



Chemistry at Carleton

By Laura Byrne Paquet, BJ/87

Ron Vandebek (MSc/70) feels that, in a way, he and his wife Susan Lovelock Vandebek (BSc/70) owed their life together to Carleton.

They met at the university while studying chemistry and got married while they were still students. After graduation, Sue worked for Carleton for almost a decade—first at the MacOdrum Library and then at Computing Services.

Meanwhile, based on a recommendation from a Carleton professor, Ron applied for a position at what is now Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), where he would work for the next 31 years.

“We both got our start in life as employees ... through Carleton,” he says. When Sue passed away in February 2016, Ron wondered how he could both recognize her life and “pay forward” their good fortune. Soon, he considered a gift to Carleton.

Mulling over the form it could take, he thought about Sue’s myriad of interests. She had a talent for piano, singing and dancing, she enjoyed gardening, cooking, sailing and travel and volunteered with Ron as a downhill ski patroller. Ron notes that in these roles and at work, she often taught others.

In addition, as president of her high school’s Student Council in her senior year and as the first person in her family to attend university, she was a mentor to many.

After leaving Carleton, Sue worked for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, where she travelled across the country including to Yellowknife and Whitehorse, and “developed an affinity for things North,” Ron explains. In their Ottawa condo, Indigenous artworks she collected hold pride of place.

Thinking about that, Ron also recalled several speeches Phil Fontaine had given to NRCan senior management. The former national chief of the Assembly of First Nations had spoken movingly about the challenges Indigenous peoples face when they leave reserves and northern communities, including to attend urban universities. Research led Ron to Carleton’s Indigenous Enriched Support Program (IESP), which helps Indigenous students succeed.

Putting all the pieces together, Ron decided to create two funds. The Susan Lovelock Fund supports a range of IESP initiatives, such as mentorship



Susan by the Rideau River at Carleton University after graduation.

and coaching programs. The Susan Lovelock Leadership Bursary is awarded annually and provides \$5,000 a year to an Indigenous student in financial need for up to four years.

He sees the funds as a fitting recognition of Sue’s life. “This is a different way of helping people,” he says. “That’s what she did through her work life. She helped people.”

Ron worked closely with Gillian Whyte, a Personal and Planned Giving Officer in Advancement to shape the gift that also includes a bequest that reflected Sue’s interests and the way he wanted to celebrate her life. “I’m really happy, because it was exactly what I was looking for.” ♥

Benefits of donating Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) or Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs)

By Nicole Ewing, Vice President, Tax and Estate Planner,
TD Wealth Advisory Services



Many people are surprised to learn that dying can generate one of the largest tax bills they'll ever receive. On death we are treated for tax purposes as though we've sold everything we own immediately before death. Any increase in the value of capital property (real estate, non-registered investments, artwork, etc.) above its cost will be subject to capital gains tax.

For Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) or Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs), the full value of the RRSP/RRIF is included as income in the year of death subject to certain exceptions. This can often result in more than half of the value of the RRSP/RRIF being lost to tax.

For the philanthropically inclined, there may be a better way. By leaving your RRSP/RRIFs to charities of your choice, charitable objectives can be met while reducing taxes owing at death. Individuals who have designated a charity as the direct beneficiary of their RRSP/RRIF will receive a charitable donation receipt for the amount donated. This

may offset the tax owing on the registered plans at the time of death. For example, rather than paying \$100,000 of tax on your \$200,000 RRSP, your estate will pay no tax on the incremental income generated by the RRSP and the charity of your choice will receive \$200,000.

If we anticipate that the donation tax credit may exceed the amount of the tax payable on death, there are even more philanthropic planning opportunities. This may include a donation strategy to reduce income tax liabilities during your lifetime using RRIF distributions that are not needed to sustain your lifestyle. Charities will benefit from either an immediate gift of RRIF distributions or a future gift of insurance proceeds funded by these distributions. In both cases, the value of the RRIF is depleted, which may reduce the tax liability at death.

