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Honourand Care

The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation • OTTAWA, ONTARIO



Jean Tait in 1950

Ahead of Her Time

By Peter McKinnon

ean Tait devoted much of her life to improving the lives of disabled children and their families. Along the way, she helped blaze a trail for future generations of women such as her niece, Paula Moore.

"Aunt Jean is a remarkable woman," says Paula. "She inspired me to follow my own path and to pursue a career in nursing."

Born Mary Jean Tait in Brockville in 1930, she was the first in her family to study past high school. Jean attended the nursing program at Kingston General Hospital and became a Registered Nurse (RN) at the age of 20. When her sister Isabelle went into labour a few years later, Jean attended the birth of her niece, Paula.

"For most of my life, Aunt Jean has been like a second mother to me," says Paula. "Our relationship has evolved quite a bit over the years, but we've always been there for one another."

An excellent RN—particularly in the care of children—Jean eventually became head nurse of Kingston

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Donor Profile Acting on His Values

By Peter McKinnon

s a man who has always acted on his values, Brig.-Gen. Charles Lemieux (Ret'd) has long donated to the Perley Rideau Foundation, and also served as Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Perley and Rideau Veteran's Health Centre.

"For me, serving the greater good is a way of life," he says simply.

During his 36-year career in the Canadian Forces, Charles Lemieux earned a number of distinctions, including the Meritorious Service Cross for his leadership as a United Nations Commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina (1995). Inducted into the Order of Military Merit as an Officer of the Order in 2000, he retired as a General Officer three years later. These days, he works as an executive coach, and spends as much time as possible with his wife, six children and 11 grandchildren.

Humility, another a core value for Charles, drives him to highlight the important roles played by others,

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Perley Rideau

Foundation

General Hospital's pediatric unit. At the time, pediatrics was a relatively new specialty; the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada certified its first pediatrician in 1943. A major focus of medicine during the era was polio, a virus that can cause permanent paralysis and death, particularly among children. In Canada, the disease peaked in 1953, with nearly 9,000 cases and 500 deaths. Jean Tait devoted much of this part of her career to caring for polio victims and to

the vaccination campaigns that eventually eradicated the disease. After earning a certificate in public health from the University

of Western Ontario, she decided to move on from her hospital iob.

Healthcare in Canada changed so much during Aunt Jean's career

"Healthcare in Canada changed so much during Aunt Jean's career," says Paula. "In the 1950s, there was no provincial

Jean Tait in 2020



Rotary Clubs." The lack of adequate care available for disabled children

to establish the Ontario Society for Crippled Children in the 1920s. The success of its principal fundraising campaign, which involved selling special stamps each spring, later inspired the Society to change its name to Easter Seals. The organization was the first to employ nurses such as Jean to provide homebased care and to educate the families of disabled children. In addition, Jean often spoke to Rotary and Lion's clubs to help raise money. The job involved moving to Ottawa. Not long afterwards, Paula's family moved to Manotick, once a small town but now an Ottawa suburb.

health insurance, for instance. If

you couldn't afford healthcare,

help through organizations like

your only option was to seek

"Throughout my childhood and teenage years, Jean had an apartment in the city and regularly hosted me and my brother Kevin for weekends," says Paula. "We'd swim in her building's pool and she taught us to ski. In some ways, I idolized her and the life she led. She had lots of women friends who were professionals and they'd have dinner together, play bridge and go skiing. We always looked forward to seeing Aunt Jean."

After university, Kevin moved west and pursued his passion for skiing, while Paula and Jean grew closer. Over time, Paula came to recognize how different her life

was from Jean's. Women of Jean's generation had fewer career options, for instance. And those who did pursue careers were often expected to abandon them to marry and have children.

"Jean often told me: stay in school, go to church and avoid boys," says Paula. "She'd had a boyfriend when she was younger, but said he was boring and wasn't going anywhere, so she left him." <image>

Jean Tait and Paula Moore visit Santa Claus in 2018

On many of their weekends together, they'd be joined for dinner by one of the disabled children Jean worked with. The experiences stirred up something in Paula.

"It felt natural and normal to care for someone who's unable to care for themselves," recalls Paula. "That influenced my decision to go into nursing."

