Wise words from the experts

When considering a bequest or other planned gifts, it is always best to discuss your plans with an expert. Below, a number of McGill alumni and friends with expertise in this field offer up some helpful advice.

“Giving back to our community is a privilege. When reviewing your finances with your advisors in contemplation of your Will, it is an appropriate time to remember those institutions that helped make you the person you are today. As a proud McGill graduate, remembering the University through a planned gift is a lasting way of saying ‘thank you’ and ensuring that others will benefit as I have.”

Michael Corber, BCom ’85, CPA (W), Partner, Richter LLP

“From a litigator’s perspective, ‘an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure’. Careful planning is essential in ensuring that a client’s last wishes are given effect: that the gifts he or she makes are honoured, and disputes avoided.”

Elisabeth Evans-Olders, BA ’12, Lawyer, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

“The most successful families have taught me to focus on the succession of family, rather than monetary, values. It is the shared experience of giving and being of service to others that enshrines these values from generation to generation. In doing so, and with careful planning, we can maximize value in each of these areas: family, business and community.”

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Generous benefactors remembered

McGill is profoundly grateful for bequests, both large and small, that it has received over the years. Following is a list of bequests that the University received during the last fiscal year, which ended on April 30, 2015.

Estate of Edward M. Ballon
Estate of Legs d’Yvonne Barbe-Segard
Estate of Legs de Diane Bischof
Estate of Dr. Barbara Helen Bloom
Estate of Arve Braberg
Estate of Dr. Brenda R. Brown
Estate of Dr. David K. Erb
Estate of Margaret Blanchard Gagné
Estate of Bram Garber
Estate of Jack Goldthorpe
Hugh C. Hallward Estate
Estate of Dr. Ronald E. Hamilton
Estate of Dr. Michael Holian
Estate of Danielle Larocque Legere
Estate of Helen Lahey
Estate of Charles Leblanc
Estate of Blanche McPherson
Estate of Doreen and Douglas Page
Estate of Dr. Edward B. Paddock
Estate of Myra McRae Pettie
Estate of Dr. Gordon H. Hatcher and Norma H. Hatcher
Estate of Dr. Myron Kelen
Estate of Arthur Kelsen
Estate of Myron Rusk
Estate of Dr. Spencer B. Smith
Estate of Ian Stevenson, MD
Estate of Pearl Summers
Estate of Renata Zenwirt-Cynberg

McGill University owes its very existence to the foresight of a generous planned gift. The University was founded in 1821 with a bequest from the estate of Scottish-born Montreal merchant James McGill.

Today, the McGill 1821 Society and the Macdonald Legacy Society recognize and honour all alumni and friends who have chosen to remember the University in their estate plans, or through another type of planned gift.

To learn more about bequests and planned gifts, please call 514-398-3560, 1-800-567-5175 or email plannedgifts.dev@mcgill.ca.

WINTER 2015-16
TELEPHONE: 514-398-3560
1-800-567-5175
EMAIL: plannedgifts.dev@mcgill.ca
WEB: www.mcgill.ca/planned-giving
McGill 1821 Society and Macdonald Legacy Society Tea

To recognize individuals who have made a provision for McGill in their estate plans, the Bequests and Planned Gifts Office organizes an annual spring Tea with the Principal for members of the McGill 1821 Society and the Macdonald Legacy Society. Here are a few photos from the May 2015 Tea:

McGill student Ellie Jackson, BSc'15 (Intercultural Studies and Global Studies), March 2016

The Information System, “When I realized mine was the last generation to know Louis and Albert, neither of whom had families of their own, I wanted to do something for them,” she says. So in 2013 she created the Louis Gosselin Scholarship in Law and the Albert Gosselin Scholarship in Engineering: “How better to have them remembered than through scholarships in their names at their university,” she says. By including support for the scholarships in her Will, Lorraine ensures a lasting memorial to her uncles and will benefit generations of students.

LORRaine GossELin: Honouring the memory of two beloved uncles

For two young men from the village of Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge, Louis and Albert Gosselin travelled far, born in 1879 and 1882 respectively. They earned their degrees at McGill and embarked on successful careers across Quebec and beyond.

Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge, Louis and Albert Gosselin

Meanwhile, Albert, born in 1882, earned a BSc in Civil Engineering in 1911 – before Engineering had its own faculty – and enjoyed a thriving career across Canada and beyond. Lorraine Gosselin, grand-niece of the brothers, remembers them fondly. “Louis loved bridge and would drop in to play with my parents,” she says. “Albert was a favourite with the children, calling us ‘les petits’ and giving us treats while we sat on his knee. We all loved him.” Lorraine credits her interest in genealogy to Louis, as he commissioned a genealogical study that resulted in a big family tree and a book that fascinated her in her youth and has since become prized possessions.

Lorraine pursued a successful career with Bell Canada, rising from clerk to district manager in

“I was always interested in landscape architecture, and sat in on classes when I had the opportunity. During my time as groundskeeper I was following what was being taught on campus, and what the students had planted themselves,” he says. “I’ve always believed in the importance of education.” Robert has put his belief into action, and in 2010 established the Robert D. Parkinson Scholarship to recognize and promote academic achievement by undergraduates in the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

His support will have a lasting impact: a bequest for the Faculty will enable students to benefit from his generosity and vision in perpetuity.

“During my time at McGill, I met people who have reshaped my view of the world and society,” I discovered where my passions and strengths lie and immersed myself in various initiatives that have helped me figure out the kind of person I want to be and the kind of work I want to be doing. On the kind of person I want to be and the kind of work I want to be doing.

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