

Your HealthMatters

ROYAL COLUMBIAN HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

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Free Fall

Aldergrove man nearly loses life after losing balance on ladder *by Jodi Martins*

It's amazing how quickly life can fall apart. It can happen to anyone – an accident at work, a car crash, or something as simple as a misplaced step.

Last December, 39-year-old Trevor James fell five feet from a ladder, hit the concrete and fractured his skull. He was rushed by air ambulance from his Chilliwack worksite to RCH.

RCH Neurosurgeon Dr. Michael Nikolakis performed a craniotomy on Trevor to remove a blood clot that had formed in his brain. A few days later, fellow Neurosurgeon Dr. Richard Chan had to remove half of Trevor's skull, as Trevor was suffering from very high brain swelling and pressure.

Trevor spent Christmas in a coma in RCH's Intensive Care Unit, surrounded by his wife, Marnie and their two children, Courtney, 16, and Colby, 12. They didn't know if he would make it through, or what his condition would be when he woke up.

"Will he even remember me? The kids? Will he be able to speak again? Those were some of the things that passed through my mind during those dark days," recalls Marnie. "Ev-

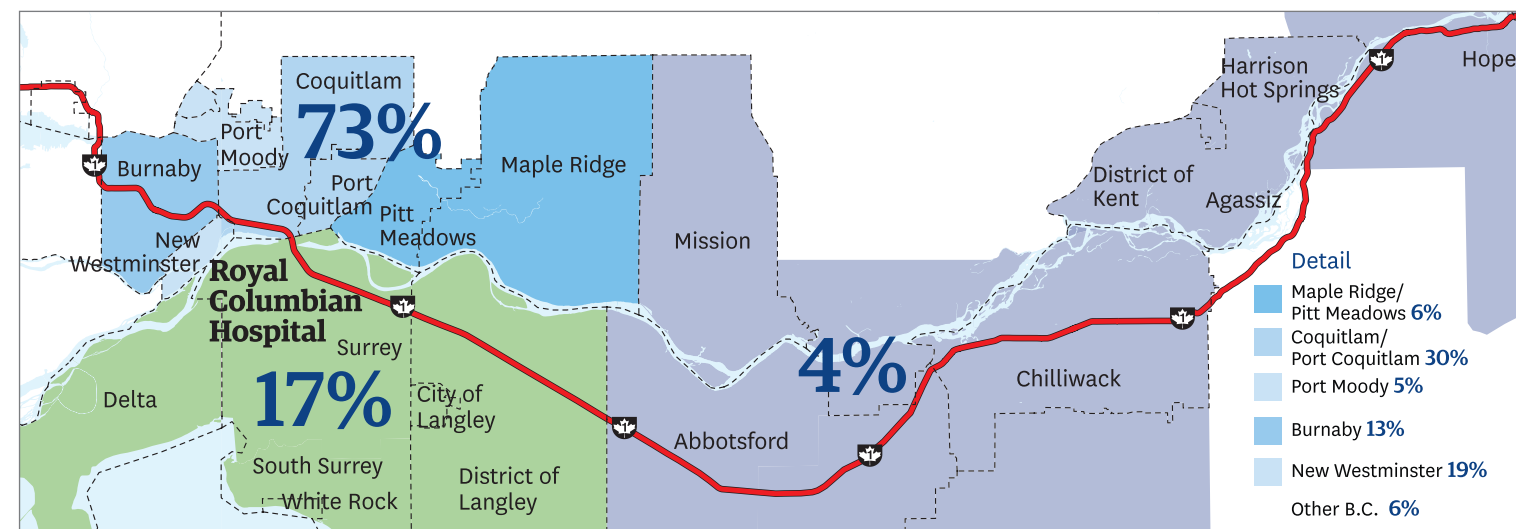


"RCH kept my husband from becoming a statistic," says Marnie James of her 39-year-old husband Trevor, with son, Colby and daughter, Courtney.

eryone told me how lucky we were that he was at Royal Columbian, and that gave me hope."

Trevor woke up on New Year's Day. Since then, he has put his hard work ethic to work on himself, redeveloping his ability to read, spell, drive and most importantly, tell his family he loves them.

Where RCH Patients come from in the Fraser Health Region



Home Away

Northern B.C. family receives expert and compassionate care at RCH

It was the middle of the night when Lisa and Frank Dyck were bundled into a B.C. Air Ambulance and flown to RCH – 1,300 kilometres away from their home in tiny Prespatou, in north-eastern B.C.

Lisa's water had broken and she was only 28 weeks pregnant. She was airlifted to RCH, as it is a provincial centre for high-risk maternity and neonatal intensive care (NICU).

Lisa was put on bed rest for three weeks until her baby could be safely delivered. On July 7, 2011, Lisa gave birth to a baby boy whom they named Trevor.

Born premature, Trevor was treated for lung problems in RCH's NICU for five weeks.

With no local family or friend support and having to take

time off work, finances were very tight and caused extra stress for Frank and Lisa.

Fortunately, RCH Social Worker Cheri King was able to access funds for their living expenses from RCH Foundation's Maternity Infant Child Youth Emergency Response Fund supported by Variety – The Children's Charity.

"To try and pay for our food and accommodation down here would've been impossible without help," says Lisa. "The fund was a big relief for us."

The fund has helped more than 150 families at RCH from across the province since 2008.



Having a baby in the NICU can be a very stressful experience.

Trauma Central

- RCH is one of two major trauma centres in B.C. and receives more trauma patients by air ambulance than any other hospital in the province
- Last year, RCH treated more than 10,000 trauma patients from across B.C.
- Falls and motor vehicle collisions are the two highest causes of traumatic injury in B.C.
- Trauma is the #1 cause of death for 15-45 year-old males

A Miracle

Shannon Gaudette and family grateful for expert care received by Dr. Richard Chan and RCH medical teams

"I shouldn't be alive...my baby girl shouldn't be alive...but we're both here thanks to Dr. Chan."

