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with *Our Donors*

SPRING 2021



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Friends
OF THE MONCTON HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION



Amis
LA FONDATION DES AMIS DE
L'HOPITAL DE MONCTON

Caring Connections

An update for Friends Supporters

Grateful Patient Makes \$1 Million Donation to Hospital Marking Foundation's Largest Outright Gift

Ross MacNeill doesn't want the spotlight to shine on him and would prefer not to talk about his contributions to the Friends of The Moncton Hospital. MacNeill, who turned 90 on March 1, would rather praise the medical staff at the hospital.

"They are all tops in my books," said MacNeill, who has been treated for heart issues and a stroke in recent years and a severe bowel blockage last fall. "We're fortunate to have these people in Moncton," he added. "They are very professional, and they know how to help people. I will always be grateful for what they have done for me."

MacNeill's gratitude was shown when he donated just over **\$1 million in listed securities**, he and his wife Patsy had accumulated over many years. "This has nothing to do with me," MacNeill said. "I figure if it helps their cause, it's something I want to do. I've heard a lot about the good work they have done and I hope this helps them out."

MacNeill grew up in Amherst, where he delivered newspapers as a schoolboy. He made 210 deliveries every week and earned a penny for each. He looked to make money any way he could – from shooting pool to working as a caddy at the golf club. MacNeill also worked in the oil fields before spending a year at Mount Allison University in Sackville. Following that, MacNeill landed a job with Household Finance and travelled throughout Atlantic Canada to collect on overdue loans.

"I learned a lot," he noted. "I never understood people who borrowed money and never intended on paying it

back. "In my life, I never spent money I didn't have. That's how I was able to save as much as I did.

There's only one secret – spend less than you make." MacNeill wound up moving to Moncton in 1962 and established his own bill collecting business – Credit-Aid Ltd. It remains in name only today but is not active.

He and his wife "Pat", a Moncton native, have been married 62 years and they have two daughters – one in Scoudouc and one in Surrey, B.C.

"I worked hard every day and it was probably 11 hours a day and seven days a week, but I was able to make a good life for myself and my family," MacNeill said. "Through the hard work, I was able to save money. We only spent about 25 per cent of what I made on the job and the rest we saved." MacNeill was inspired by the generosity shown by American financial giants Warren Buffett and Bill Gates, who are known for donating billions of dollars to various charities.

MacNeill said Doctors Serge Melanson and Bharathi Raja Chinnathurai have also inspired him.

"These are two amazing doctors who made an impact on my life. I hope I can help them and the other doctors at The Moncton Hospital make a difference in the lives of others like they made a difference in my life."



Ross MacNeill