Jean later worked at the Ottawa Crippled Children Treatment Centre, the first building in the complex that today includes the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). As with Easter Seals, the Centre later acquired a less offensive name. Once Paula completed her RN training, Jean helped her get her first job at CHEO.

As the careers of both women blossomed, their weekends

together grew less frequent. Paula married. When she became pregnant, Paula called Jean to share the news, only learn that Jean also had news to share.

"Jean had met a man she was fond of," says Paula with a smile. "Lloyd Wright was a high-school teacher and a few years older than Jean. He was also a widower and a Veteran of the Second World War. Everyone in my family was so happy for her!"

The budding romance introduced a new aspect to Jean and Paula's relationship.

"Jean turned to me for advice about relationships," says Paula. "After all, romance was new to her. They married when she was 52 years old."

Jean and Lloyd enjoyed 36 happy years together and travelled extensively after both retired. Paula, along with her husband and two children, hosted them regularly for special occasions. Jean and Lloyd eventually moved into a retirement home. When they were no longer able to care for one another, they moved into the Perley Rideau, where Lloyd passed away in 2017.

Now 91 years of age, Aunt Jean leads a quieter, simpler life. She paints and sculpts in the Perley Rideau's arts studio, plays cards with other residents and video conferences with Paula at least once a week.

"When it comes to anything related to healthcare, Jean's mind is still sharp," says Paula. "Getting the COVID-19 vaccine made her reminisce about giving the polio vaccine to children more than 60 years ago. It's fitting that someone who did so much to care for others should now receive the best of care." **HC**

Supporting Hope

By Delphine Haslé, CFRE, Executive Director The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation

s the pandemic drags on, it can be difficult to remain positive and optimistic—to recognize that this, too, shall pass. The stories about suffering and deprivation we hear so often inspire pessimism and negativity. Here at the Perley Rideau, though, we continually witness the power of hope. I'm privileged to work on behalf of—and alongside—men and women who not only believe in a better future, but are also determined to make that future a reality. Their passion inspires me every day.

The Perley Rideau Foundation is blessed to enjoy the support of a wide variety of donors: people of all ages and all walks of life, as well as community groups, small businesses and corporations. Donor support continually inspires staff and volunteers to perform to the best of their abilities. During the pandemic, our donor community has grown even more diverse. And as many of the stories in this issue illustrate, our donors express their support in evermore thoughtful and creative ways. For this spring's Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend, for instance, more than 60 runners will collect pledges as members of Team Perley Rideau. Hundreds of donors participated in a contest to name Perley Rideau's new vaccination cart. Several local Tim Hortons' franchises banded together to deliver free coffee and baked goods to all staff and volunteers.

Alongside these initiatives, faithful long-time donors such as local branches of the Royal Canadian Legion continue to support our mission of continually improving the well-being of the people we serve.

For the past 25 years, Perley Rideau has continually identified and implemented ever-better ways to care for Veterans and other seniors, helping the National Capital Region—and Canada—cope with the challenges associated with shifting demographics. Foundation donors make it all possible: the 139 independent-living apartments known as the Seniors Village, the 12bed Guest House, the Therapeutic Recreation and Creative Arts Program, and countless innovations in bedside care.

The latest innovation made possible by donor support is The Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care. The Centre of Excellence aims to overcome a major obstacle to improving (long-term care) LTC: the lack of evidence about which care interventions can improve health and well-being. The Centre of Excellence helps fill this gap by conducting and sharing applied research. It develops and measures the impacts of innovations, and shares the evidence widely. The approach requires collaborating with partners, such as government agencies, academic institutions and healthcare organizations. Donors recognize the value of this approach

and are proud to support it; they appreciate the urgent need for better care policies and protocols.

Several Centre of Excellence projects promise to improve the capacity of the (LTC) sector to cope with future pandemics. One study will improve our understanding of COVID-19 prevalence in LTC homes across Canada, and examine the level and duration of the protection provided by COVID-19 vaccines. Another research study underway examines how the restrictions required by COVID-19 impact the psychosocial well-being of LTC residents and their families. In March, the Centre of Excellence launched its latest project: a monthly webinar series that will share the latest evidence and best practices in care.

On behalf of current and future residents of the Perley Rideau and other LTC homes, thank you for your support. Together, we are improving quality of life, health and well-being.

The Foundation is the fundraising arm of the Perley Rideau. By coming together as a community, donors support the needs of seniors and Veterans today and build a better future for us all.