Those words are being spoken by Shannon Gaudette, 39, a woman who had two malignant tumours – one the size of an orange, the other the size of a lemon -- removed from her brain in June.

She was six-and-a-half months pregnant at the time.

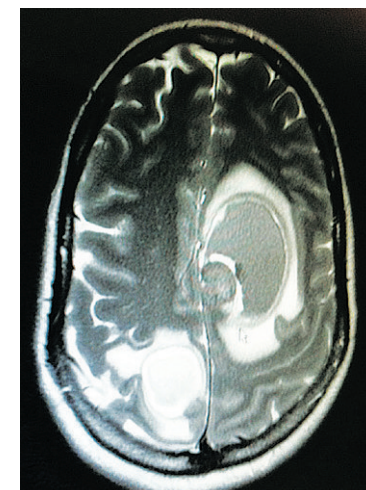
Shannon started her battle with cancer back in 2005 when she had a mole removed that tested positive for melanoma. The cancer returned in January 2010 in her lymph nodes on her right side, which were subsequently removed. Not focused on anything else but beating cancer, Shannon and her husband Brad were surprised when they found out they were pregnant in December 2010.

Shannon enjoyed a healthy pregnancy until May 21, 2011 – the day her foot went numb. Assuming it was a normal symptom of pregnancy, she didn't think much of it until her condition grew worse.

"I started feeling weak...not well, and my handwriting was going wonky," recalls Shannon.

An emergency MRI scan at a local hospital showed two large masses in Shannon's brain.

"We were astounded," recalls Brad, who was told that there wasn't anything that could be done for Shannon except ease some of the pressure being caused by the tumours. There was a chance that they could



The two white oval-shaped areas in this MRI scan are the malignant tumours.



Shannon Gaudette had two brain tumours removed when she was six-and-a-half-months pregnant with Madeline, being held here by husband Brad. Read Shannon's full story at rchfoundation.com.

When the stars align

RCH medical teams save BC Lions' Stanley Franks's leg and possibly future playing career

BC Lions Defensive Back Stanley Franks nearly lost not only his playing career but his entire leg as a result of a severe hyper-extended knee injury during a game against the Calgary Stampeders this season. Running at top speed, Franks stepped on top of a receiver's foot. The impact dislocated Franks's left knee and forced it backwards and to the side.

"I just knew my season was over...I had no feeling where my shin should be," recalls 25-year-old Franks.

While BC Lions' Team Physician and RCH Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr. Dory Boyer was able to pop Franks's knee back into place on the field, he could find no pulse in the major knee

artery. Without immediate restoration of blood flow, Franks would surely lose his leg. Franks was rushed from the field to RCH where Vascular Surgeon Dr. Kamyar Kazemi spent nearly four hours meticulously repairing Franks's artery, which had been torn in half.

Franks's hospital ordeal was far from over, though.



Stanley Franks was in his third season with the BC Lions when he was injured. Photo by Kyle Clapham.



RCH Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr. Darius Viskontas consults with BC Lions Defensive Back Stanley Franks prior to his second knee operation.

Four weeks later, RCH Orthopaedic Surgeons Dr. Darius Viskontas and Dr. Trevor Stone took on the highly complex and uncommon task of reconstructing Franks's Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) and posterolateral (outside) corner knee ligament. Dr. Viskontas and Dr. Stone are two of only three orthopaedic surgeons in B.C. who conduct this type of complex surgery.

"Certainly here at Royal Columbian, we are used to seeing significant trauma [patients]," says Dr. Viskontas, "so we get really good at treating complex injuries."

Franks is now embarking on a nine-month rehabilitation program. While he remains hopeful about returning to the field next season, Franks is most grateful to have his leg so he can lead a normal life.

"I'm going to give it all I've got and see how far it takes me," says Franks. "I owe it to both my teams – BC Lions and RCH – to give it my best shot."

Best Gift

RCH needs significant investment from government and community to continue as centre of excellence

Fundraising for healthcare takes a lot more than bake sales! Keeping the first hospital in B.C. stocked with necessary equipment and resources for clinical research and education is an ongoing task that involves many ways to give: large-scale donations, gifts through the mail and rchfoundation.com, wills, gifts of securities, and events.

Since 1862, support from individuals, organizations and businesses has built upon government funding to help our medical teams make RCH the centre of excellence that it is today. However, RCH continues to run at overcapacity and we cannot stand by and watch the hospital's infrastructure continue to erode. In 2012, we celebrate 150 years of health care. It's Royal Columbian's turn for government to make a major investment, and partner with RCH Foundation donors. Wouldn't that be the best birthday present ever for the 1.6 million British Columbians who depend on RCH?

Adrienne

Adrienne Bakker
President and CEO

Belle

Belle Puri,
Chair, Board of Directors

Yes, I want to support critical care at RCH

Here is my gift of:

\$200 \$100 \$50
 Other \$ (please specify)

Enclosed is my cheque made payable to:
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Or charge my credit card:
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Card # _____

Expiry Date _____

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Only \$800,000 more to go!

Thanks to our many generous individual, corporate and community organization donors, our Multipurpose Suite campaign is well underway! To date, their generosity has raised \$2,000,000 towards a suite that will help RCH meet the extraordinary and growing demand for specialized cardiac and neurological care in B.C.

Many of those who have chosen to support our cause are patients who have suffered a stroke, aneurysm or serious heart problem, and the family members and friends who love them. They understand that advanced diagnoses and treatment is only as good as the access you have to it.

To donate or find out more about our Multipurpose Suite campaign, please call 604-520-4438 or visit rchfoundation.com.



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