

# The Current

The Lachine Hospital Foundation Newsletter

*The Lachine Hospital  
The only community hospital  
of the McGill University  
Health Centre*

Fall | 2021

## OVER \$200 MILLION FOR HOSPITAL ADDITION

It's official! On June 29th the Quebec government issued a press release announcing that the budget for the Lachine Hospital's new wing will be over \$200 million. Construction will begin in Spring 2022 and the expansion is expected to be completed in 2026.

Situated on the northeast corner of St-Antoine Street and 16th Avenue, the 6-storey structure will have a total surface area of 177,605 sq. ft. with the south side of the building overlooking the beautiful forest-like setting of LaSalle Park.

The main floor will house a state-of-the-art emergency room that will be close to the intensive care unit. The current building's ICU is on the 5th floor – quite a ways away from the ER, but probably strategically placed when it was constructed back in 1940!

There will be a brand new suite of operating rooms – 6 in total, a designated area for endoscopy procedures, and a 10-bed palliative care ward. Like at the Glen site of the MUHC, all the rooms will be

(see page 3) ►



The Lachine Hospital's new addition will be completed in 2026



View of the main hospital entrance on 16th Avenue, and the new Emergency entrance



View of the ambulance bay at the corner of 16th Avenue and St-Antoine Street. The addition will house a new ER, ICU, operating suites and palliative care unit



North-facing view of new hospital wing from LaSalle Park (St-Antoine Street)

designed as individual patient rooms, which will significantly reduce the risk of infection.

Major upgrades to the current building including ambulatory services, the cafeteria and the laboratory, are also part of the modernization project plans.

In tandem with the construction project, the Lachine Hospital Foundation will run a \$5 million fundraising campaign to support the purchase of new hospital equipment that won't be included

in the government's budget. This is a huge undertaking for the Foundation and is expected to play out over the next 5 years

The official launch of the campaign will coincide with the start of construction next spring. In the meantime, the Foundation's permanent staff and board of directors have already begun preparing for what will be a busy and exciting time.

A campaign cabinet comprised of long-time hospital supporters

and community leaders will spearhead the fundraising initiative, which will focus on large corporations, local industries, foundations and individual donors.

Our community has been waiting a long time for this expansion project to come to life and we at the Foundation will do our very best to keep everyone informed about its progress. We look forward to sharing milestones with you and hope we can count on your support. ■



Architect's rendition of 6-room operating block



Architect's rendition of bariatric surgery room

## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

### Welcome to the Fall 2021 edition of The Current

I hope that you and your loved ones continue to be safe and healthy, and I appreciate you taking the time to find out what's happening at the Lachine Hospital and the Foundation.

As you saw on the previous pages, not only will construction of the new hospital wing start next spring, the budget has been approved for over \$200 million. The Foundation is committed to raising \$5 million in support of the project so that the new building will have the most sophisticated medical equipment available.

The official launch of our \$5 million major fundraising campaign will also take place in the Spring of 2022. This means that we are currently in the silent phase, or year one, of a 5-year campaign, taking all the necessary steps to properly position the Foundation for the best possible results.

Donors who wish to make significant contributions to the new hospital wing will be able to disperse their donations over a 5-year period, and depending on the amount, will be formally recognized when construction is finished. You will be hearing more about this as the project progresses, as well as the different giving options available through planned testimonial donations.

Our Heroes Recognition evening was a resounding success, and we raised \$152,000 which was an

exceptional result, considering that we set out to raise \$100,000. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the 'heroes' who appeared in our videos, community members and donors who attended the virtual event, and of course all of our sponsors, particularly Eco Lachine/ Aldo Construction who were the event's Presenting Partner.

For the 2nd year, the Foundation will be holding a virtual auction in order to raise funds for the hospital. A variety of over 100 prizes will be up for grabs to the highest bidders. The auction will run from November 18th to December 2nd and will be the perfect opportunity to do some online Christmas shopping for unique gifts, while supporting a great cause. Please have a look at page 9 for more details.