> We appreciate your support in making a donation and/or gift in your will. Please contact Delphine Haslé The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation 1750 Russell Road Ottawa ON K1G 5Z6 613-526-7173 Email: dhasle@prvhc.com perleyrideaufoundation.ca

Ongoing Support from the Royal Canadian Legion





Thank you, Br. 314 Manotick, for the generous donation in support of Veterans' Priority Needs. L to R: Doug Brousseau, Past Chair, Foundation Board of Directors; Delphine Haslé, Foundation Executive Director; Winston Spratt, President, Br. 314 Manotick.

Veterans will continue to receive exceptional care thanks to this generous donation from Br. 593 Bells Corners. The donation will fund the purchase of three vital-signs machines and three housekeeping carts. L to R: Delphine Haslé, Foundation Executive Director; Shawn Taillon, President, Br. 593 Bells Corners; Louise Mercier, Incoming Chair.



Br. 462 Eastview's donation of \$20,000 will significantly benefit our Veteran residents by funding the purchase of one vital-sign machine, two pressure-relief mattresses and 12 Home Sweet Home room upgrades. Thank you! L to R: Bill Redmond, Br. 462 Adviser, Chairman, Interim President; Delphine Haslé, Foundation Executive Director. The generous donation from Br. 351 Montgomery improves the care of Veterans by funding the purchase of a MolecuLight, an imaging system that helps nurses identify potential infections in wounds. L to R: Samantha Boulerice, Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurse; Alice Milmore, Perley Rideau resident and long-time Br. 351 volunteer; Delphine Haslé, Foundation Executive Director.

THANK YO



Gifts of Balloons Brighten Valentine's Day for Residents

hanks to the enthusiastic response from the community, every resident received a special bouquet of balloons on Valentine's Day. The project was the brainchild of Courtney Rock, Foundation Development Officer and Bangin' Balloons, a local business recently launched by Chloe and Kevin Bouffard. Chloe had run a company specializing in party décor, but switched gears when business dried up during the pandemic. Kevin served as a mechanic in the Canadian Armed Forces for several years.

"We had heard of the Perley Rideau," says Chloe Bouffard, "but had no idea how strongly it was connected to the community until this project."

The Foundation encouraged donors and the community to sponsor gifts of balloons and the campaign quickly reached its target. Chloe and Kevin somehow managed to inflate, transport and deliver more than 1,000 balloons: "We couldn't move around in our house because we had so many balloons in the air," says Chloe.

The balloons were a hit with residents, who were surprised and delighted to receive such unique gifts.





Resident Viola Hughes loves her balloons.



L to R: Courtney Rock, Foundation Development Manager; Kevin Bouffard, Bangin' Balloons; Rachel Dobson, Recreation Therapist; Chloe Bouffard, Bangin' Balloons.

Resident Howard Lindsay is thrilled by his balloons.

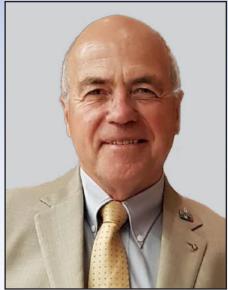


Donor Profile – Acting on His Values ... continued from page 1

such as his parents, who met while both were in uniform during the Second World War. Nursing Sister Joanne MacDonald had tended to wounded soldiers in a succession of clearing stations starting in Normandy. While working at the Canadian military field hospital in Belgium, she met Pierre André Lemieux, a lieutenant with Le Régiment de la Chaudière. Immediately smitten,



Pierre André Lemieux and Joanne MacDonald marry August 7, 1945



Charles Lemieux

they married after the war and went on to raise seven children.

"After high school, I received an offer from the University of Ottawa, but I chose Le Collège militaire royale de Saint-Jean instead," recalls Charles. "I wanted to do more than just study academics. My decision had little to do with my parents' influence."

The Canadian Armed Forces certainly came to appreciate Charles' decision. Charles served in units across Canada, overseas in Africa (Rwanda/Zaire), Bosnia-Herzegovina (Sarajevo/Bihac), Cyprus and Germany, and in a variety of senior roles at National Defence Headquarters.

