

the philanthropist

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation Newsletter

Spring 2012 Issue



DMRF Donors: l. to r. top: Sadie MacLeod, Charlie & Shelley Mitchell; l. to r. bottom: Josie Ritcey, Dr. Stewart Cameron, Alison C. Edwards
(Photos – Portraits & Composite: John Sherlock, with the exception of Sadie MacLeod's portrait courtesy of Sadie)

What do they all have in common?

By Marie Weeren

Generous spirits, a belief in medical research, and the decision to give to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation in their lifetime, and through bequests in their wills. ...continued on page 3

Dalhousie 
MEDICAL RESEARCH
Foundation

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation is an independently registered charity established for the purpose of providing financial support for research activities in the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University and its affiliated research institutions.

Today's Science. Tomorrow's Cures.

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1-A1 Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building,
5850 College Street, PO Box 15000,
Halifax, NS B3H 4R2

Hello Philanthropist Readers...



Alison C. Edwards, DMRF Executive Director
(Photo: John Sherlock)

By the time this newsletter goes to print, most of us will have just completed or still be scrambling to submit our 2011 income taxes. Certainly not the most joyful task of the year but, unfortunately, a necessary evil. It should be a reminder to us, though, to annually re-examine how gift planning can impact those taxes now and in the future.

Last year I wrote to you about my father's death and all of the estate details he had wonderfully put in place to make it easier for me and my sister. I received such great feedback on those notes that I decided to create a pull-out reference sheet for donor use.

You will find this sheet on pages 13-14 of this newsletter. It is not 100% comprehensive but should provide a good guide on pulling together much of the information to complete and identify for your executor and family. I also invite you to visit the DMRF website to view a sample version of the check-list (www.dmr.ca).

Along this theme, I was honoured to participate in this edition's cover

story about leaving a bequest to the Foundation. For me this particular method of planned giving was an easy decision for so many reasons. Morally I felt that if I was going to ask other folks to leave a bequest, I needed to have first done so myself. Also, I personally wanted to know I had made a difference that could help generations to come.

The most compelling reason for my eventual estate gift is that I fervently believe in supporting our medical researchers and their trainees. Daily I witness their passion and dedication. It is so frustrating though to watch them continuously scrambling to obtain research grant dollars. I am a huge fan of entertainment, sports and the arts, but I have never understood why our society seems to have no issue with paying movie stars and sports figures millions and millions of dollars but allows scientists and researchers, who have the potential to save lives, to constantly have to search, beg, and cajole for support.

I challenge you to think about the value and joy of a healthy life and consider how you can personally contribute to the cause of medical research. The amount is not as important as the gift. My estate bequest is a modest one but will provide endowed funds that will exist in perpetuity to provide annual funding for future researchers and their teams. For me, to know that I have done my little bit to help others and myself enjoy a better quality of life is most gratifying. ☺

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison C. Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DMRF Executive Director

By Marie Weeren
Continued from cover

“It’s so wonderful that all of these people are thinking about medical research now and for future generations. Their gifts make a ripple effect of good.”

- Jyl MacKinnon, DMRF Director of Development



Dr. Stewart Cameron & young Maori patient in Paeroa, New Zealand
(Photo: courtesy Dr. Stewart Cameron)

Sadie MacLeod

Sadie’s first teaching experience was in a one-room school in Cape Breton. It was wartime and she was 16. Eventually, she enjoyed a 35-year teaching career, earned two degrees and travelled the world.

She also faced hardship and struggle. Her husband died when their son was just five weeks old. She persevered, however, touching many lives as a teacher and volunteer. She understood what it was like to face difficult times and made it a priority to give to others.

In addition to making a bequest, Sadie is a longtime Molly Appeal donor. She was also the first participant in the Foundation’s Adopt-a-Researcher program. Her “adoptee” is Dr. Sultan Darvesh, a neurologist and director of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank at Dalhousie Medical School.

“I have watched loved ones battle Alzheimer’s and it’s such a cruel disease. I feel a sense of loss even while they are still here,” Sadie says. “I chose Dr. Sultan Darvesh’s Alzheimer’s research lab so someday others won’t have to suffer. It seems Alzheimer’s ‘runs in families’ and my hope is researchers will break the cycle, and find the gene that causes Alzheimer’s.”

