

LEGACY OF LIFE

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A MESSAGE FROM

ALICIA VANDERMEER

SHN Foundation President and CEO



We are delighted to share with you the 2020 issue of Legacy of Life, an annual newsletter from Scarborough Health Network (SHN) Foundation. We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of our supporters, who are

helping us to continue our commitment to exceptional care at SHN, today and far beyond their lifetimes.

Legacy of Life is both a valuable source of information and a show of gratitude to our members, friends and supporters. We'll bring you stories that help you think about your legacy and your own life prints on the world, and provide guidance and

tips on practical, tax-effective ways to be generous through your estate to your families and the charities you cherish.

Most of all, we want to acknowledge you for being part of the lifesaving work at SHN. By supporting our vision to become Canada's leading community teaching health network, you are helping our teams provide the best possible health care to patients and their families in times of need close to home across our three Scarborough hospitals.

We hope you find this information useful and we want to know what you think of it. If you would like to comment or discuss anything in this publication, I invite you to get in touch with our team at the Foundation, who would be happy to connect.

Thank you and we hope you enjoy reading our Legacy of Life newsletter!

— Alicia

WHAT LEGACY GIFT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Choosing the type of legacy gift that meets your unique needs is just as important as your decision to leave a legacy.

Bequest – Does not affect current finances, reduces your estate taxes

Securities – Excellent tax benefits, avoid capital gains

Life insurance – Small annual payments can create a substantial gift

Retirement Plans – Gifts of RRSP and RRIF offer excellent tax credits

Donor Advised Fund – Immediate tax benefit, easy to set up, ideal tool for involving children

Charitable Remainder Trust – Generates income for life while having a significant charitable impact





LEGACY OF PETER SHIZUMA ITO

Peter Shizuma Ito led a humble and quiet life in Scarborough, but privately developed a deep appreciation for the hospitals at Scarborough Health Network (SHN). The three hospitals served as a roadmap of key milestones throughout Peter's life.

During his 87 years, Peter built a strong connection with SHN – from the care his parents and siblings received, to the birth of his many nephews and nieces. Unnoticed by his family members, Peter quietly became a regular donor at Centenary hospital for 18 years until his passing in 2016.

"He was very appreciative of the care that was given to all our family members throughout the years, at the various Scarborough hospitals," shares Steve Shiraishi, Peter's nephew. "He grew up with an interesting early-life and was not always in a space with access to good health care. When you live like that, you learn what it's like to be without proper amenities and I think that's why he became very appreciative of the hospitals."

After being a long-time supporter of SHN, Peter wanted to leave behind a legacy to make a meaningful difference for future patients. He made an incredible and modest gesture through his will by committing a percentage

of his estate to SHN Foundation.

"He lived in Scarborough for over 65 years and he really built a strong connection with the hospitals and the community," continues Steve. "I think he just wanted to show his gratitude."

Peter's life and appreciation of good health care started in 1929, when he was born to Japanese immigrants in Eburne, British Columbia, now modern-day Richmond. Peter grew up in a large family, having six sisters and three brothers.

"They had a pretty tough life," Steve says. "At that time, it was hard for immigrating families, especially from Japan, to immigrate to Canada. My grandfather would take random jobs to make ends meet for his 10 children."

Despite harsh times, the family had a sense of comradery within the large Japanese-Canadian community located in Eburne at the turn of the Century. However, things would take a turn for the worst for Peter's family after World War II began in 1939.

Peter was only 12 years old when Canada declared war on Japan in December 1941. Shortly after, in 1942, his entire family was forcibly removed

from their home and into a Japanese-Canadian internment camp, at Hastings Park, where they were detained in exhibition buildings and stables alongside many other Japanese-Canadians. Peter and his family experienced what it was like to live in horrific conditions. As the war progressed,

his family would repeatedly be

pushed further in-land, to various internment camps across Western Canada.

"The family was moved around many times from camp to camp and it was just a very terrible experience for them," shared Steve.

When the war ended, the family of twelve eventually relocated to Scarborough, Ontario in the late 1940s. His parents continued working odd jobs until they could purchase land to become farmers. From there, Peter's passion and aptitude in art began to blossom. Inspired by nature, life, and the vast farms and lands of early Scarborough



Peter Ito (middle) with two students from his Sumi-e painting class.

neighbourhoods, Peter eventually became an award-winning graduate at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto.