"I'm proud to support the Perley Rideau in every way I can, including by making monthly donations," says Charles. "In the military, we say 'look after your troops and they will look after you.' The Veterans who live here at one time stood on guard for Canada, glorious and free. They deserve the best of care." **HC**

Team Perley Rideau Sets New Record

or the first time, the Team Perley Rideau roster included more than 80 runners. Each ran or walked in the 2021 edition of Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend and raised funds for the

Perley Rideau Foundation. A few Team members agreed to share their thoughts on this year's event. Go team go!

Running is foundational to other sports we do as a family, especially cross-country skiing. So I have learned to love it! I enjoy running even more when I have a specific goal in mind, especially when it is somewhat unrealistic. I have run a few 5Ks, 10Ks, a halfmarathon and a marathon in the distant past. My plan is to crush the half-marathon

time I ran about 20 years ago.

The Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care has huge potential to improve the lives of seniors both within long-term care and beyond. Fundraising success translates into long-term financial sustainability and gives us the flexibility to shape the future of research in the years to come.



Akos Hoffer runs in 2019 Coupe Skinouk.



Bev and Lt.-Gen. Guy Thibault, (Ret'd)

uring our 38 years together, we have always pursued physical and mental health. We share an immense sense of gratitude for life's blessings: we have our health, each other and live in an amazing community. We're also grateful for the opportunity to join Team Perley Rideau. It's a fun way to stay fit, and a much-appreciated opportunity to show our appreciation for Canada's Veterans and the volunteers who now serve on their behalf.



Nick and Chloe Allaham

This is our first year running in Race Weekend in support of the Perley Rideau. We love the Perley and are casual weekend runners, so decided we could definitely do the run and raise some funds for our favourite cause at the same time. Our Veterans and seniors are the jewels of our community and feel honoured to do anything we can to support.

have volunteered at the Perley Rideau since Grade 9, portering residents, and helping with Bingo, in the arts and craft studios, and elsewhere. I also volunteer to help young dancers with special needs—I've danced for more than 17 years. COVID-19 has interrupted my volunteering, but training for the 10 km walk will help make sure I am as fit as a fiddle and ready to follow all safety protocols when I return to see my friends at the Perley Rideau.



Ashley Innes walking family dog Copper

Thank you to our generous corporate sponsors!



Strong Community Support



When the pandemic forced the cancellation of in-person concerts, Ottawa musician Dave Kalil took his talents online with a series he calls "Take a Break." Every Saturday night, Dave plays an online concert and encourages listeners to donate to that week's selected charity. Thanks largely to the active support and promotional efforts of current and former members of the Board of Directors of the Perley and Rideau

Veterans' Health Centre, Dave's January 23 virtual concert for the Perley Rideau Foundation drew more than 110 people and raised more than \$1,100. Thank you for taking a break with Ottawa's piano man! In all, the Take a Break series has raised more than \$100,000 for local charities. "I'm doing it for the connection," says Dave. "I'm doing it to help people through the pandemic to give them some personal connection.

he volunteers who run Deborah's Gift Boutique continue to do an amazing job despite the pandemic. Forced to close early on in the pandemic, the Boutique reopened in September with restricted hours and now runs five days a week. Thanks to the support of residents, staff and the limited number of other people allowed to visit during COVID-19, the Boutique raised \$40,000 in support of seniors and Veterans priority needs. L to R: Christiane Charron, Linda Robertson, Gail Lalonde, Judy Evans, Volunteer Store Managers.





Support from the community helped the Foundation to ensure that the pandemic did not disrupt a longstanding tradition. Each February, staff of the Food & Nutrition and Therapeutic Recreation and Creative Arts programs prepare deep-fried pastries known as Perley Tails. Each resident gets one for free; the rest are sold to staff and visitors. This year, every resident and tenant who wanted a Perley Tail got one for free, thanks to the Foundation and the volunteers who helped with distribution. In the photo, Food & Nutrition Supervisor Katherine Malek prepares Perley Tails for distribution.

Name-that-Cart Campaign Raises \$3,000

A successful naming contest took care of a key item on the Priority Needs List.

o facilitate the task of vaccinating residents, staff, volunteers and visitors against the annual flu, Perley Rideau equips a cart with influenza vaccine, needles, permission forms and information kits, and then assigns staff to wheel it around the Health Centre during all three shifts. With the original cart showing its age and COVID-19 vaccines soon to arrive, funding a replacement was added to the Priority Needs List and donors were invited to propose names. Staff chose the top names and displayed them at a kiosk, where passersby voted for their favourite. The new cart was officially christened The Vac Mobile. Thanks to all donors and voters!



