



# Caring for the Future

2022 NEWSLETTER

## Curiouser and curiouser!

The words of Lewis Carroll's Alice do a great job describing the past year! Certainly 2021 did not see us moving back toward "normal" life — at least not for very long.

Here at St. Paul's Foundation, we continue to see most of our staff working remotely the majority of the time. Some things, like the construction of the new St. Paul's Hospital have stayed on track and we were able to celebrate Lights of Hope in 2021 with a small in-person gathering.

We hope you will take a few minutes to enjoy the donor stories in this year's newsletter and we wish you a kinder, gentler year ahead.

Thank you for your loyal support of health care in our community.

Dick Vollet  
President & CEO  
St. Paul's Foundation

Karen E. Brown  
Director, Estate Giving &  
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St. Paul's Foundation

[helpstpauls.com](http://helpstpauls.com)

## John Joseph "Jack" O'Neill A Self-Made Man

Jack O'Neill was a man who believed in hard work and who possessed an entrepreneurial spirit that saw him create and lead an impressive group of companies during his career.

Jack's first job was in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He went to work for Canadian National Railways as a clerk and soon rose to the position of general manager of a hotel in Brandon, Manitoba.

Winnipeg is also where he met and married his beloved wife, Patricia O'Neill (nee Davis). The couple had six sons before they decided to move to Vancouver in 1959. Jack and Pat's seventh and final son was born in Vancouver, at St. Paul's Hospital. So began a life-long relationship with the hospital. The family settled in West Vancouver in the early 1960's, but over the years found themselves back at St. Paul's Hospital when injury or illness interrupted regular life. Of course, some of their 19 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren also gave cause for the occasional trip to St. Paul's Hospital!

Jack spent much of his entrepreneurial career founding and heading up catering and



hotel companies that provided meals and accommodation to remote work crews in the mining, lumber, and pipeline industries. These businesses also provided a steady stream of summer employment for those seven sons!

Work often took Jack away from home, but he still found time to cheer on his boys as they played football for Vancouver College. He wouldn't miss a game if he was in town. Fishing, boating, and spending time in Whistler and Palm Desert rounded out Jack's leisure time. He had an extensive knowledge of wildlife, especially birds.

Jack and Pat spent 63 years together until Pat's death in 2012. Together they raised a large family of whom they were both very proud.

We are truly grateful to have been counted as part of this self-made man's legacy through a gift Jack made to St. Paul's Foundation in his will. Thank you Jack!



## Patricia Mathilda “Pat” Proudfoot The Trailblazer

Pat was born near Kronau, Saskatchewan in 1928, the youngest of the Fahlman family’s 10 children. The family moved to Kelowna while Pat was still a child and this is where she discovered one of the great loves of her life: baseball! In high school she won a trophy for best batting average and she went on to become a lifetime fan of the Toronto Blue Jays. A move to Vancouver brought her to Nat Bailey Stadium and many years of baseball happiness.

Pat decided at an early age to become a lawyer. With her parent’s encouragement and after finishing her Bachelor’s degree at UBC, she went straight on to law school graduating in 1952.



Afterward, she took up practicing law in Vancouver. It was in those years that she met a charming Scotsman by the name of Arthur Proudfoot, a travel agent and writer who booked Pat onto a trip she very much enjoyed. This singular introduction led to their marriage in 1959 and the beginning of a long and happy life together.

In 1971, at age 43, Pat was appointed to the BC Provincial Court. In her almost 40 years as a sitting judge, Pat became the first woman appointed to every level of court within British Columbia. She completed her trailblazing career serving for over 20 years on the BC Court of Appeal: here, she wasn’t called Pat, she was called “My Lady” or “the Honourable Madam Justice Proudfoot!”

Pat lived a full life with Arthur. They loved to socialize, travel, golf, and spend winters on Australia’s Gold Coast. Pat also volunteered with a number of organizations, especially those seeking to improve conditions for women and children.

