



The Current

The Lachine Hospital Foundation Newsletter

*The Lachine Hospital
The only community hospital
of the MUHC*

SPRING | 2018

LUC MAURICE: BUSINESSMAN, PHILANTHROPIST AND PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR SENIORS

Luc Maurice has been a major donor to the Lachine Hospital Foundation since 2012. The founder of Le Groupe Maurice – a leader in the private retirement home industry – has been interested in the Lachine Hospital's cause since the residents of Le Savignon (the Groupe Maurice residence located in Lachine) told him about the superior quality of care the institution provides.

"It is important for me to support community-oriented organizations that share Le Groupe Maurice's mission," says Maurice. "That mission is to contribute to the happiness and well-being of seniors in Quebec, making our compatibility with the Lachine Hospital self-evident. The hospital also represents an important element of the region's heritage, which inspires me even more."

As part of his commitment to the Lachine Hospital Foundation, Luc Maurice has participated in the annual fundraising gala for a few years and often invites Le Savignon residents to join him. This

year, he graciously accepted the title of honorary President of this flagship event of the Foundation, which will be held on May 5 under the theme Cinco de Mayo, in honor of the popular Mexican festival of the same name.

Ever mindful of the importance of giving, Luc Maurice has always encouraged the residents and employees of Le Groupe Maurice residences to give back to their community.

(see page 5) ►



Luc Maurice



Dr. Sunil Garg

ON THE CARDIOLOGY BEAT AT THE LACHINE HOSPITAL

When cardiology resident Dr. Sunil Garg first set foot in the Lachine Hospital in 2008, it was as a temporary measure to help cover the intensive care unit and internal medicine service. Ten years later he is Chief of specialized medicine and associate

physician in chief at the McGill University Health Centre's only community hospital. "I came for a weekend and never left," he says.

The evolution of cardiac care at the Lachine Hospital is quite remarkable. A dedicated inpatient

(see page 3) ►

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to *The Current*.

Since our last newsletter, Gregory Charles dazzled Foundation supporters at his fundraising show on November 15th. Thanks to sponsorships and ticket sales, a net profit of \$60,000 was raised, a portion of which is being used to upgrade equipment in the surgery department. You can read more about the show on page 7.

With winter finally behind us, we are looking forward to May 5th and the Foundation's signature spring gala, which will celebrate the Mexican feast of Cinco de Mayo. Hosting the event is Sophie Thibault from TVA Nouvelles, and this year's honorary chairman is Luc Maurice, Founder and President of Le Groupe Maurice. Mr. Maurice is a pioneer in the development of residential solutions for seniors and has revolutionized the industry in Montreal and its environs. He has been a long-time supporter of the Lachine Hospital Foundation and we consider ourselves very fortunate to have this inspiring gentleman in our corner.

As a result of our fundraising efforts, the hospital receives approximately \$300,000 annually to purchase new equipment not covered by gov-

ernment funding. Most recently, a state-of-the-art laser instrument that eliminates stones in the bladder and kidneys was bought for the Urology Department. The acquisition of this piece of equipment is a perfect example of how Lachine Hospital patients benefit directly from the generosity of Foundation donors. Your donations are vital, and we thank you for helping the Foundation make a difference as we strive to continually improve upon the quality and delivery of care.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Current*. For more news about the Foundation or to subscribe to our mailing list, please visit lachinehospitalfoundation.com, and don't forget to 'like' us on Facebook at facebook.com/fondationhopitallachine ■

Jacques Filion



Jacques Filion, Chairman of the Lachine Hospital Foundation



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► (from page 1)

cardiology service did not exist at the hospital in 2008 and a typical heart attack patient could end up being hospitalized for 15 days while waiting to have tests done at other hospitals. Fast-forward to 2018 and that same patient is sent home after 4 days of care after having completed the same tests—most of them on-site in Lachine.

Dr. Garg's vision and hard work, combined with the hospital's integration into the MUHC, were key factors that led to this incredible improvement—the initiation of specialized treatment for cardiac inpatients and a full-service outpatient cardiology clinic.

The outpatient cardiology clinic specializes in the optimization of medical therapy. In other words, finding the best possible treatment for patients. "The spectrum of cardiology is interesting," says Dr. Garg. "Once you've made a diagnosis, you can see the patient feel better within a short period of time. In many cases the therapies are life-saving and you see a profound impact."