Dr. Stewart Cameron

Stewart knows first-hand the essential role medical research plays.

“I feel privileged to be able to practice as a physician,” he says. “Not a day goes by that I am not challenged by the unique combination of the art and science of medicine. The science component is built upon a foundation of research. We cannot provide excellent care if we are relying on good intentions and our best guesses; we need objective study to inform us....”

An associate professor in Dalhousie Medical School’s Department of Family Medicine, Stewart has named a bequest to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF).

“People might be interested to learn that Canada’s federal government is not very generous when it comes to funding medical research....” he says. “DMRF is a Maritime resource for health research and it needs strong public support. Physicians should feel a special responsibility to show leadership by personally contributing to DMRF. We can’t expect public support if we are not there ourselves.”

Continued on page 5

Volunteer Profiles

DMRF Volunteers: Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation has the privilege of being served by many selfless, dedicated volunteers. DMRF's Board of Directors represents one such group. We want our donor community to know more about these wonderful individuals. Each issue will provide some background on featured volunteers. This issue we present Board member Charles Mitchell.



(Photo: John Sherlock)

Charlie Mitchell

Charles W. Mitchell (Charlie) was invited to join Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation by Dr. Peter Gordon, 10 years after DMRF's founding and has served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee since 1989. He has also served as Chairperson of the Planned Giving Committee for the past few years alongside fellow board member Diane Campbell.

Charlie, born and raised in Halifax, graduated from Dalhousie University with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1971. He received a Bachelor of Architecture in 1975 from the Nova Scotia Technical College (now Daltec). Charlie practiced architecture in Edmonton, Alberta with Patsula Architects and Alberta Housing Corporation from 1975-79 as a member of the Alberta Architects Association. Upon returning home to Halifax in 1979, Charlie co-formed Robinson Mitchell Architects where he practiced until 1991 as a member of the Nova Scotia Association of Architects.

Charlie purchased and operated the Thrifty Car Rental franchise in the Maritimes from 1991 until 2003. From 1986 until the present Charlie has also been a property developer for small scale projects by way of various privately held companies.

Charlie served as a member of the Gentlemen's Auxiliary for Cystic Fibrosis in Halifax for many years and has been a Trustee of Victoria Hall in Halifax since 1984.

Happily married to Shelley, a professional artist, they have two grown children, daughter Grace, a biologist, and son Charles, a computer scientist. The Mitchells enjoy sailing, hiking, cross-country skiing, and travelling and reside in Halifax and Second Peninsula, Lunenburg Co.

Without a doubt there are many worthy charities and causes for which people can carry the flag but for Charlie the purpose of Medical Research is paramount. Since the founding of DMRF, over 33 years ago, the quest for Medical Research has brought a great number of brilliant and dedicated medical scholars and their research teams to our Maritime community, all to our great benefit.

Fantastic breakthroughs have been accomplished and will continue right here in Halifax. Each year, of 60 million or so people who die in the world, about 1/3, 20 million, die prematurely from disease. Medical Research is critical for life and society and DMRF is hugely instrumental both right here in the Maritimes and for far away shores. ☐

Continued from page 3

Charlie Mitchell

Charlie, the subject of a volunteer profile on page 4, is a strong believer in medical research.

“I think there have been such huge strides in treatments and it can really change people’s lives and their family’s lives,” he says.

Charlie, a Foundation board member for over 20 years, has also created a bequest to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation. His wife, artist Shelley Mitchell, has shared her time and talent as well, and donated beautiful paintings for auction in support of medical research.

Josie Ritcey

Josie is a lifelong learner. She recently took a computer course and loves to meet new people. She had the opportunity to connect with others on international travels with her late husband. “I find the more people you meet it enriches your life. You learn from them.”

Josie is also a teacher by profession – for 35 years – and by example. A dedicated volunteer, she was a founding board member of the Marguerite Centre, a long-term residence for women recovering from addictions and abuse.

A loyal Molly Appeal donor, she has also chosen to support medical research through a bequest. “They’re working for us, and if they do find a cure or something good in their research it affects not only our province but really it affects the world because they will pass on what they know,” Josie says. “It’s not just my little space. It expands.”