L to R: Delphine Haslé, Foundation Executive Director; Alex Huneault, Nadia Butt and Tania Paolini, Infection Prevention and Control Team.



L to R: Daniela Acosta, Collaborative Practice Leader and Alex Huneault, Infection Prevention and Control begin rounds with The Vac-Mobile.



Kelly Donahue, Special Approach PSW, votes for her favourite name.

Tim Hortons Delivers the (Baked) Goods

ecognizing that the ongoing pandemic imposes a physical and emotional toll on staff, local owners of Tim Hortons franchises graciously banded together to organize two mass deliveries of coffee and baked goods. To organize the donations, Christine Beaudrie, Regional Marketing Manager of Tim Hortons, contacted the Foundation.

L to R: Jen Plant, Director of Clinical Practice; Angela Leblanc, Human Resources Support Clerk; and Jennifer Brabbs, Administrative Assistant.

"Franchise owners across Canada direct our localmarketing efforts," says Christine Beaudrie. "They told us that they wanted to prioritize the Perley Rideau. And Perley Rideau staff told us that they appreciated the 'moment of normalcy' that our products represent. We're proud to help in this way."



L to R: Lisa Moylan, Registered Practical Nurse; Rosie Doyle and Yeshihareg Mulat, Food & Nutrition Aides.



L to R: Jennifer Parker-Jones, Occupational Therapist and Alexis Dennison, Registered Practical Nurse.



L to R: Colleen Summerton, PSW Supervisor and Samantha Diceman, Manager of Resident Care.

Managing the Pandemic, Preparing for the Future

ACCREDITED WITH EXEMPLARY STANDING

By Akos Hoffer, Chief Executive Officer The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre

Inimizing the threat that COVID-19 poses to the health and safety of residents, staff and their families remains our top priority. And thanks to the professionalism, hard work and dedication of our staff and community, we continue to do remarkably well on this priority. As this issue of *Honour and Care* goes to press, for example, more than eight months have passed since one of our residents tested positive for COVID-19, and the Therapeutic Recreation and Creative Arts studios have re-opened.

Approximately 95% of our residents, 85% of staff and 98% of Seniors Village have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. In line with an Ontario government directive, all those who come on-site regularly, including staff and volunteers, are tested for COVID-19 as frequently as three times a week. One of these involves the PRC test-the diagnostic standard—and the other is a rapid-antigen screen. Conducting such a large number of tests represents a significant challenge, and reduces the pool of resources we have available to provide bedside care to residents. The testing clinic must operate 14 hours a day to accommodate all three shifts and requires four staff members at all times. During this pandemic, our team of swab bosses, as we call them, has conducted a combined total of more than 36,916 tests and screens.

The strong performance of our staff has enabled us to safely and successfully welcome more than 100 new residents since the start of 2021. This is welcome news, although it is tempered by the suspension of temporary-stay programs, such as the respite care provided at the 12-bed Guest House, the creation of a 20-bed admissions unit and establishment of a 20-bed COVID unit that remains on standby. In addition, the SAFE pilot project (Sub-Acute Care for Frail Elderly) has been discontinued. During its few years in operation, SAFE demonstrated that so-called "stepdown" units can accelerate the transition of frail elderly patients from hospital to home and, in the process, free up much more expensive acutecare hospital beds and staff.

We continue to share our expertise and best practices in pandemic management with other long-term care (LTC) providers and with hospitals. In recent months, for instance, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Benoît Robert has helped out with The Ottawa Hospital's vaccination strike team and hosted weekly community-of-practice sessions for LTC medical directors and administrators. We also shared the success of our staff-vaccination campaigns in a video posted both on our site and on the website of the Ontario Hospital Association. Mary Boutette, our Chief Operating Officer, presented on the same topic to Advantage Ontario, the association of non-profit LTC homes. I was honoured to recently present to members of the Canadian College of Health Leaders my philosophies on fostering psychological safety and innovation, including the importance of nimble leadership, active listening, and empowering and engaging employees.