That impact was also felt in the hospital's emergency ward. As a result of the highly specialized care that was now being offered, many patients with long-standing cardiac issues were finally stabilized and were receiving the proper form of treatment for their illness. This translated to a significant reduction in the number of recurrent visits to the ER.

The Lachine Hospital Foundation was also a driving force in

helping transform cardiac care at the hospital. Thanks to Foundation donors, funds were contributed to help purchase new equipment and the waiting areas outside the clinic were also refurbished, which Dr. Garg feels is an important factor in the all-around comfort and well-being of patients.

Dr. Garg goes on to say that he feels very fortunate to be working with a fantastic team of technicians and secretaries at the outpatient clinic. "Everyone really cares about the patients and they're always ready to help, even if it cuts into their lunch hour or if they have to stay at work a little longer."

In addition to his clinical and administrative work, Dr. Garg sits on the board of directors of the Lachine Hospital Foundation and takes an active role in its fundraising activities. "Government healthcare provides the basics, but anything above and beyond that is up to local communities and foundations to decide what they want to make of their hospitals."

Each year in October, at the Foundation's annual fundraising breakfast for palliative care, Dr. Garg volunteers with his son Samay, 8 and daughter Shanaya, who is only 2 years old. As young as they are, they



Dr. Garg with children Samay, 8 and Shanaya, 2, helping out at the Foundation's fundraising breakfast

do their part by helping their dad sell raffle tickets and serve coffee. "They know that daddy is doing something to help people and they love to participate." Samay already has an interest in medicine and helping people but has expressed an interest in ophthalmology, so Dr. Garg is holding out hope for Shanaya to become the next cardiologist in the family. "She loves examining her grandmother with her doctor's kit and prescribing medications," he laughs.

Dr. Garg's wife, Monica and his children understand the long hours and hard work that are required to help provide regular care at a small community hospital like the Lachine Hospital. Recently, early on a Saturday morning, Shanaya asked her dad what he was doing at home and why he wasn't at the hospital seeing patients. "I really like what I do" states Dr. Garg, "and the Lachine Hospital is a great place to work." ■

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

One Group's Secret: Friends, Activities and Supporting the Lachine Hospital Foundation

Youth is, of course, measured not only by a number, but as a state of mind. So what's the secret to still feeling young when you're a senior? For a group of seniors at Le Savignon residence in Lachine, friends, activities, and a purpose – in their case, raising money for the Lachine Hospital Foundation – are key to keeping them young at heart.

Not long after Jocelyne Dagenais moved into the residence four years ago, a craft group was born. Today it counts 10 members – all new friends: Mrs. Dagenais, Denise and Pierre Laurin, Denise and Maurice Perrier, Normand Dubuc, Micheline Desjardins, Louise Rondeau, Jeanette Paré and Monique Lemay.

The group began selling their crafts at the residence in the hopes of covering their costs but soon realized they were making a profit. They talked about donating the proceeds to a local charity and the Lachine

Hospital Foundation was suggested. Their choice was applauded by Luc Maurice, Founder and President of Le Groupe Maurice (of which Le Savignon is part) who has been a major supporter of the Foundation for many years.

"We liked the idea of the Lachine Hospital because it gave us a sense of belonging," explains Mrs. Lemay. Nearly everyone in the group has been a patient there at one time or another so the suggestion made sense as they wanted to support an organization in their community.

After much discussion they decided to make wooden bookmarks. "Our goal was to raise \$2,000 for the hospital. We started in September and within a mere two months our objective was met," explains Mrs. Dagenais. "We didn't think we'd reach our goal," she admits. "At \$3 apiece, you have to sell a



Donation from Le Savignon craft group in the form of a beautiful cake

lot of bookmarks, but they sold really fast!"

"We had a stand at the reception desk at the residence, put an ad in the local paper and word of mouth spread," she says matter-of-factly. Mrs. Rondeau and Mrs. Desjardins also sold over 200 of the bookmarks at the grocery store across the street and set up a stand at the Lachine Hospital for a day.

Le Savignon's craft group is a determined bunch. The wooden bookmark idea was not the least labour-intensive choice – Mrs. Dagenais estimates they spent dozens of hours working on them. But in spite of the numerous hours, they had such a great experience that they made a variety of other items for the residence's Christmas Market.

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Pictured from left to right: Louise Rondeau, Denise Laurin, Pierre Laurin, Monica McDougall, Executive Director Lachine Hospital Foundation, Jocelyne Dagenais, Monique Lemay, Jeannette Paré, Denise Perrier, Normand Dubuc



► (from page 4)

This resulted in another \$1,000 donation to the Lachine Hospital Foundation for a total of \$3,250, which Luc Maurice topped off to reach a total of \$4,000.

