

QEII's Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre celebrates therapeutic pool

QEII Foundation donors and friends celebrate the completion of The Grace Hansen Therapeutic Pool



Grace Hansen (centre) and family celebrated The Grace Hansen Therapeutic Pool, which was made possible with the help of a \$1-million gift from the family, to improve the lives of all who visit the rehabilitation centre. *Photo: Darren Hubley.*

The community surrounding the QEII's Nova Scotia Rehabilitation and Arthritis Centre was proud to celebrate the completion of The Grace Hansen Therapeutic Pool on June 16th, in the company of staff, donors, and friends of the QEII Foundation.

The pool would not have been possible without donors, in particular, Carol Hansen-MacDonald and Colin MacDonald, along with sons Nicholas and Luke, who generously contributed \$1-million toward the new structure. QEII Foundation supporters came together to raise a total of \$2.6-million to develop the pool and to construct two new Activities of Daily Living suites.

The pool was named in honour of Carol's mother, Grace, who will be celebrated each time someone enters the healing waters of the pool, bringing hope to those who have lost so much to illness and injury.

The QEII's rehabilitation centre has changed many lives for the better, reconnecting patients to their independence and preparing them to re-enter the world after experiencing debilitating illness and/or injury. The centre treats those experiencing difficulty due to neurological or musculoskeletal conditions, traumatic brain injury, the loss of a limb or stroke. When patients arrive at the centre, many have lost their mobility and basic motor functions, such as speech.

Aquatic therapy is instrumental in moving along the recovery process, and also plays a role in soothing stiff muscles and easing pain. Patients like Michael Coady, who benefitted from the former pool during his stay at rehab, thanked donors at the celebration for their ongoing support. "You've improved your community and the lives of others," Michael says.

The updated pool features improvements that reach beyond the structure of the pool. Updates include diffused ceiling lights with a softening effect, varying wall panels in rich colours, and change rooms built to maximize independence. Many donors came together to make this dream a reality for all of those touched by the rehabilitation centre.

QEII cardiologist published in New England Journal of Medicine

Dr. John Sapp was recognized in world-class journal for leading an international study that will result in better treatment for those living with deadly heart conditions



For patients like Marcel

Following a heart attack, Marcel Arbour was the first patient to be part of VANISH, an international clinical trial lead by the QEII's Dr. John Sapp.

The study has resulted in safer and more productive ways to treat patients with dangerous heart arrhythmias.

A clinical trial lead by QEII cardiologist Dr. John Sapp is improving care for Atlantic Canadians living with ventricular tachycardia (VT), a condition involving irregular heartbeat that can be life-threatening. The international study was published in the New England Journal of Medicine in May.

QEII Foundation donors funded The Beth Medjuck Heart Rhythm Laboratory, which helped make this study possible.

Dr. Sapp and his research team found catheter ablation to be a more effective treatment for VT than drug therapy. This surgical procedure involves catheters travelling to the heart through the blood vessels, sending electrical impulses to induce the arrhythmia and destroy the abnormal tissues that cause the condition.

Prior to this trial, physicians were unsure if high doses of antiarrhythmic drugs or surgical intervention would lead to better patient outcomes. Atlantic Canadians living with VT can take comfort in this groundbreaking research and the resulting improved care. While treatment decisions will continue to be individualized, there is a stronger case for surgery for most patients moving forward.