Relevant research is essential to our ability to manage both COVID-19 and future pandemics. I'm pleased to report that our Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care continues to contribute to this effort. One example is a study led by the Centre of Excellence that examines how the social isolation resulting from visitation and program restrictions impacts the psychosocial health of LTC residents, caregivers and family members. Another study we are supporting looks into how well vaccination protects LTC residents against COVID-19 over the long term. Several more Centre of Excellence research projects are either underway or in the planning stage. The Centre of Excellence, along with many other programs, are made possible by donations to the Perley Rideau Foundation.

The Government of Ontario has provisionally allocated Perley Rideau an additional 156 long-term care beds to help respond to growing local demand. Combined with an earlier allocation of 84 new beds, this provisional allocation, if confirmed, would result in a new 240 bed longterm care home. Several locations are under consideration, including the Perley Rideau campus. We continue to explore the feasibility of this project to meet current and future needs.

The ongoing pandemic represents only one of the many challenges facing the LTC sector. With the number of frail elderly Canadians expected to triple in the coming years, it's crucial that we identify, verify and implement more effective and efficient ways to provide appropriate care. While we remain focused on delivering top-quality care to our residents, we also continue to contribute to long-term solutions.





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Draws take place Thursdays at 1:30 pm.



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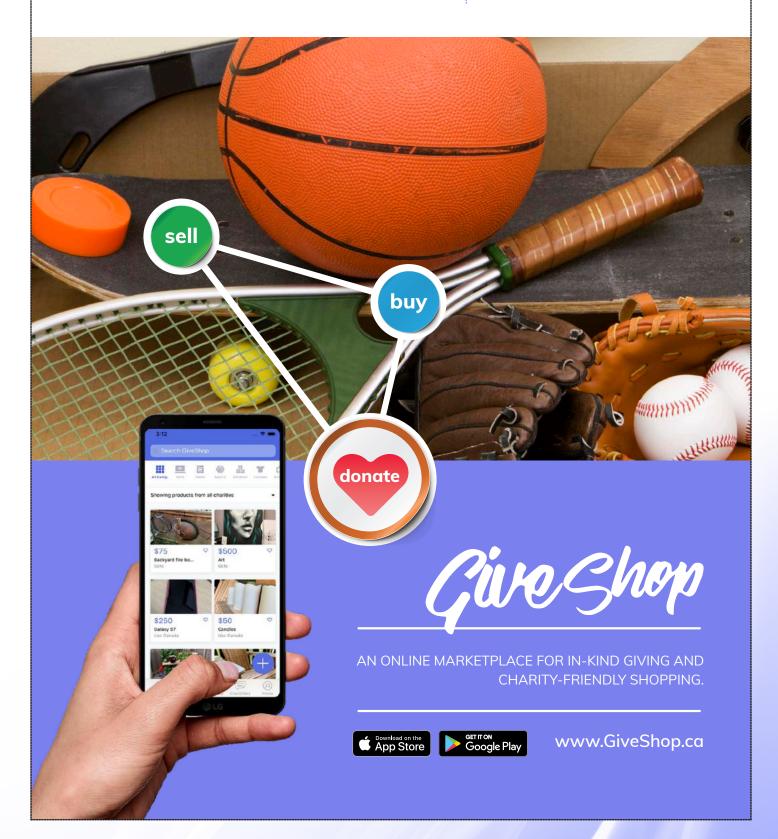
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The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation

Memorial Tributes December 1, 2020 to April 12, 2021 In memory of one or more of those listed below, supporters have recently made donations to the Perley Rideau Foundation.

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Honourary Tributes

In tribute to one or more of the living persons listed below, supporters have recently donated to the Perley Rideau Foundation.

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Perley Rideau Foundation

Together we improve the well-being of the people we serve

The Perley Rideau is an innovative Seniors Village with 450 long-term care beds and 139 independent-living apartments. Veterans enjoy priority access to 200 of the long-term care beds and to the apartments.

> Keith de Bellefeuille Percy Foundation Board Chair

Delphine Haslé Foundation Executive Director

Kristan K. Birchard Health Centre Board Chair

> Akos Hoffer Health Centre

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The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation

1750 Russell Road Ottawa, Ontario K1G 5Z6 Tel: (613) 526-7173 Email: dhasle@prvhc.com www.perleyrideaufoundation.ca

The poppy, as a symbol of remembrance, is a trademark of The Royal Canadian Legion. It is used here with the kind permission of the Legion.

