

LEGACY SOCIETY

FALL/WINTER 2020-21
HONOURING SAM RUTH

We hope that you are staying healthy, safe and connected with friends and family. Baycrest's pandemic response includes reaching out to our community with telemedicine visits, an innovative virtual adult day program, and educational materials for workers in the long-term care sector. Please visit baycrest.org for helpful resources and tips from experts.

Time for reflection

These are unusual times. Our staff at Baycrest are working around-the-clock to protect seniors who are so vulnerable in this pandemic. When we do have the chance to recharge, it's often quietly at home. Like most people, we have had an opportunity in recent months to reflect on what has meaning and importance in our lives.

Across society, there is greater awareness of the need for compassionate care, education and research to improve life for older adults. Our feature story highlights an individual who has her eye on the future and wants to make an impact.

On behalf of Baycrest, I would like to extend my best wishes to all of the members of the Sam Ruth Legacy Society. Be well, and stay safe.



Josh Cooper
President & CEO
Baycrest Foundation



Baycrest

Inspiration Leads to Impactful Legacy Gift

For Linda Burman, it's not just a gift, it's a legacy.

Recently, Linda decided to make a donation to Baycrest as well as name the organization in her will to receive benefits from her estate.



Linda Burman

"I was working for Apple in California in the early 1990s when my mother, who was only in her early 70's, passed away. It rapidly became apparent that my father had early Alzheimer's so I moved back to Toronto to make it possible for him to stay in his home. I knew that a dementia patient needed to have familiar touchpoints and people around them to maximize memory and to reduce stress," she said.

"At the time, I remembered that the Terraces of Baycrest was around so I arranged for my father to enter their incredible facility. He was still very functional at that stage of the disease. But even when his condition began to worsen, the Terraces was fantastic for him. The staff members there were so generous with their time and knowledge. They could not have been more accommodating. When he became frightened or upset they always phoned me at work so I could reassure him. I was just so impressed."

As a result, Linda joined the advisory board of the Terraces of Baycrest and stayed on for a decade after the death of her father to help contribute to what she calls "a very important cause".

Today, in honour of the care her late father, Samuel Burman, received and the good work being done by and at Baycrest, Linda wants to give back to ensure that work can continue for those who will need it in the future.

"Even though most of the people I used to work with or know at the Terraces have since retired or gone elsewhere, I still feel very connected to that place. It meant so much to me and my father."

Linda wants anyone considering where to leave a legacy donation to think about leaving it to Baycrest.

"There are very few programs for people with aged parents and for older adults in general that have such a strong staff to resident ratio. This allows for so much care. Also, you can see just how well-trained, professional and compassionate the staff members are at The Terraces," she said. "They are so attuned to the individual needs of the residents. It's not just a place where one 'shuffles off' their aging loved ones. It's such an inspiring place."

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Myths on Wills

They say death and taxes are the only things in life that are inevitable. That is why having a will as part of your estate plan is crucial. Despite being aware of the inevitable, approximately 50% of Canadians do not have a will. Read on to learn about common myths surrounding wills and estate planning.

Only the wealthy, ill or elderly need a will.

Often, there is a mental hurdle that prevents people from having a will prepared as part of their estate plan, including the notion that a will is only necessary if you're wealthy, ill, or older. While it's true that there is more of a pressing need for an estate plan if you fall into one of these categories, healthy adults of all ages, and people who don't have a lot of money still need a will and an estate plan.

Creating a will as part of your estate plan will safeguard family members, minimize the risk against family conflict and ensure that your wishes regarding who inherits your property are fulfilled.

I already made a will so I don't need anything else.

While a will is a very important part of an estate plan, it is not the only tool you need, nor can it be a substitute for tools that serve other purposes.

As a will only takes effect after you die, it is crucial to have Powers of Attorney prepared, appointing

those you trust to manage your financial affairs and your expressed health care wishes should the need arise during your lifetime. Your will should be kept current as life circumstances occur.



Lisa
Desgrosseilliers

I can avoid probate if I make a will.

The requirement for probate of your will is at the discretion of the asset holder, usually financial institutions and governmental authorities, who will typically require probate prior to allowing assets held to be liquidated. Taxes will have to be paid to the government based upon the value of assets which require probate. While probate is not as time-consuming and expensive as many believe, even the simplest probate process can last months and involve significant expenses. Estate planning may minimize or even avoid probate.

Wills are essential documents for all adults; think of it in the same context as going to the doctor for your annual check-up, only in this instance, it's a check-up on your estate rather than your health. With a better understanding of the importance of having a will and creating an estate plan, you can look at the idea of estate planning in a new light.

Lisa Desgrosseilliers is Head of Estate and Trust Services Canadian National Institute for the Blind, (Licensed Paralegal and Law Clerk)

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According to Linda, Samuel was grateful for the warmth and support he received at Baycrest. "My father was not a loquacious man, but I could always tell how happy and reassured he felt being in such a great place. He always wanted to introduce me to staff and friends there whenever I visited him."

For Linda, the fact that the Terraces of Baycrest staff always treated her father with respect and dignity, no

matter which stage of the disease he was in, made all the difference.

"That was so impactful to me. To this day, I just feel the need to do something to give back to Baycrest." Linda Burman is a digital asset strategy expert who runs a consultancy business at www.laburman.com.

To learn more about estate planning and legacy giving at Baycrest, go to baycrestfoundation.org/legacy or contact Becki Willoughby at bwilloughby@baycrest.org.

What will your legacy be?

A gift in your Will helps you take advantage of estate Tax benefits and realize your charitable goals.

Contact our Legacy Giving team member:
416-785-2500 Becki Willoughby ext. 3895, Joanne Gittens ext. 2023, Melissa Sobel ext. 6288.

Professional Advisory Committee

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Gottdenker
HALL OF HONOUR
DONOR CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 1, 2020

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Virtual Event via Zoom

For more information contact Tracey Steyn
tsteyn@baycrest.org / 416-785-2500 ext. 5465