Alison Edwards

Alison, Executive Director of Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, wants researchers to be in the lab doing what they do best, not out trying to secure funding.

“If we could fund all of them adequately and have them in the lab 100 per cent of the time I think what could be discovered would be amazing,” she says. “It’s just not right the way it is now.”

Alison lost her mother to cancer and her father to a heart attack. While she doesn’t have a large estate and wants to leave some of it to her family, it is important to her to support medical research.

“I love what Molly Moore said: if we all do what we can – and that varies for every person – together we can really make a difference.” ☒

The reasons for
Adopting a Researcher
invariably have something to do
with **love.**



Adopt-a-Researcher is an exciting and personal way of supporting medical research. And, the return on investment is heartwarming – breakthroughs in cancer, cardiovascular, immunology, or neuroscience and brain repair research. When you choose a research team to ‘adopt’ your donation goes directly to covering research costs. And of course, it goes a long way toward honouring those you love.

Dalhousie 
MEDICAL RESEARCH
Foundation

For more information on the **Adopt-a-Researcher** program contact:

Jyl MacKinnon, Director of Development
jyl.mackinnon@dal.ca

902.494.2356 dmrf.ca

By Jyl MacKinnon,
DMRF Director of Development

Who is Barbara Gunn?

Barbara Gunn has
Alzheimer's, but
she cannot be defined
by this disease.
She is so, so much more.



Barbara Gunn (Photo: courtesy of Gunn Family)

Barbara is the daughter of the late Stanley and Audrey (Cahill) MacLellan of Bass River, N.S. She is the cherished wife of Roy Gunn. She is the beloved mother of four children – a daughter and three sons.

Roy proudly gives Barbara kudos for their children's upbringing. "My work often took me on the road for weeks at a time so Barbara probably had her hands full! I may be biased, but judging by the end products I think she did a great job."

Barbara, a Haligonian, was a world traveller and always enjoyed planning that next adventure. She was a dedicated RN, quick to provide loving care to family and friends. Barbara was also a member of a fun-loving sorority, an antique club and an investment club.

Did I mention her passion for travel? Barbara still loves to go for daily drives with Roy and their dog, Jigs.

When I asked Roy for a quote for this article he sent me two pages about Barbara. That is the reality, there is so much more to Barbara than Alzheimer's.



Gunn Family l. to r. Philip, John, Alan, Tanya, Roy, Barbara, Loraine, Warren, Bradley & Sadie (Photo: courtesy Gunn Family)

Roy is an important part of this story. I've come to know him very well on this journey to establish an Alzheimer's research prize in Barbara's honour. He LOVES his wife. He knows his mind. "This prize will be for output, for results." And it is.

It has been a privilege to help put this award together, and Roy, you've done it! You've established this family gift honouring Barbara – a beautiful tribute to a wonderful, multi-dimensional woman. 

Keeping connected

By Marie Weeren



(Photo: courtesy Picchione Family)

Next year Dr. Vincent (Pat) Picchione and his wife, Susan, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Dalhousie Medical School and the Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing, respectively.

Thanks to the Picchiones, another milestone will be reached in 2013 – the 25th anniversary of their establishment of a visiting scholar program through Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation.

“On behalf of the Foundation and the many researchers who benefit from this program, a humble and sincere thank you is extended to Pat and Susan Picchione for their generosity and support!” says Executive Director Alison Edwards.

She says the annual award makes it possible for leading researchers from around the world to come to Dalhousie Medical School and present their findings to local researchers, trainees and the community. “These visits are invaluable in expanding and sharing research knowledge and providing new perspectives. They very often lead to ongoing collaborative research efforts.”

The 2011 Picchione Scholar was Dr. Stephen Page, an associate professor and director of the RehabLab® (www.rehablab.org) at The Ohio State University. Through his research and clinical work, he helps people who have had strokes progress in their recovery and achieve greater self-sufficiency.

