



LAKESHORE LINK

SEPTEMBER 2016

Life can change in an instant

Andrew Storer spent months suspended between life and death

The 66-year old recounts his brush with death and the Herculean efforts to save his life.

“Without the skill, dedication and caring of the doctors, nurses and technicians of the Lakeshore General Hospital’s (LGH) Intensive Care Unit (ICU) my wife Suzanne would be a widow and my children fatherless.

This past January, I started to feel unwell. I was having trouble breathing and my heart was racing. Little did I know, this was the start of a massive, downhill spiral. I had sepsis, a life-threatening infection.

Life can change in an instant

I was admitted to the ICU. My breathing was unbearably difficult. I was convinced I was going to die. Thankfully, the highly-skilled ICU team, led by Dr. Robert Salasidis wasn’t about to let that happen. They put me in a coma and on a ventilator, a machine that took over my breathing.

The ICU team worked mightily to save my life

Quite frankly, I have absolutely no idea what happened because I was in a coma for two months!

My wife tells me the amazing ICU team worked around the clock to save my life as my kidneys, lungs, digestive system and heart were all impacted. I was operated on twice and had a tracheotomy to ease my breathing.

I was pumped full of antifungal and antibacterial medications. Finally, I began to slowly recuperate.

When I woke from the coma, I had lost almost 14 kg. I was extremely weak. I couldn’t sit up or stand. In fact, I could barely hold a book to read or a pencil to do a crossword.



Mr. Andrew Storer and his wife Suzanne

I spent six more weeks in the hospital before being transferred to a rehabilitation centre.

Full recovery expected

The great news, my organs did not suffer permanent damage. Even though I still rely on a cane to walk, my doctors assure me I will eventually make a full recovery.

I learned first-hand that life can change in an instant. I can’t begin to tell you how grateful my family and I are for the heroic efforts made by the ICU team at the Lakeshore General Hospital. Because of their dedication, skill and compassion, I have been given a second chance at life. Thank you—so, so much.” •

