

The quest to solve the mystery of osteoarthritis

“ Sharon knew all too well, the devastation that arthritis can have. Her mother, Clarice, was diagnosed at a time in her life when she was enjoying a vibrant life, actively involved in her community, her passions and above all, enjoying her two children, Sharon and her brother Bill.

Osteoarthritis severely affected Clarice’s knees and hips, causing intolerable pain and limiting her life. Sharon’s decision to invest in research to find a cure was done in honour of her mother and the tremendous inspiration her mother had been to her.

Sadly, Sharon also developed severe, limiting, multi-joint osteoarthritis, and endured many surgeries over the years. While waiting for surgery to relieve her pain and give her back some movement, her weakened body led her to a terrible fall and the loss of her life at the age of 68.

Sharon and her mother shared the feeling that early diagnosis is a key factor before the damage is done. Other factors they wanted to understand were: why one person in a family develops arthritis and another does not, why arthritis manifests in differing extremes depending on the individual, and for example, why it might develop in your hands and not your feet or vice versa. In Sharon’s opinion, “Osteoarthritis is a big mystery.” Through the establishment of this **Gift in her Will**, Sharon’s legacy continues in the fight against arthritis so that future generations need not suffer.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Sharon, and if ever there was an award for courage and spirit – she would run away with the prize. What an inspiration Sharon was and remains. When she would contemplate her situation and her mother’s, there was never an ounce of complaint ... only her characteristic sense of humour and



Sharon McLean, pictured here with Sandra Dow from the Arthritis Society, chose to make a tribute to her mother through a gift in her Will, with the hope that future generations would not have to endure the pain and immobility, and loss of independence, she and her mother experienced.

sparkling eyes. What an honour to assist Sharon in creating her legacy.

Today, we honour Sharon and her vision. Her legacy lives on.

On behalf of everyone at the Arthritis Society, thank you to all of our valued supporters. Your generosity is vital to everything we do. May this knowledge give you great satisfaction. ”

Sandra Dow

We recommend that you contact your lawyer to discuss what works best for you.

We’d love to hear from you!

We would be very grateful if you would let us know if you have left or intend to leave a Gift in your Will to the Arthritis Society. Advance notice will ensure your gift can be used the way you intend. But most of all, we’d like to thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness. Any information you share with us will remain strictly confidential and places you under no obligation.

For further information, please call, write or email:

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