

## Sandy Mooney's Story

After 30 years together in our house in Richmond, my husband and I knew it was time to move. Hugh and I spent months sorting through all of our possessions and the memories they carried. Giving up things we treasured was difficult, but by the end of August, we were enjoying a more compact life in our new condo, just a couple of blocks away from Richmond Hospital. Even though we were still unpacking, we anticipated a quiet end to a hectic 2013.

We didn't know that another drastic change was only weeks away.

It began slowly, first as a pain on my right side. I thought it might be my appendix. Then the pain was on the left side. Maybe it was my kidney? Soon, the pain was in the middle of my abdomen, and I had no idea what to suspect.

When I started losing weight, I got really worried. I haven't lost an ounce in 20 years, so I knew something was wrong. We went to see our family doctor early one Friday morning. He felt my stomach, and told Hugh to take me to emergency at Richmond Hospital immediately.

We are all incredibly fortunate to have Richmond Hospital and its highly skilled doctors and nurses so close to home. Exceptional emergency, surgical and home care – right on our doorstep – is worth investing in. Thank you for supporting your community through Richmond Hospital Foundation. When an emergency strikes, it's good to know that help is just around the corner.



**Sandy and Hugh Mooney**

**One of the many things Hugh and I appreciate about living in Richmond is how close everything is. We're able to stay busy and active in the community: I volunteer with veterans a few blocks from home and Hugh enjoys golfing and curling nearby. But on that October morning, we were just grateful that Richmond Hospital was only minutes away.**

At the hospital, our doctor's diagnosis was confirmed: my large intestine had ruptured. Polyps, common in seniors, had obstructed my intestine and caused it to burst. Waste from my digestive system was spilling into my abdominal cavity. Without immediate surgery, gangrene would set in, spread through my body, and leave my husband a widower.

When I was wheeled into the operating room that same day, I thought Hugh looked frightened. He told me later, "I wasn't too worried about the operation—I knew you were in excellent hands. But I was terrified that the polyps would be cancerous."

Hugh was right about being in good hands: the medical team was wonderful. During the five-and-a-half hour surgery, the wonderful surgeon removed a large section of my intestine—and all of the polyps. Thankfully, the polyps were benign.

During my recovery, Hugh and I were once again reminded how thankful we are that Richmond Hospital is nearby. Hugh came to visit me twice a day for three weeks. If I had needed to go to elsewhere for surgery, it would have been impossible for him to make that trip, through heavy traffic, every day.

Hugh says, "There's a sense of security being so close to the hospital," and he's right. Thanks to the generous support of our community, I was able to get the care I needed at Richmond Hospital close to my home, my friends and my husband. Your donation helps Richmond Hospital care for all of us, when our health, or the health of a loved one, takes an unexpected turn.

Even after I returned home, Richmond Hospital continued to look after me. It truly is a community hospital, and provides a whole continuum of care. Before I left the hospital, they helped arrange home care nursing services through Vancouver Coastal Health. The home care nurses came and helped with my recovery every day for a month. Hugh and I got to know them well, and appreciated all the care they gave us.

Today, I'm recovering well – so well that Hugh and I are able to enjoy life and get back to what we love doing together. I can't express how thankful I am that people like you choose to give to Richmond Hospital Foundation. You've given Hugh and me the precious gift of more time together!

**Please send your gift today, and support our community hospital. You can send your gift by returning the enclosed form, by phoning 604-244-5252, or by visiting the Foundation website at [www.richmondhospitalfoundation.com](http://www.richmondhospitalfoundation.com)**

With sincerest thanks,

**Sandy Mooney**

P.S. Richmond Hospital relies on all of us - every gift makes a difference. Please give generously today.