We hope you enjoy this issue of The Current. For more news about the Foundation or to subscribe to our e-mail list, please visit [lachinehospitalfoundation.ca](http://lachinehospitalfoundation.ca), and don't forget to 'like' and follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/fondationhopitallachine](https://facebook.com/fondationhopitallachine). ■

—Jacques Filion



**Jacques Filion**  
Chairman of the Lachine  
Hospital Foundation

## ARRIVEDERCI PAPI DOMENICO DE SANTIS



Domenico and his son Tony

A bright light that shone for over 102 years went out when **Domenico De Santis** passed away in June of this year.

Born in Italy in 1919, Mr. De Santis lived through the reign of Mussolini, the Great Depression and World War II. As a young man he served in the Italian military and spent six years in a prisoner of war camp in South Africa. He eventually immigrated to Canada in 1958 with his wife Maria and his two children, Tony and Rita, and lived a full and happy life with his family in Montreal.

The last two years of Mr. De Santis' life were spent in Lachine Hospital's long term care residence, the Camille Lefebvre Pavillion. The east wing on the 2nd floor is a highly specialized unit designed for residents who require respirators to breathe. During most of this time - pandemic restrictions permitting, his son Tony visited him on week-days and his daughter Rita, on week-ends.

Mr. De Santis' presence at Ca-

mille Lefebvre was a true ray of sunshine to anyone who frequented the 2nd floor. He sported a perpetual smile, never complained, and staff members adored him. Nurses and orderlies alike called him 'Papi' and his son felt like they treated him as they would their own father.

### Praise for Camille-Lefebvre Employees

After Mr. De Santis' death, Tony wrote a heartfelt letter to **France Nadon**, the unit's manager, praising the staff for the care his father received.



Domenico's room decorated for his 102nd birthday

*"... The 2nd floor at Camille Lefebvre has been exceptional in all that a family member can ask for. The care, the empathy, the professional attitude and the sincerity shown by the staff has been nothing but impressive.*

*You are an exceptional team and deserve all the accolades and attention necessary, so that you*

*can continue to give the best care to your most fragile patients. Your employees deserve to be recognized as the best in the healthcare industry in Quebec. I will never forget all that you have done for my father."*



With family, Maria, Tony and Rita

Tony's words are even more powerful, due to the fact that since the outset of the pandemic and to this day, there has not been one case of COVID-19 in the Camille Lefebvre Pavillion. So not only did the employees take incredible care of Mr. De Santis and his fellow residents, they also protected them from the cruel virus.

A group of Papi's admirers from the 2nd floor unit attended his funeral, which truly touched the De Santis family. Tony has promised that as soon as all the COVID-19 restrictions are completely removed, he will return to Camille Lefebvre with "cannolis and Prosecco" to share a last moment with the staff in honour of his father, and to thank them in person. ■

## The Current

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# HONORING LACHINE HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES

# AT THE HEROES RECOGNITION EVENING

Lachine Hospital Foundation MUHC

## HEROES

Recognition Evening

Each year in May, the Lachine Hospital Foundation holds its major fundraising gala, with over 400 people in attendance. This year, for obvious reasons, the decision was made to still have the event, but in a virtual format.

The organizing committee felt without a doubt that the event should pay tribute to all of the hospital workers, who, under the most trying and difficult circumstances, kept the hospi-

tal running, and protected and cared for the community's most vulnerable people.

The Heroes Recognition Evening, presented by Eco Lachine and Aldo Construction, was an incredible success. Thanks to the participation of over 20 sponsors and loyal Foundation supporters, it raised a record \$152,000 – the most ever for a May gala. Participating guests received a gourmet boxed meal with a bottle of wine, and had access to the event on a Zoom platform. Chat rooms were set up prior to the start of the presentation so that people could mingle with friends and family.

