



An Islander Leaves a Legacy

Gifts to the IWK Health Centre often come from the heart, and none more so than that left by long-time donor Alex MacRae of Culloden, PEI. He left 30 per cent of the residue of his estate to the IWK Health Centre Foundation for areas of greatest need in Children's Health Services.

The heart can shelter many secrets and wishes that are not shared; the exact reason for Mr. MacRae's donation may never be known. But second cousin Donald Ross, who was also a neighbor, has a couple of theories. Mr. MacRae served with the 2nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment in Europe during the Second World War and met the love of his life, Irene Clark, while in England, where they married. Mrs. Ross said while he never talked about his experiences, the suffering of the children caught in war may have led him to donate to the IWK.

When the MacRae's returned to PEI, they lived on the family farm. For 34 years, Mr. MacRae also served as a quartermaster aboard the Prince Nova, and enjoyed meeting people from across Canada and around the world. While the two never had children of their own, they were known to be fond of children. Mrs. Ross says they were especially close to a young niece who passed away at age six. "She was an angel," says Mrs. Ross who was also executrix of his will. "And she always had a special place in their hearts."

Mrs. MacRae passed away in 2001, and Mr. MacRae died in March 2009 at the age of 89, leaving the entirety of his estate to charity.

"His generosity will help so many children, including those we care for who come from PEI" says Mary Theresa Ross, personal and planned giving officer with the Foundation. "I only wish we could have known and thanked him while he was still alive. His donation has touched all our hearts."

A special thanks to [IWK Health Centre Foundation](#) and their loving donors for sharing their story.