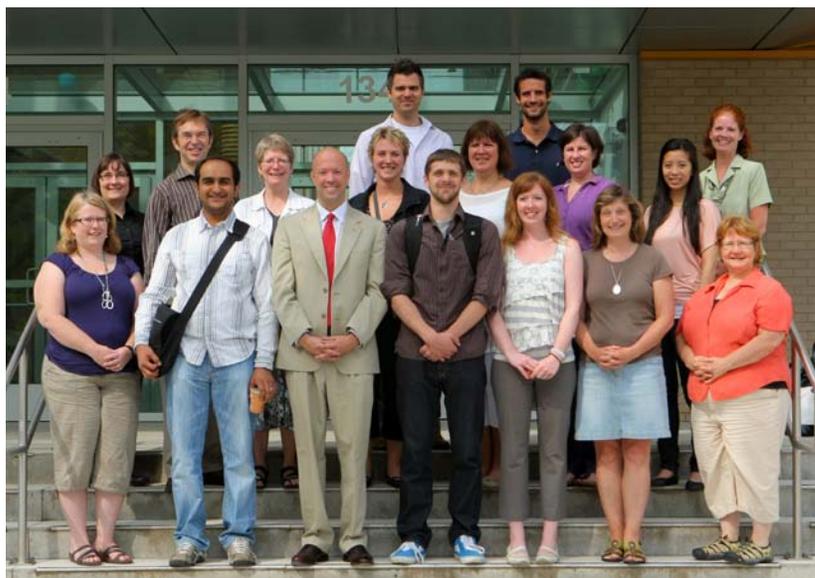
The impetus for the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation Picchione Visiting Scholar Program was a visit by Pat’s classmate and then Dalhousie Medical School Dean Dr. Jock Murray. As Pat has said, “Sue and I wanted to honour our commitment to Dalhousie Medical School. I merely followed Jock’s advice.”

That meeting took place in Palm Springs, California, home of the Picchiones for many years. It wasn’t their first stop after Dalhousie, however. Following graduation, they moved to Rhode Island where Pat completed a residency in orthopaedic surgery. He spent three years in the US Navy, posted at naval hospitals in Cuba and San Diego. They then settled in Palm Springs where Pat was a surgeon and administrator before retiring in 2004.

Dalhousie Medical School and the visiting scholar program remain close to their hearts. As Pat has said, “We are delighted to have the opportunity and means to give back something to Dalhousie Medical School that has given so much to us.” ☐



Picchione Visiting Scholar 2011 - Dr. Stephen Page
(Photo: Nick Pearce)



Picchione Visiting Scholar Workshop 2011
(Photo: Nick Pearce)

*Thanks to Dr. John L. Sapp and cardiac mapping,
Andrew Stevenson is on top of the world!
(Photo: courtesy Andrew Stevenson)*



Inherited heart condition stopped Andrew Stevenson from climbing Europe's

By Melanie Jollymore

Andrew Stevenson was playing hockey in October 2003, when he was overcome by a strange sensation. As his heart fluttered out of control, he knew something was terribly wrong. A teammate rushed him to the Halifax Infirmary, where the doctors used defibrillator paddles to reset a heart rate that was racing at 260 beats per minute.

The next day, cardiologists threaded a tiny catheter into his heart to cauterize electrical short circuits that were triggering the life-threatening arrhythmia known as ventricular tachycardia (VT).

“The only reason I survived is because my heart is used to a fast pace, due to all the physical training, and my arteries were free of plaque,” says Andrew, now 51. “Enough blood was able to get through to my brain, even though my heart wasn’t pumping effectively.”

Overjoyed to be alive, Andrew returned to his business, family and athletic pursuits. His heart, however, had other plans. Just four months later, it began to race again, also while he was playing hockey. After emergency treatment to save his life, his physicians implanted a pacemaker defibrillator. Andrew promised never to play hockey again.

Haunted by nightmares, Andrew withdrew into himself—until a friend convinced him to return to the land of the living and pursue his childhood dream of climbing the Matterhorn in the Swiss Alps. He gathered his courage and began training. Yet once again he was stopped in his tracks. His heart began to race while he was running up Citadel Hill in 2005. The shock from his defibrillator was so intense, it knocked him out.

condition doesn't
wenson from
s highest peak!