There was an emcee that was live in studio, who skillfully

introduced all the pre-recorded segments, which included video interviews with doctors, emergency room nurses, long-term care managers, security staff, and others, giving heartfelt testimonials about how their work and lives were affected by COVID-19.

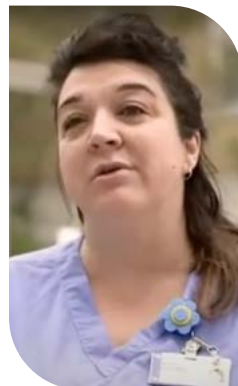
So much goes on behind the scenes every day in hospitals that most of us are not aware of. Most people cannot even imagine what these employees went through while being in the eye of the pandemic storm. The videos offered a glimpse of that, and the people who watched them were touched and filled with admiration for these modern-day Lachine Hospital heroes. ■



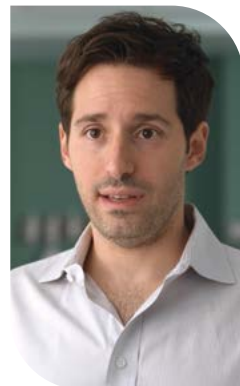
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Nancy Haince



Valérie Bouchard



Dr. John Angelopoulos



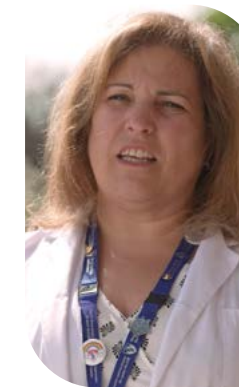
Claude Briault



Dr. Nicole Ezer



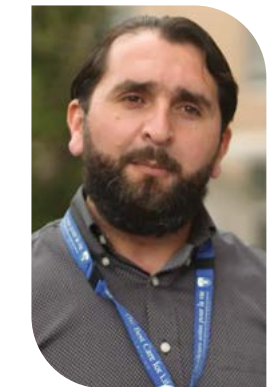
Judith Morlese



France Nadon



Chantale Bourdeau



Saleh Hadj Amara



Aldo Coviello

### Greetings!

It was a true honor for Eco Lachine and Aldo Construction to be the Presenting Partner at the Lachine Hospital Foundation's Heroes Recognition evening on May 29th. We were extremely proud to be a part of an event that paid tribute to employees who gave so much of themselves during the pandemic, all for the good of the patients.

For more than 100 years the Lachine Hospital has looked out for its community. This steadfast institution, well-known for its high standard of service

has continually provided optimum care to everyone in need.

The pandemic has changed the entire world. And while we've all adapted to a new reality, our hospital workers showed great courage and strength in order to protect us.

Eco Lachine and Aldo Construction will soon begin the development of 1,250,000 square feet of land in Lachine and we look very much forward to being a part of the community for many years to come. ■

**Aldo Coviello**  
President, Eco Lachine



Les Sœurs de Sainte-Anne du Québec



A definite must-see, the video of the bilingual Heroes Recognition event is available to watch online on the Foundation's webpage at:

<https://lachinehospitalfoundation.ca/2021/06/09/video-heroes-recognition-evening/>

## NEW FACES AT THE FOUNDATION



Fernanda Civitella

### Board of Governors

The Foundation is pleased to announce the recent nomination of **Fernanda Civitella** to the board of governors. As the pharmacist/owner of the Pharmaprix store in the Dorval Gardens shopping centre, Fernanda loyally supported the Lachine Hospital for many years. In spite of recently

selling the business, she wanted to continue her involvement in the community, and accepted the invitation without hesitation. The Foundation is indeed fortunate to have Fernanda with us, please join us as we send her a warm welcome. ■



Albena Petkova

### Foundation Permanent Staff

We are excited to announce that the Foundation is growing with the recent hiring of **Albena Petkova** as Director, Philanthropy and Communications. Albena worked at the Foundation 10 years ago and is a strong believer in our mission.