Aside from the tax savings, naming a charity as the designated beneficiary allows the funds to be paid directly to the charity, streamlining estate administration and easing the burden on your executor. Since

the RRSP/RRIF is not part of the estate, the plan funds are also not subject to provincial probate fees and are protected from disappointed would-be beneficiaries and most estate creditors.

Conveniently, donors can change the beneficiary designation at any time, simply by advising the plan administrator. Contrast this with the requirement to make a new Will if a charitable donation was being made from other assets of the estate.

As part of an overall estate plan, RRSPs and RRIFs are one of the most effective planning tools for meeting cash-flow, estate planning, and philanthropic objectives. ♡

This article was prepared by Nicole Ewing, VP, Tax and Estate Planner for informational purposes only and is applicable based on current tax legislation. The contents of this article are not endorsed by TD Wealth.

SEND THE REPLY CARD

Endowments are important to enhance the quality of modern post-secondary education. They provide a source of permanent and growing income for student financial aid, research, library collections and so much more that base funding and tuitions simply cannot do alone. Is an endowment gift right for you? Ask for information about **“Gifts for Endowment”** on the enclosed reply card and send it back today.

One of the easiest ways to arrange a charitable gift that costs you nothing now is to donate the remainder of an RRSP/RRIF. These are likely the most tax burdened assets that most Canadians own. Spousal and dependant rollovers defer taxes but ultimately anything leftover will lose half its value unless given to a charity. We have developed an informative brochure about the possibilities of supporting Carleton and action steps. Please return the enclosed reply card today and tell us to send you our guide to **“Donating Retirement Funds”**.

Whether you are considering a revision of your current will, or you are about to have a will drafted for the first time, arranging a gift in your will to Carleton University is easy to do. Our guide contains valuable information and suggested wording that will assist you in discussions with your lawyer. Send us the enclosed reply card today asking for **“Gifts by Will”**.



or visit www.planforgood.carleton.ca



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Please send me detailed information about:

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- Donating Retirement Funds
- Gifts by Will

I prefer that you send the requested information above to my email at:

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Please file this newsletter with your will or other estate planning documents. It may prove valuable down the road.

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Making the world better through education

One of Carleton's unique aspects is its founding story. It's an inspiring tale of philanthropy and community service, and still sheds some light on our values as a university today.

In the early 1940s, a group of Ottawa citizens—municipal leaders, businesspeople, volunteers and educators—believed that the young people who supported Canada's war effort deserved an opportunity for higher education, so that they could build a new life when the war ended. These volunteers gave their ideas, their time and money to establish Carleton College in 1942.

Their values and dedication continue to inspire us. Today we believe, as our founders did,



that through higher education, Carleton University contributes to the greater good of society.

The generosity of Carleton supporters for the Collaborate Campaign inspired a new saying to capture this spirit: "Here for Good." It's a mission statement shared by our students, alumni, researchers and educators.

If you too believe you are here for good, if you are driven by a desire to raise the

bar or give forward, Carleton can offer a philanthropic partnership that matches your immediate and long-term ambitions.

We invite you to be part of the Collaborate Campaign. Like our founders and people like you, we believe that together, through higher education, we can make the world a better place. ♡

The Real Cost of a Charitable Gift

Over 50% of Carleton alumni consider tax benefits when making charitable gifts according to a recent Advancement Research survey. So let's look at what a donation actually costs.

Canada has one of the most generous tax systems in the world when it comes to charitable giving. A significant portion of the charitable gift will be returned to you through provincial and federal tax credits. Here is how it works for a donation of \$1,000:

The first \$200 donation you make in a year generates a tax credit of about \$40 and everything donated above that amount gets

treated at a higher rate. A \$1,000 gift receipt will result in a tax credit of about \$400. The amount varies from province to province, highest in Quebec (\$494), lowest in Ontario (\$361). You can claim charitable gifts for up to 75% of taxable income. A person with taxable income of \$50,000 may claim up to \$37,500 in charitable gifts in one year. Charitable tax credits can be carried forward for up to 5 years. So the net cost of a \$1,000 donation is really only about \$600.