This time, Dalhousie Medical School's Dr. John Sapp used cardiac mapping technology—which he has been researching for more than a decade—to locate the primary short circuit deep inside the right ventricle of Andrew's heart. He was then able to cauterize the short circuit to allow the smooth flow of energy through Andrew's heart muscle.

"I'm convinced that cardiac electrophysiology is as much an art as a science," says Andrew of John Sapp's skill in finding and fixing the short circuit. "He is a genius. I owe my life to the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation and the Heart & Stroke Foundation for the research support they've given to Dr. John Sapp."

Tests revealed that the intensity of the Matterhorn quest might be more than Andrew's heart could handle. Still, the desire to climb mountains burned within him. Once again, he built up his strength and, in 2006, he and his friend climbed two of Scotland's peaks. This eventually led to scaling Italy's Grand Paradiso and, just last year, Europe's highest—Mont Blanc, located in the French Alps. He has not had another incident of VT.

Andrew knows now that he has inherited a gene that produces scars in his heart. But in spite of that, he intends to keep pursuing his dreams for himself and his family, inspiring heart-disease survivors to live their lives to the fullest, and supporting cardiovascular research. He is particularly interested in the work of Dalhousie Medical School's Dr. Robert Rose, who seeks to genetically engineer the repair of arrhythmia-causing scars. 

Scenes from the Molly Appeal

Ashburn Luncheon

2011 campaign for Cardiovascular Research



THANK YOU
to The Berkeley for
generously sponsoring
this annual event.



Alison C. Edwards,
DMRF Executive
Director welcomes all



Researchers, Speakers and Guests :
Emma & Dr. Rob Rose; DeeDee and
Andrew Stevenson; Heidi & Dr. John Sapp

Mark your calendar

This year's Molly Appeal Luncheon will focus on
Immunology Research and will take place at
Ashburn Golf Club on Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Invitations will be sent out at the end of September.
Please RSVP to reserve your spot... (first-come, first-served)

For further information on the annual Molly Appeal Luncheon
please call (902) 494-2693 or email molly.appeal@dal.ca

Molly's Runners will run again !!! Sunday, May 20th 2012



*Molly's Runners Team 2011 - l. to r. Shawna O'Hearn, Corinne Dewar, Jesslyn Kinney, Alison Edwards, Judy Johnston, Gerry Johnston, Joan Sargeant, Jyl MacKinnon, Grace Kelly, Shelly Kelly, Leslie MacKenzie, Jane Greenlaw (Photo: Marie Weeren)
Missing from photo (...already running...): Jim Grove, Norma Houston, Carla Ross & Frank Sobey*

Molly's Runners Team 2011 included 16 runners and 160 sponsors. Together, they raised \$13,684 for the Molly Appeal!

Eight participants ran the 5K including one age division 1st place - Norma Houston. Five participants ran the 10K, and three participants, including Team Captain, Alison Edwards, ran the Half Marathon.

Leslie MacKenzie, Katelyn Robart's aunt, & friends, Grace and Shelly Kelly, ran to honour the memory of Katelyn, our wonderful Molly Appeal ambassador, who we lost to her valiant fight against cancer in October 2010.

Congratulations and THANK YOU to all our runners and generous sponsors !



"Running for K8" - l. to r. Leslie MacKenzie, Katelyn Robart's aunt, Alison Edwards, Jyl MacKinnon, Grace Kelly & Shelly Kelly (Photo: Marie Weeren)

**To join Molly's Runners Team 2012 as a Runner or a Sponsor please contact:
Team Captain, Alison Edwards, by calling (902) 494-3502 or email Alison.Edwards@dal.ca**

Today's Science. Tomorrow's Cures.



The Molly Appeal began thirty years ago with a simple gesture – a \$5.00 donation from a lady named Molly Moore. She believed that if every person supported medical research, together we could make a big difference. *She was right.*



Thanks to Molly's inspiration and your kindness, we look to a future filled with hope.

Contact us today to help create change through medical research.

DALHOUSIE MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

1-A1 Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, 5850 College Street
PO Box 15000, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4R2
902.494.3502 Toll-free 1.888.866.6559 www.mollyappeal.ca



Please accept my gift of:

\$20 \$35 \$50 \$120 other \$ _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please make your cheque or money order payable to:

THE MOLLY APPEAL

I prefer to use my: VISA MC AMEX

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

SIGNATURE : _____

I prefer my donation to remain anonymous. I do not wish to have my name appear in the DMRF annual report or have my gift publicly acknowledged in any donor recognition program.