The group agrees that creativity keeps them young. "It's nuts what creativity offers you," says Mrs. Perrier. "It keeps us young, we forget our aches and pains," adds Mrs. Laurin. "We have so many laughs together doing this, it's incredible. We often laugh so hard we cry!"

Monica McDougall, Executive Director of the Lachine Hospital Foundation, visited the group to accept the donation on the

Foundation's behalf. "I was really touched by the enthusiasm with which Jocelyne and her team took on this project. There's



Bookmarks made by Le Savignon craft group

a good feeling that people experience when they give back to their community. The act energizes and motivates them, which is clearly the case with

our friends from Le Savignon. Add to that their sense of accomplishment and pride as a group, and there's success on so many levels." She goes on to say that it was a delight for the Foundation team to interact with Jocelyne and her group.

In addition to all their efforts, the team spent hours on the presentation of their donation: \$10 and \$20 bills rolled-up in the shape of a beautiful cake! If youth were measured by creativity and energy, this group of seniors would be adolescents! ■

► (from page 1)

"Our residents have energy, time and a lot of interests. Many of them like to be able to do things together and help each other; to live in one of our residences means being a part of a large community. Volunteering is ideal because everyone can find a way to feel useful."

As a result, a group of Le Savignon residents recently organized a fundraiser for the Lachine Hospital Foundation. They raised a remarkable \$3,250 by selling bookmarks and other handmade items. Their dedication and determination are presented in the article on page 4.

Maurice visits with his residents at least once or twice a year and takes the time to sit down with them, as well as with his

employees. This enables him to take the pulse of the situation on the ground, to get caught up



Luc Maurice and Andrée Mayrand at the Foundation's 2015 gala

on their daily lives, and to find out what they like and what can be improved upon.

"Basically, we are a business of emotions and services. The

opinions of those who choose our homes to live or work in are invaluable to me. Through the years, they have often allowed me to identify our weaknesses and make appropriate changes, all with the sole purpose of increasing the happiness of residents."

"Luc Maurice has been a wonderful addition to the Foundation family," says Jacques Filion, Chairman of the Lachine Hospital Foundation. "He is a true leader in every sense of the word, as the fundraising project initiated by Le Savignon residents demonstrates. We are extremely grateful that he is passionate about our Foundation and it is a privilege for us to have him as Honorary Chairman of our Cinco de Mayo gala this year." ■

EVENTS



Fondation de l'Hôpital de Lachine
Lachine Hospital Foundation

CINCO DE MAYO

Fundraising Gala

Hosted by Sophie Thibault,
of TVA Nouvelles

May 5, 2018



Sophie Thibault

Each year, on the first Saturday in May, the Foundation hosts its biggest annual fundraising event.

In the past, themes of the evening have ranged from a Venetian ball to a gastronomic evening to a fashion show, to name just a few. With event day falling on May 5th this year, the choice for the theme was evident – Cinco de Mayo, the popular Mexican celebration.

Luc Maurice will be the honorary chairman of this year's gala. A long-time supporter of the Lachine Hospital Foundation, Mr. Maurice is the Founder and President of Le Groupe Maurice which offers residential solutions that promote inspired living for today's seniors.

Sophie Thibault, the esteemed anchorwoman of TVA Nouvelles, will reprise her role as the event's MC. She hosted the Foundation's annual galas in 2015 and 2016, and her fun and approachable style were a delight to all who participated.

400 people are expected to attend the gala which will take place in Dorval at the beautiful Marriott In-Terminal Hotel. With the colours and flavours of Mexico highlighted throughout the evening, guests will be treated to a delicious 5-course meal, live music and dancing, a silent auction and much more. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of new medical equipment for the hospital.

Tickets are \$250 per person and are still available. To purchase your tickets or to find out about sponsorship opportunities please contact the Foundation at 514 637-2351 ext. 77333 or by e-mail at dessi.nikolova@muhc.mcgill.ca ■

Lachine Hospital Foundation

ART AND PHOTO EXHIBITION

Featuring the artwork of Francine Ouellette Lemaire and the photography of Robert Séguin

July 6 – 8, 2018

Francine Ouellette Lemaire

Francine was a long-time resident of Lachine who was well known in the community for her artistic talent. Her work ranged from Chinese calligraphy to watercolor and acrylic paintings, with a wide variety of images including flowers, buildings and landscapes.



