
MEMORIAL LEGACIES

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Your Legacy, Your Stories, Our Future



Sean Kennedy, inaugural recipient of the Colbourne Family Scholarship.

Welcome!

Thank you for your support and many gifts to Memorial University. We are excited that you hold the first edition of our new Memorial Legacies newsletter in your hands.

Donors like you transform lives at Memorial and we are so thankful for everything you make possible. With this newsletter we want to celebrate a special way of giving and share the stories of alumni, faculty, staff, retirees and friends who chose to show their appreciation for Memorial by including the university in their estate plans.

In our first issue we would like to recognize the legacy of Robert and Edith Skinner. The couple decided to leave a gift to Memorial in their will to celebrate their life-long love for education and wildlife through scholarships and research funds. You'll also meet two of our student scholarship recipients, Sean Kennedy (pictured above) and Jamie Green, and learn how legacy gifts help them pursue their dreams.

Legacy gifts have a huge impact on the university, our students, our programs and our infrastructure. We hope these stories might inspire you to think about your own legacy! •

The gift that keeps on giving

The Skinners were a quiet couple but their generosity knew no bounds. Married for 64 years, Edith and Robert Skinner spent most of their married life in Pasadena on the west coast of Newfoundland, where they successfully operated the Lakeland Lodge and Motel, as well as hunting and fishing camps in Labrador.

Generations of students and researchers across all Memorial University campuses will benefit from the legacy established by the Skinners.



Robert Skinner (1920-2008) was a Memorial graduate who received his bachelor of arts in education in 1953. He started his career as a teacher and taught in various communities on the Northern Peninsula and in Corner Brook. Mr. Skinner had wide-ranging interests; he was an accomplished pianist, had a passion for painting and regularly flew a sea-plane. His wife Edith (1922-2010) worked as a nurse until the couple decided to venture into the tourism industry.

Jeff Follett, the executor of their estate, first met Mr. and Mrs. Skinner in the fall of 1979 when he was hired as their accountant. As the years went by, the three grew very close and he became like the son the Skinners never had.

“Robert and Edith were an absolute pleasure to know,” said Mr. Follett. “They were quiet and reserved people who kept their generosity confidential. It would be amazing if people truly knew how much they gave away in their lifetime. Every year they anonymously donated things like Christmas hampers, school supplies for children and truckloads of food to local food banks.”

What inspired the Skinners to leave a large part of their estate to Memorial? According to Mr. Follett, the Skinners felt a close connection to the province and had a deep passion for education. As a teacher, Robert had a natural inclination to help young people.

“There were two things that were always important to Bob, one was wildlife, but the more important one was education. He wanted to provide post-secondary education to the young people of Newfoundland and Labrador, who have great potential but may need some financial support. He found a way to support both of these interests with this gift to Memorial,” said Mr. Follett. “We put this will together in 1986 or ‘87, and the essence of it has not changed since then.”

Today, the impact of their gift reaches all campuses of Memorial and reflects the many interests of the Skinners. Their legacy supports research in aquaculture nutrition, wildlife ecology, fish stock assessment and sustainable harvest in the Faculty of Science and at the Marine Institute. The funding provides researchers with leverage to receive additional grants and ultimately quadruple the impact of the Skinner’s gift.

It also supports students through scholarships in nursing and fine arts at the Grenfell Campus, a scholarship fund at the Marine Institute, as well as entrance scholarships to support students from the west coast of the province who wish to attend Memorial University.

Jamie Green was the inaugural recipient of the Skinner Memorial Scholarship in Nursing. She is currently enrolled in the Western Regional School of Nursing. Receiving the Skinner scholarship is helping her to pursue her dreams. “I just finished my second year of the bachelor of nursing program and I hope to someday go to medical school,” said Jamie. “Scholarships are a big help to any student, but especially students like me who intend to pursue multiple degrees.”

“This will is going to create a lasting legacy in Newfoundland and Labrador. Bob and Edith would be so pleased with how Memorial is putting their gift to good use.”

A legacy of leadership

Alexander (Sandy) and Blanche Colbourne believed in the power of education.

That passion is now being realized through the Colbourne Family Scholarship, a gift the late couple made to Memorial through their estate.