Registered Charity BNF# 11922 9318 RR0001

Dear Jyl

Jyl MacKinnon, DMRF Director of Development
answers some of your questions about planned giving

Planned Giving or Gift Planning – what does that mean?

A Planned Gift can be a gift made in your lifetime - gift of shares, cash or property or a future gift set up in your estate arrangements. Many donors are electing to set up life insurance policies as a way to leverage a larger gift for medical research in memory of a loved one.

Can you please clarify the exact wording I should use to make a gift to the Foundation in my will?

Great question. Our official name is **Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation**. Please make sure that your lawyer does not abbreviate the Foundation's complete name. It is also helpful to include the Registered Charity Number: BN# 11922 9318 RR0001. The proper mailing address is: Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, 1-A1 Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, 5850 College St., PO Box 15000, Halifax NS B3H 4R2

As Alison mentioned, it is important to give this information to your Executor as well so they aren't tasked with trying to find the charity you intended to remember.

I am interested in your "Adopt-a-Researcher" program, what is the first step?

The very first step is to identify the area of medical research you are most passionate about supporting. There is usually something close to your heart that inspires this decision. Contact me (see below for phone number/e-mail) and I will find the research need that matches your objective. The research project will be vetted for scientific merit before the gift is made. Adopters have told us that it is very rewarding to see firsthand the impact of their gift.

What are other ways I can support the Foundation?

You can be an ambassador – share your Philanthropist magazine with friends, invite someone to the Molly Appeal Luncheon who has never attended before, help spread the word in the community about the important medical research you support through Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation! 



Warm regards, Jyl



Dear Jyl, please send me :

- information about the "Adopt-a-Researcher" Program
- a booklet on writing my Will

Information about supporting medical research through:

- a properly worded gift to DMRF in my Will
- gifts of stocks and bonds
- gift annuities (for those age 70 & over)

A postage-paid envelope is
included for your convenience.
Please clip and mail to:

Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation
1-A1 Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building,
5850 College Street, PO Box 15000,
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4R2

-
- I have already remembered Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation in my Will.**

Estate Check List (Don't forget to consult a lawyer.)

Basic Personal Information			
Full Name			Date of Birth
Current Address :	Street		
	City	Province	Postal Code
SIN #		Passport #	
Next of Kin			
Contact info for next of Kin			
Current Employer			
Employer Contact Info (phone or email)			

Last Will and Testament Information	
Name of Lawyer who prepared will	
Contact info for Lawyer	
Name of Executor(s)	
Contact info for Executor(s)	

Burial and Memorial Wishes	
Name of Funeral Home if arrangements pre-made	
Contact info for funeral home	
Memorial donations to where?	
Cremation or Coffin burial?	
Church or other memorial desired?	
Specific readings at memorial?	
Specific individuals to be asked to read?	
Specific music at memorial?	

Bank Account Information		
Name of Bank	Account #	Type of Account

Bank Access Information			
Name of Bank	Bank PIN #	Card Access Number	Web Access Password

Estate Check List... Continued

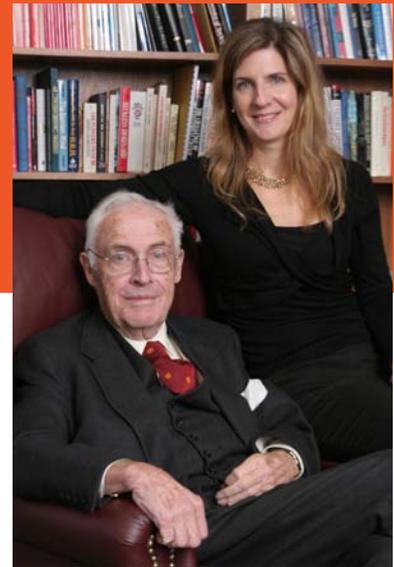
Credit Card Information				
Company	Account #	3 digit security #	Expiry Date	Web Access Password
AMEX				
Mastercard				
VISA				