Francine Ouellette Lemaire

As a result of living with multiple sclerosis, Francine was wheelchair-bound and could not leave the house as often as she would have liked. She turned to painting, which she claimed offered her a way to escape and feel free, and her beautiful work expressed her journey.

Francine passed away on March 17, 2017 in the palliative care unit at the Lachine Hospital. One of her final wishes was to donate the proceeds from the sale of her paintings to the Lachine Hospital Foundation.



Francine's painting of a Lachine fire station

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Robert Séguin

Robert is a lifelong Lachine resident who received his diploma from the School of Modern Photography of New York at the age of 18. He describes his style as contemporary, treating many different subjects with surprising results.

Surprising in part, because of the eclectic range of materials that he uses to present his beautiful photos—printing them on acrylic, canvas and even brushed metal. And his creativity goes beyond the photographs, as he pays particular attention to how they can be enhanced with the use



Robert Séguin

of unconventional frames like wooden or metal plates and faux cement.

Robert's photos have been displayed widely and this year his work is being exhibited at the Saul Bellow Library in Lachine. All of his creations are presented under the trademark ©Click : Robert Séguin ■

Art and Photo Exhibition

Featuring the artwork of Francine Ouellette Lemaire and the photography of Robert Séguin

Friday, July 6, 5 – 8pm

**Saturday, July 7 and Sunday July 8
12 – 5pm**

L'Entrepôt, 2901 boul. St-Joseph,
Lachine

GREGORY CHARLES CONCERT RAISES \$60,000 FOR THE LACHINE HOSPITAL

Close to 300 people were in attendance at L'Entrepôt concert hall on November 15th, 2017 and they did not leave disappointed, as Gregory Charles put on one of his signature high-energy shows that left everyone on their feet and wanting more!

True to his unique style of entertaining and his reputation for interacting with his fans, he asked audience members to suggest a specific year to him

Gregory Charles with Lachine Hospital nurse Ginette Labonté, left, and right, with young fan Jonathan Tanasa



and went on to sing top hits from every year that was suggested between 1938 and 2017. On several occasions throughout the show, the audience sang along with him. From beginning to end, he had the crowd in the palm of his hand.



Gregory Charles in concert

Gregory Charles' appreciation for his fans and his generosity were in full evidence on stage, but even more so after the show, as he signed autographs and had his photo taken with people for well over an hour.

Sponsors of the evening included Les Auxiliaires Bénévoles de l'Hôpital de Lachine, Les Soeurs de Sainte-Anne du Québec, Pneus Lachine, Simard Transport and Spinelli. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of new medical instruments in departments throughout the hospital. ■

A 44-Year Commitment

The Foundation sends out a special acknowledgement to Madeleine Chantelois, who recently stepped down as the President of *Les Auxiliaires bénévoles du centre hospitalier de Lachine*. Mrs. Chantelois volunteered with the organization for a total of 44 years, the last 28 as president. Over the years, the auxiliary has made significant donations to the Foundation through the operation of their coffee shop which is located on the first floor of the hospital near the emergency room. The Foundation expresses its sincerest thanks to Mrs. Chantelois for her years of dedication to the hospital and its patients.



Madeleine Chantelois

90 Years Young

Noël Spinelli celebrated his 90th birthday on December 29th, 2017. Mr. Spinelli, who was chairman of the Foundation from 1989 to 1999, is a Member of the Order of Canada and a Knight of the Ordre national du Québec. Although he has retired from the successful and ever-expanding Groupe Spinelli that he built into a major player in Montreal's automotive industry, he is still very active in his philanthropic activities and holds a special place in his heart for the Lachine Hospital Foundation.



Noël Spinelli



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Lachine Hospital Foundation

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The Lachine Hospital of the MUHC

Our patients experience the comfort of a community-based hospital environment while benefiting from the resources of the world-renowned McGill University Health Centre (MUHC). Any patient who comes to the hospital requiring more complex care will have immediate access to all areas of specialty medicine offered throughout the MUHC's network of hospitals. For more information please visit muhc.ca/lachine/dashboard

The Lachine Hospital Foundation

The Foundation contributes funds towards the purchase of medical equipment and hospital improvements. It is estimated that \$300,000 will be disbursed in 2018. For more information or to make a donation, please visit us at lachinehospitalfoundation.com

The Lachine Hospital Foundation

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