Sean Kennedy (pictured on the front page) was the inaugural recipient of the Colbourne Family scholarship. He graduated with a bachelor of science in 2015 and is completing a second degree in French.

“I’m so grateful to the Colbourne family for this opportunity.”

“I feel very fortunate,” he said. “Shortly after being chosen as the scholarship winner, I was selected to participate in an exchange program in France. Without the financial support of the scholarship it would have been difficult for me to go. My time in Nice was an amazing experience that had a huge impact on my life.”



The Colbourne family, c. 1960 L-R: Sandy, Peter, Blanche and Ann.

Creating opportunities for success with young people strikes a personal chord with Sandy and Blanche’s children, Dr. Ann Colbourne and her brother, Peter. The siblings see this as a legacy that reflects the values of their parents.

Our parents emphasized getting a good education, but they also insisted on the importance of volunteerism and getting involved in the community,” said Dr. Colbourne. “Sean is a young man who embodies those values.”



Dr. Ann Colbourne

“Our parents were always loving and nurturing, incredibly supportive of curiosity and discovery,” said Dr. Colbourne. “They lived the values of family, learning and community service. Honouring that through this scholarship is very meaningful to me and my brother.”

Ann was so inspired by her parents’ gift and the impact it has had at Memorial that she decided to add to the scholarship during her lifetime and include Memorial in her will. It has truly become a family scholarship. •

Gifts of Retirement Fund Assets

Many people have significant assets in their RRSPs and RRIFs. Retirement funds are an excellent way to grow wealth during your lifetime, but not an effective way to transfer wealth to the next generation. Unless your spouse is the beneficiary of your RRSPs and RRIFs, they are among the most heavily taxed assets of an estate.

By naming Memorial University as primary or co-beneficiary of your retirement funds, you can significantly decrease the tax burden on your estate.

Benefits at a glance:

- You have the joy of providing a future gift while retaining full access to your retirement savings today
- Your estate will receive a charitable tax receipt that will help offset taxes owing on the proceeds
- By naming Memorial University as the beneficiary, your RRSPs and RRIFs fall outside of your estate and are not subject to probate fees
- The designation is revocable and can be changed if your financial and/or life circumstances change.
- You can designate your gift to an area at Memorial that means the most to you

This is an easy gift to make. You can simply change the beneficiary status on your RRSP or RRIF form and name Memorial University as the primary or co-beneficiary of all or a portion of your unused RRSPs or RRIFs.

We sincerely hope you enjoyed reading the stories we chose to be featured in this first edition of our Memorial Legacies newsletter.

Through estate gifts it is possible to make a contribution that will affect generations well into the future. A gift to Memorial has an exponential effect, one that creates opportunities for learning and innovation that are ultimately paid forward in the communities we share.

We are deeply grateful for all that our legacy donors make possible. If you have already included Memorial University in your will or estate plans, thank you so much! If you would like to let us know about your gift, we would love to hear from you. It provides us with the opportunity to show our appreciation and welcome you to the Memorial Legacy Society.

The Memorial Legacy Society is our way of thanking our legacy donors today for their future support. Our annual Legacy event serves as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the generosity of our legacy donors. Last year's event took place at our beautiful Botanical Garden.

Tell us what you think about "Memorial Legacies"! We welcome you to share your comments and ideas with us. You may also request to unsubscribe if you do not wish to receive future copies. If you feel someone else may be interested in reading this newsletter, please feel free to share it. •

Sincerely,

Catherine Barrett



The Gift of a Lifetime

Legacy gifts come in different forms, as gifts made through a bequest, proceeds of a life insurance, retirement plan assets or a charitable trust. Making an estate gift often means you can make a larger gift than would be possible right now because it comes from the combined assets of your estate. Wise estate planning can reduce taxes payable and maximize the impact of your estate, allowing you to help your heirs and fulfill your charitable wishes.

If you would like to learn more about how you can leave a legacy at Memorial, please complete the enclosed reply card, visit www.mun.ca/legacy or contact:

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Please know that we respect the privacy of our donors at Memorial University. We treat all discussions with the strictest confidence and they entail no obligation. You may also ask your lawyer or estate planner to make inquiries on your behalf.

The gift, estate and financial planning information included in this publication is not a comprehensive review of the topics. Please seek professional legal and financial advice when planning a charitable legacy gift.

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