

University of Windsor graduate and former Lancer quarterback, Patrick Muldoon, Heart Transplant Recipient.....get's second chance at life!!!!



After receiving his life saving miracle, Patrick Muldoon is back to work and enjoying life again. He played quarterback for the Lancer in 1983 season and graduated in 1985. Patrick fills many of his off hours as the Financial and Technical Director for Sport Fest Windsor a non profit organization formed to promote organ & tissue donation awareness through sporting, cultural and entertainment events.

Tom and Roger Awad Co Chairs of Sport Fest Windsor, www.SportFestWindsor.org contacted Patrick's brother Rick when they heard about a fundraiser for Patrick who just happened to be a friend of the Awad family. "We wanted to help Rick in his efforts to raise funds for Patrick, so we chipped in with funds and promotional help on our website www.SportFestWindsor.org", explains Tom Awad.

After his miracle gift, Patrick wanted to give something back to this worthy cause and honor his donor family, so he joined Sport Fest Windsor in an effort to use his technical expertise to help in any way he can.

Since Patrick's heart transplant, he has been a tireless worker helping to promote this great cause. As Patrick put it, *"it is like having a new battery installed"*. He has spent countless hours redesigning the Sport Fest Windsor website, participated in May promotional events, raised funds and has been a spokesperson for organ & tissue transplantation.

"If only people knew how easy it is to register their consent and how they can possibly save so many lives". Unfortunately, it is like anything else, it doesn't seem to hit home unless you or your family are affected by a tragedy. Simply go online and register your consent as an organ & tissue donor at www.beadonor.ca...it only takes 3 minutes", explains Patrick.

"The downside to organ transplants is...someone has to lose their life so that you may get your second chance", says Tom. "I think of my donor family everyday and the devastation and sorrow they must have felt in the loss of their loved one" adds Patrick.

Historically organ donation has only occurred after brain death and only a small percentage of all hospital deaths result from a determination of neurological death (brain death). Some estimates are as small as 1.5-2%. Organ transplantation has evolved from an experimental treatment to the treatment of choice for thousands of Ontarians who await the gift of life. Unfortunately, the supply of solid organs for transplantation has not met the demand and has remained relatively unchanged over the past decade. 90% of the Windsor and Essex County residence agree with organ donation, but unfortunately, only 14% are officially registered with the Trillium Gift of Life Registry.

Even if you have registered your consent to donate your organs and tissue, doctors will ask your family before recovering your organs and tissue.

You may find the topic of organ and tissue donation an uncomfortable one to think about, let alone make a firm decision, but keep in mind that when someone suddenly passes away, the family is often faced with this difficult decision at the worst of times. Things can be made a little easier if the family is aware of the wishes of the organ

and tissue donor. Knowing that their loved one's final wishes were carried out, and helped to save lives in the process, can be a great source of solace.

Tips on discussing this important decision with your family:

- Prepare for your conversation. Make your personal decision about donation. Think about possible questions and seek answers.
- Talk about it where it feels natural. Where does your family feel most comfortable discussing sensitive issues? In the family room, the car, on a walk?
- Have the discussion with everyone who may need to know. Who would be called to your bedside if you were about to die? These are the people who will be asked for permission to proceed with donation. Talk to them about your decision and listen openly to their concerns. Explain why their support is important.
- Take the time to find out what each person in your family would want you to say in the event that you were asked for permission to donate their organs or tissues.

By talking it over with your family you will make it easier for your loved ones to consent to organ and tissue donation on your behalf. As many donor families will attest, the donation of a loved one's organs helped them find comfort in a tragic situation.

For more information visit www.giftoflife.on.ca or www.beadonor.ca