



RICHMOND HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION

列治文醫院基金會

Thanks to gifts from the community, Doug received lifesaving cancer care when he needed it most.



Dear friend,

My name is Doug. My wife, Daphne, and I have lived in Steveston since 1977. We just celebrated our 50th anniversary together and I've never felt more in love and grateful for her than I am today. You see, Daphne has helped me fight through some of the worst days of my life. Three years ago, I was diagnosed with malignant melanoma, one of the most aggressive types of cancer.

The doctors at Richmond Hospital worked tirelessly, again and again, to save my life. I am lucky to be alive, and that's why I want to share my story with you.

Gifts from the community mean so much to those who are experiencing their own medical crisis. **With your added support, Richmond residents can receive expert care, like I did. Would you please give today?**

It all started when I noticed what looked like a little pimple on my left arm. Daphne said I should go in right away and have it removed, just to be safe. 10 days later we got the call. I had malignant melanoma and needed surgery right away.

"I AM LUCKY TO BE ALIVE. DAPHNE HAS BEEN RIGHT HERE, FIGHTING WITH ME, THROUGH SOME OF THE WORST DAYS OF MY LIFE." — DOUG

I was shocked. I had just retired, I felt healthy, and Daphne and I were enjoying some of the best years of our life together. I couldn't bear the thought of Daphne being alone. I knew I'd have to fight hard. If not for me, for her.

I had my first surgery in early 2015, with Dr. Sharadh Sampath, a general surgeon and Dr. Owen Reid, a plastic surgeon, both of whom are extremely talented and compassionate. They removed a large amount of tissue from my arm. Little did we know that the following year would feel like a revolving door, in and out of the hospital for surgeries. By the end of 2016, it had gotten so bad that I had to have a radical mastectomy to remove several tumors from my armpit and chest area.

PLEASE TURN OVER

Even when it felt like I was fighting a losing battle, Dr. Sampath and Dr. Reid said they would do everything in their power to save my life.

The only reason I could get up each morning was because Daphne was there, giving me strength. She helped change the dressings, tried to find moments to laugh with me, shared stories and tears with me, and was there with me every single step of the way. Even when I might not have believed I could beat this, she believed.

In early 2017, Daphne and I were on vacation in Mexico when I noticed more lumps in my armpit. This time I didn't tell Daphne. I just wanted us to enjoy our holiday together—I didn't know if we'd ever get a chance to travel together again.

When we got home I was sent for an immediate PET scan. Dr. Sampath called us the next day to deliver the bad news. There were tumors under my left arm, in my shoulder, my back, my neck, and both lungs. It had only been six weeks since I was cancer-free. **I felt like I had the wind knocked out of me. Was this really it?**

Even when it seemed hopeless, the doctors went to battle for me once more. Words will never express how grateful I am.

I was referred to Dr. John Yun, one of the expert oncologists at Richmond Hospital. He had heard about a new drug that strengthens your own immune system to fight the cancer. There were no guarantees, but it was my last chance for survival. Incredibly, my body responded to the infusions. Some of the tumors shrunk, while others stabilized. While I will live the rest of my days with stage IV cancer, my cancer has now been stable for more than a year.

I feel so lucky and grateful to be alive today. Daphne and I take each day together as a precious gift. When I tell this story and forget some of the details, Daphne will often fill in the blanks for me, oftentimes, pushing through the tears that well up in her eyes. She's been my strength and biggest supporter throughout this battle and I am thankful to have her by my side.

As the holiday season approaches, we are looking forward to another Christmas together and with loved ones. With the great care I received at Richmond Hospital from the doctors, surgeons, and nurses, I feel like I have the support of an entire hospital to keep me alive. When you give to support the hospital, you are giving lifesaving care to people like me.

Support from the community helped save my life. Please donate today to provide lifesaving care to more people in their time of emergency.

Gratefully,

Doug Booth

Supporter of Richmond Hospital Foundation

P.S. Help keep our community healthy. Please give generously.



Thanks to donors like you, Doug received fast, expert care.