She comes with over 15 years experience in the social impact sector and has worked for charities such as the Teresa Dellar Palliative Care Residence, the Douglas Foundation and most recently West Island Community Shares. Welcome Albena! ■



Jeannette Ruiz

### Le Café de Lachine

After a roller-coaster ride of closing, re-opening and closing again due to the pandemic, *Le Café* opened its doors once again – and hopefully for good, on September 20th. We'd like to extend a special thank you to Rebecca Di Julio for all her hard work in getting the business off the ground

back in October 2019. Rebecca went on to another venture but we are happy to introduce **Jeannette Ruiz**, our new coffee shop manager. Jeannette has skillfully assumed the responsibility of preparing delicious coffees, sandwiches and snacks for anyone visiting the hospital, and of course, the employees. If you are at the hospital, please drop by to say hello to Jeannette. All proceeds generated from *Le Café* sales will be used to purchase equipment for the hospital. ■

## ONLINE HOLIDAY AUCTION

For the 2nd year, the Foundation will be holding a virtual auction in order to raise funds for the hospital. A variety of over 100 prizes will be up for grabs to the highest bidders. Bidding opens on November 18th and closes on Thursday, December 2nd. It will be the perfect opportunity to do some online Christmas shopping for unique gifts, while supporting a great cause. ■

Visit:

<http://lachinehospitalgiving.ca> to participate.

**Online Holiday Auction**  
To support the Lachine Hospital of the MUHC!

**Online Auction**  
November 18<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>

**LACHINE**  
Lachine Hospital Foundation MUHC

[lachinehospitalgiving.ca](http://lachinehospitalgiving.ca)

The graphic features a festive winter theme with snowflakes, evergreen trees, and red Christmas ornaments. One ornament prominently displays the year '2021'. Another set of hands holding 'OFFRE' and 'BID' signs is visible on the left side of the central text box.

# INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

The Lachine Hospital Foundation was established in 1976 by volunteers, and to this day it continues to be directed and overseen by a volunteer board of directors. Since 1976, the Foundation has contributed over \$6 million towards improvements for the hospital and the purchase of state-of-

the-art medical equipment.

International Volunteer Day is coming up on December 5th and it's a perfect opportunity to express gratitude to the Lachine Hospital Foundation's board of directors. These volunteers come from all walks of life and give their time and energy all year

round in support of a cause that they all feel very strongly about - our community hospital. We are so fortunate to have a group of dedicated people watching over the Foundation. Please join in as we say,

THANK YOU!! ■



**Jacques Filion**  
Chairman



**François Mackay**  
Vice Chairman



**Diane Bélair**  
Treasurer



**Lena Maddelli**  
Secretary



**Chantal Bourdeau**



**Claude Briault**



**Yves Chartier**



**Myriam Dion**



**Richard Fahey**



**Dr. Sunil Garg**



**Margo Heron**



**Pierre-Marc Legris**



**Geneviève Levac**



**Micheline Rouleau**



**Pierre Soucy**



**Raynald Lachance**

A fond farewell and heartfelt thanks go out to **Raynald Lachance**, who leaves us after 12 years on the board, several in which he was Treasurer. ■



**Bruno Poudrier**

We'd also like to say thank you to **Bruno Poudrier**, Head of Ambulatory Services. Bruno recently retired after working more than 30 years, and he represented the hospital on the board of directors. We wish him all the very best in this new chapter of his life. ■

# THE PANDEMIC UNITES INTERNATIONAL CARTOONISTS IN SUPPORT OF THE HOSPITAL



PHOTO BY DAVE SIDAWAY / Montreal Gazette

Terry Mosher has been a resident of Lachine since 2005. He has worked for fifty years as the political cartoonist for The Montreal Gazette using the pen name Aislin – actually the name of his eldest daughter. And recently, he joined the Lachine Hospital Foundation's Board of Governors.

