at TMH [First in New Brunswick]

Thanks to hundreds of caring donors, a new ultrasound and probes that displays outstanding 3-D images of the kidneys on a high-resolution monitor during laparoscopic or minimally invasive surgery has made its new home in the Operating Room.

Dr. Troy Sitland, Urologist, says this technology allows him to safely and very quickly identify the exact location of the tumour in the kidney.

Although not suitable for all patients, the new ultrasound equipment is expected to be used in at least one third of the kidney cancer cases.

The Moncton Hospital receives a number of

“ I am so very grateful to the Foundation and all of the donors who helped provide me with the best tools to do my job. ”

Dr. Troy Sitland

referrals from throughout the province each year because of its well-established Advanced Kidney Cancer Laparoscopic Program.

The equipment will also be useful for liver and pancreas surgery.



Dr. Troy Sitland and OR Urology Tech, Fran Ginson.

Your Donor Dollars at Work

Construction has begun on a new family centred *Maternity and Newborn Care Unit*.

The new building, on MacBeath avenue, will include the Labour and Birthing Unit, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Maternal Fetal Medicine Clinic.

Funding is being provided by the province and funds raised through the Extraordinary Care Campaign.

Expected date of occupancy is early 2023.





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OR

I would like to join the **Faithful Friends Club** and give a **monthly amount** of \$20 \$35 \$50 I prefer to give: _____

TO BE DEDUCTED ON: 1st or 15th of the month (include void cheque **OR** provide credit card information)

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I have enclosed a **CHEQUE** made payable to the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation Inc.

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