Pat’s connection to St. Paul’s Hospital came through Arthur. He received care at the hospital during his difficult journey with cancer, which sadly ended his life in 1996. Pat was especially grateful for the care Arthur received on the palliative unit and she decided to include a gift for the unit in her will.

In fact, Pat left the majority of her estate to charities for the benefit of children and health care. Her deep concern for those around her was her true legacy and we are honoured to be part of this trailblazer’s story. Thank you Pat!

## Caring for the Future Honour Roll

In 2021, St. Paul's Foundation of Vancouver received \$5,280,000 from the estates of donors who chose to make a very special legacy gift in support of health care in our community. We received gifts for St. Paul's Hospital, Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, Holy Family Hospital, and for programs, sites, and services across Providence Health Care. We honour each donor for their legacy of compassion and we extend our heartfelt thanks to the following donors and their families:

Estate of Helen Lenore Bailey	Estate of Yem Ping Liu
Estate of Robert Douglas Bruce	Estate of Mary C. Messere
Estate of Mary Philomena Burdett	Estate of Francesca Nichele
Estate of Betty Chen Ching Chu	Estate of Vivienne Claire Nutter
Estate of Heather Astral Clarkson	Pat and Jack O'Neill
Estates of Allan and Elsie Farrar	Estate of Phillis Jane Oliver
Estate of Agnes Kayoko Fujisawa	Estate of Agnes Roberta Anne Paxy
Estate of Lea Galloway	In memory of Renia (née Sperber) Perel, her husband Moshe Aaron Perel, and her daughter, Freda Sharon Perel
Estate of Thelma Godfrey	
Estate of Rodg Harry Goptin	John Petz
In Memory of John & Jeannick Helm	Estate of Patricia M. Proudfoot
Estate of James Rolland Heyworth	Estate of Gilbert Sage
Estate of Sheila Holland	Estate of Edward R. Soltis
Estates of John and Helen Hopkins	Estate of Wai Yin Tam
Estate of Mary Ann Horton	Estate of Gail Naomi Tesch
Estate of Mary McDonald Hunter	Estate of Robert Mark Thompson
Estate of Melville E. Ives	Estate of Robyn Williamson
Estate of Jeannie B. Jensen	Estate of Cecilia (Sau Yuet) Wong
Estate of Corry Koster	



## Caring for the Future Tea: Save the Date? Maybe!

In a display of sheer optimism, we are asking that you hold the afternoon of **Wednesday, June 15th, 2022** in your calendar for our next Caring for the Future Society Tea!

We'll hold off making bookings for the next few weeks, but it's our fondest hope that the pandemic will soon begin to wane and that we'll be able to gather safely in the early summer.

We will be in touch in May with either an update or an invitation!





# There comes a point where medicine can only do so much. That's where I come in.

By Joshua Denny-Keys, grateful music therapist

My name is Joshua Denny-Keys. I'm a certified music therapist on the Palliative Care Unit at St. Paul's Hospital. I have the privilege of bringing music – and comfort – to our patients during their end-of-life transition.

I help ease pain, soften fears, and raise spirits. When visitors feel awkward or tongue-tied, my music holds space for them so they aren't frightened or uncomfortable.

One of the doctors jokes with our patients saying, "Josh can make you feel better than I can!" It's true. There comes a point where medicine can only do so much. That's where I come in.

I remember one patient who was nearing the end of a long, brutal illness. Still, she'd sing along when I played her favourites from The Beatles and John Denver. (*Country Roads* is probably my biggest request!)

The music carried her out of her hospital bed and back to happier times.

During one of our visits, I wondered if she'd like to record a couple of songs to leave behind for her husband and two teenaged children. She happily agreed!

I recorded her and her husband singing *Here, There, and Everywhere* by The Beatles. The song includes the line: *Knowing that love is to share, each one believing that love never dies*. It was a powerful experience for us all!

Recently, her son reached out to me. He said I had helped her to live on through song. It struck me: my music now takes him back to happier times, just as it did for his mom!



If you would like more information about making a gift through your estate, or if you would like to discuss the purpose of your intended gift, contact:



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