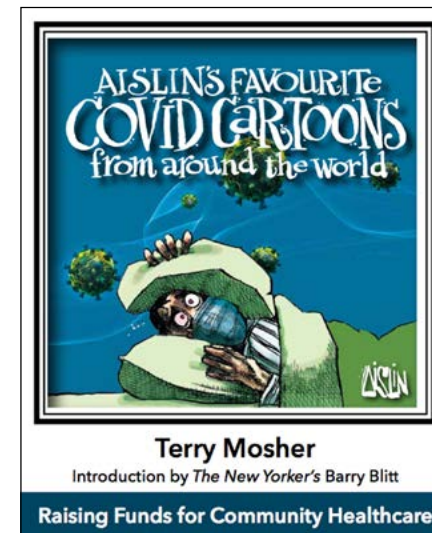
When the pandemic hit in March of 2020, Terry and his wife Mary Hughson were on vacation in South Carolina. Coming home early, he began puzzling over how he might cartoon COVID, as the situation was deteriorating globally. Terry came up with the idea of compiling a book of cartoons drawn on the subject not only by himself, but also by his many cartoonist colleagues – many of them friends – from all over the world. Informed that a significant portion of the proceeds would be donated to The Lachine Hospital in thanks for the great work done by the staff during the pandemic, all of the cartoonists contacted agreed

to participate. We thank them all.

Entitled **Aislin's Favourite COVID Cartoons From Around the World**, the 336-page anthology features 100 cartoonists from 38 nations. The books are \$30

including tax, and autographed copies are available for purchase through the Lachine Hospital Foundation. The perfect idea for a holiday gift, you can order yours today and support the hospital by contacting Albena Petkova at:

[albena.petkova@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:albena.petkova@muhc.mcgill.ca) by phone at 514-934-1934, ext. 77432 or on our website: [lachinehospitalfoundaton.ca](http://lachinehospitalfoundaton.ca) ■



This past October, Canada Post unveiled five stamps that celebrate five of Canada's greatest editorial cartoonists, whose thought-provoking work has helped shape our national fabric. Our very own Lachinois, Terry Mosher, aka Aislin, is one of the honorees. Over the last half-century, Terry has drawn more than 14,000 cartoons, which have appeared around the world. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada and has won two National Newspaper Awards and is a gold winner of the National Magazine Award. Terry is pictured above with his cartoon of the Canada-Russia 1972 hockey series that was chosen for the stamp, and his dog Sparky. ■



## The Lachine Hospital Foundation 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. Any patient who comes to the hospital requiring more complex care has direct access to all areas of specialty medicine offered throughout the MUHC’s network of hospitals. For more information, please visit [muhc.ca/lachine](http://muhc.ca/lachine)

The Foundation’s objective is to make the patient experience as efficient and comfortable as possible by funding the purchase of medical equipment and hospital improvements that are not included in the provincial government’s healthcare budget.

Each year, numerous departments receive new instruments or funds for upgrades that help enhance the quality of care that patients receive. This is made possible thanks to the generosity of donors and sponsors who take part in the many different fundraising initiatives that the Foundation organizes. ■

The Foundation and hospital administration work closely together to determine what the most urgent needs are. In 2021 the Foundation will contribute over \$260,000 towards hospital improvements and the purchase of equipment – in many cases, for Covid-19 requirements.

Here is a sampling of how your donations are benefitting Lachine Hospital patients:

- Camille Lefebvre Long-term Care \$25,000**
- Palliative Care \$15,000**
- Ophthalmology \$10,000**
- Surgery \$15,000**
- Medical Imaging \$55,000**
- Pharmacy \$50,000**
- Covid-19 Needs \$88,000**

*Each donation makes a difference.  
Every dollar counts. Please give today.*

[lachinehospitalfoundation.ca](http://lachinehospitalfoundation.ca)

### Lachine Hospital Foundation MUHC

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