Peter had a successful art career, working at Maclean-Hunter for 37 years and as an Art Director at The Financial Post before retiring in Scarborough in the late 1980s. When Peter retired, he grew a passion for Japanese brush-painting, called Sumi-e, where he also became an award-winning artist and was one of the earliest members of the Sumi-e Club based at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in North York. He would go on to teach Sumi-e to many students until the end of his life.

“My uncle was a very talented artist... very accomplished and well-respected throughout the community. He had a passion for teaching and enjoyed growing the knowledge and skills of others,” remembers Steve. “After his career, he spent a lot of his time giving back and spending time with his family, hosting regular gatherings and reunions and just being appreciative of what he had.”

SHN Foundation receives many bequests like Peter’s every year and these donations have translated into more than \$600,000 last year in charitable donations. Even a small percentage of your estate can make a tremendous difference at our hospitals, assisting with the purchase of much-needed supplies and equipment, and contributing to enhancements to our hospital infrastructure and facilities.

As for Peter, he leaves behind a legacy that his family can be proud of. When asked how he thinks his uncle would like to be remembered, Steve shared that “he’s always just been a very calm and loving individual. A good son, a good uncle, and a good brother – it was just part of his personality, to be appreciative of what you have. And that’s what he taught us all.”

To plan a tax-advantaged legacy gift, speak to professional advisors. For more information about leaving a legacy gift to SHN Foundation, contact **Verna Chen, Director of Stewardship and Legacy Giving, at 416-438-2911, ext. 6040, or vchen@shn.ca.**



FORGETTING TO UPDATE YOUR PLAN CAN COST YOUR BENEFICIARIES

Changes in your personal circumstances can have a significant impact on your estate plan. For example, in an Ontario court case, a couple, Robert* and Jane*, were married in June 1982, but divorced in 1994. During their marriage, Robert opened an RRSP and designated Jane as beneficiary of the plan. Jane also opened a spousal RRSP for Robert, on which Jane was designated as the beneficiary.

A proper settlement was made at the time of the divorce, but Robert did not arrange to change the beneficiary on either RRSP. Robert died in 1994, and his Will left detailed instructions about the distribution of his estate. Due to the beneficiary designations, the proceeds of the two RRSPs were paid to Jane. Because there was no spousal rollover available, taxes of \$100,500 were payable by the estate. Robert’s estate representatives brought legal action to have Jane pay the taxes triggered by the deemed disposition of the two RRSPs.

After two years in court, the decision was made that Jane was entitled to the full proceeds of the two RRSPs, but that Robert’s estate had to pay the taxes. If Robert had updated his beneficiary designations, the outcome would have been much different.

**Fictitious names.*

YOUR LEGACY FOR A BETTER WORLD

Verna Chen, Director, Stewardship and Legacy Giving



In my role with SHN Foundation, I have had the pleasure of speaking with and meeting some of our donors who have decided to leave a gift in their Will to our hospitals. Their wisdom, their life stories, and their giving spirit never cease to inspire me, both professionally and personally. What strikes me most is

that they are not what you call wealthy people; they are ordinary people who've worked hard and live frugally. What they have in common is that they are grateful for the excellent care they or their families have received at Scarborough Health Network and they wanted to express their gratitude and make a difference long after they are gone.

If you are considering a gift in your Will to SHN Foundation after taking care of your families, we encourage you to start a conversation with your children and seek professional advice. Your lawyer can contact me directly, and anonymously, to confirm our legal name – Scarborough Health Network Foundation – as well as work with us on crafting the appropriate wording if you have a specific intent for your bequest.

“As you grow older, you know that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, one for helping others”

— AUDREY HEPBURN

I am here to help you and to answer any questions you may have, or to give you more information about our work at Scarborough Health Network. You can call me directly at 416-438-2911 ext. 6040 or by email at vchen@shn.ca.

If you have already left SHN Foundation in your Will, I encourage you to please let us know. We would love to welcome you to join the Legacy Circle – our most exclusive donor club to celebrate you and your fellow legacy donors.

— Verna

CELEBRATING LASTING LEGACIES

Between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020, Scarborough Health Network Foundation received more than \$630,000 in bequests from the estates of these caring individuals as follows:

Andrew Bishop
Roy William Bragg
John Kwok Hin Chan
Tzen-Lin Chen
Doreen Z. Howe
Peter Shizuma Ito
Douglas Earl Jones
Marjorie Jones
Nusrat Khan
Tse Lin
Sandra Marion Madden
Margaret Mitchell
Luise Pold
Margaret Jean Sibbick
Mary Sinclair
Robert James Terry
Eric Tipping
Eugene Tuckar
Nita Zachary

**We thank them for
their vision and foresight.**