For even lower cost ways to donate check out: www.planforgood.carleton.ca ♡

The Children's Senator

By Fateema Sayani, BJ/01, MPNL/16

Landon Pearson has always advocated for children in a way that empowers them. Her eleven years of work in the Senate earned her the nickname, “The Children’s Senator,” because she has always been unafraid to question power dynamics and reach out to those who rarely had their point of view represented.

“When you listen to the kids themselves, you come away quite hopeful,” she says. “They’re doing better than they would have done 30 or 40 years ago. They have more confidence in speaking out and they understand they have a right to be heard.”

That wasn’t always the norm. When the Honourable Landon Pearson, O.C., chaired the Special Joint House Committee on Child Custody and Access in 1997-1998, she assured that testimony from children was also heard, in addition to parents, because they are the ones most affected by the Divorce Act. Never one to turn a blind eye, then Senator Pearson, in 1998, co-chaired the Out From the Shadows summit, which brought together 54 youth delegates from Canada, the United States, and Latin America to tell their stories as youth who were exploited in the sex trade. She also chaired a federal committee against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth to break down barriers between institutions to advance the issue.

Mrs. Pearson studied philosophy and English at



Landon Pearson celebrating National Child Day and her 85th Birthday.

the University of Toronto and earned a Master of Education from the University of Ottawa, along with numerous honorary doctorates and the Order of Canada. As the spouse of former Canadian Ambassador Geoffrey Pearson (the son of Lester B. Pearson), she travelled widely, spending many years in Paris, Mexico, India and the former Soviet Union, which led to the publication of *Children of Glasnost* in 1990 and *Letters from Moscow* in 2003.

She left the Senate in 2005, but her work continues with the Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children’s Rights at Carleton University. The centre was established in 2006 and will continue to thrive well into the future thanks to a gift left in Landon Pearson’s will.

When asked about the impact she’d like to have, Mrs. Pearson is reflective. “The older you get, the more you realize that your impact is very hard to actually detail. You know what you’d like to happen, but how do you measure attitude

change? I want all children to be considered as persons with rights that we must, as a society, understand, respect, and fulfill. That will take time.”

Mrs. Pearson mixes a dose of patience with her advocacy. “I was only a year old when women became persons in Canada,” she notes. “Change isn’t something that happens overnight. There are a lot of countervailing forces. It requires a shifting of perceptions on the part of individuals as well as institutions.”

She notes that is happening already with her work with children. “There are now governments in Canada, notably New Brunswick, that ensure that every new piece of legislation that impacts children’s lives respects the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. I dream that this will soon be true at the federal level as well, and that more and more people will understand how important fulfilling children’s rights is not only to the present, but also to the future of Canada.” ♥

1 Piano, 2 Piano, 3 Piano, 4...

How many pianos are too many pianos? Sometimes it's tough to decide.

In the last month we were contacted by two different people wishing to leave pianos to the Department of Music upon their passing. Unfortunately, we could not formally commit to accept these generous gifts by will right now due to a lack of space but we hope circumstances will be different when the time comes.

Non-cash gifts, also known as gifts-in-kind, cover items such as artwork, books, instruments and equipment.

To be certain that in-kind donations will be accepted, they must be pre-approved by the Dean, Director or Department head. Full consideration is given to items that further our academic mission and/or programs and improve our services to students.

If you are thinking about leaving a gift-in-kind in your will please contact one of us so that we may better understand your gift intentions. It's important that we are "in tune" so that we can make beautiful music together. ♡

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For more information, please contact:

Gillian Whyte, Holly Greatrex, or Doug Puffer

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