Regular Bill Payments				
Type	Name	Account #	Payment Method	Average Amount
Cable				
Condo Fees				
Credit Card	AMEX			
Credit Card	Mastercard			
Credit Card	VISA			
Insurance - Car				
Insurance - Home				
Insurance - Other				
Phone				
Power				
Rent				
Tax - Property				
Other -				
Other -				

DOCUMENTS (original where possible or copies)	Current Location
Assets List (include receipts for major assets and identification of beneficiaries for specific items – very important for items not identified in your will)	
Bank Records and Statements	
Certificate of Birth	
Certificate of Marriage	
Deeds for property, homes	
Income Tax Records	
Insurance Policies	
Obituary write-up and memorial/burial wishes	
Passport	
Receipts for major assets	
Safety Deposit Box	
SIN card	
Vehicle registration for car(s)	
Will (original) & any instructions to your executor	
Final correspondence to any loved ones	
Other -	

Date the above information was last reviewed : _____
 (Regular annual review is recommended. Please be sure to keep completed Check List in a safe, secure location.)

In Memoriam Tribute to Mr. Graham W. Dennis 1927-2011



*Graham W. Dennis &
daughter Sarah Dennis
(Photo: Mike Harvey
Chronicle Herald Staff)*

“Don’t hide your light under a bushel” is cited as one of Mr. Graham W. Dennis’ favourite pieces of advice. From a man who was known as shy, modest and self-effacing and who presented himself as “a humble pedlar of papers”, it seems that Mr. Dennis became a public person in spite of himself. As a determined champion of homegrown talent and values, he provided immeasurable support for numerous local charities and causes, often anonymously.

Here we spotlight the tremendous support that Mr. Dennis and his family – for he was devoted to family – provided for Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation since its founding.

DMRF’s founders sought the invaluable advice of Mr. Dennis, who played a vital role in the early years. As founding member and first Executive Director of DMRF, the late Dr. Peter C. Gordon, wrote, “The Board was extremely grateful for all the support Mr. Dennis and his newspapers provided and urged him to join. Typically, he refused, preferring, in his way, to remain in the background. ... DMRF could always approach Mr. Dennis for help and advice and he never failed to come through. In recognition of his generosity and support, DMRF awarded him the first DMRF Outstanding Service Award in 1982.”

Mr. Dennis was also among the first to contribute financially to medical research. Having lost his first wife, Ann, to cancer, he established the Dennis Medical Fund to promote

research, teaching and improved services in the area of preventive medicine and surgery. Following the loss of his son, William, the Medical Fund was converted and with wife Gay and daughters Heather and Sarah, the family chose to honour William by helping others diagnosed with epilepsy and endowed the William Dennis Chair in Pediatric Epilepsy Research at Dalhousie University and the IWK Health Centre.

As Dr. Gordon wrote, “It can be said with all sincerity and is often repeated that without Graham Dennis, Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation would not have lifted off the ground and prospered as it did.”

The Dennis family tradition continues with daughter Sarah at the helm of the family-owned and operated newspaper business. Sarah has also served as a member of DMRF’s Board since 2005.

For all of Mr. Dennis’ and his family’s generosity, DMRF is infinitely grateful. ☐

Your gift to medical research is a step toward future cures.

**Please consider directing your next In Memoriam gift to
Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation.**

Our memorial packages are available in funeral homes across the Maritimes. Packages include a sympathy card that you may give to the family acknowledging your gift, or, at your request, the Foundation will notify the family designate on your behalf.

Your donations support the purchase of much-needed research equipment, right here in the Maritimes.



Memorial donations may also be made online
by visiting: www.dmr.ca or www.mollyappeal.ca
Or, by calling us at 1-888-866-6559



*Olwen Farrell
died in 2009*

**Today, she is
shaping the future
of medical research.**

Olwen loved Berwick. She cherished her time on the farm, in the apple orchards and the flower gardens. Olwen knew that successful orchards need nurturing and dedication to flourish, like medical research. That's why she left a generous gift in her will to Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation.

Like us, Olwen believed - Today's Science. Tomorrow's Cures.

Help support amazing medical research by including Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation in your will. Contact us today to find out how!

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