

Bear and Stoffelsma were always interested in philanthropy but say they didn't have a core philanthropic focus until their son's illness. They also wanted their kids to be involved in fundraising and show them the impact it can have. The experience has made them deeply aware of how fortunate they are as a family.

"We've really learned not to sweat the small stuff or take anything for granted," says Bear. "People talk about this kind of work, fundraising, as being almost therapeutic, and it is. It gives you some control to know you are doing everything you can to help."

Alex endured four rounds of chemotherapy, countless blood transfusions and nearly four months in protective isolation in the hospital (including another trip to the ICU in heart failure secondary to a viral infection). Happily, he is now in remission. While the checkups will continue for years to come, his family has hope that Alex will be one of the lucky ones.

"I hope that in 30 years from now, I'll be sitting around the dinner table with Alex and we'll be talking about this experience and the impact it had, and we'll tell him how we changed our lives, and changed the world, with research for AML," says Stoffelsma. "I want to look back and be able to let him know we made a difference, because we could, and because of him."



## VICTORIA CIRCLE



SIMON DESROCHERS

**Win and Arnold Stewart are members of the Victoria Circle, which includes individuals who have indicated to the Victoria Foundation their intention to make a future gift through a bequest, life insurance policy, RRSP or RRIF, tax free savings account, charitable remainder trust or other estate plan.**

**Donors join the Victoria Circle for various reasons: to bring about awareness of the lasting impact charitable giving can create, inspire greater giving, fuel the dreams of future generations, engage families and friends in charitable giving or thank a community that has enriched their lives.**

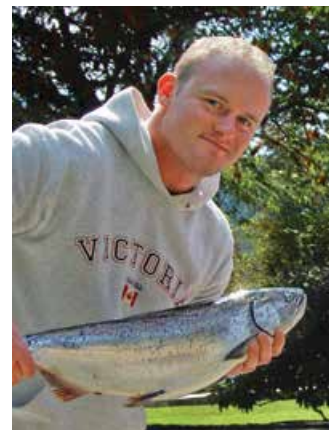
**To learn more about the Victoria Circle, contact Donor Services at 250.381.5532.**

## CHRIS ALLAN LEGACY FUND

**Chris Allan was the kind of person who would drop everything he was doing for a friend who needed a hand.**

He was a decorated captain in the Royal Canadian Air Force, living his dream flying CF-18 fighter jets. He was an avid outdoorsman, an accomplished downhill ski instructor and a saltwater fishing guide. He was admired by his colleagues and friends, and would go out of his way to help his community.

In October 2015, Chris was only a month away from marrying the love of his life when he tragically lost his life while fishing with friends near Campbell River. He was just 31 years old, and his family was devastated.



While nothing could bring him back, his parents, David and Debbie Allan, brother Doug, sister Jennie and fiancée Julie Martindale had a vision to carry on Chris's impact in the community in a positive way for years to come. They worked with the Victoria Foundation to create the Chris Allan Legacy Fund — a long-term fund that will support the causes that Chris believed in. In their time of grief, David and Debbie felt that this was a way for the family to start the healing process.

"Victoria was such an important place to Chris," says Debbie. "His great-grandfather purchased a property in North Saanich in 1942 which became a favourite family gathering place. It was also a place Chris would often go to because of his love of fishing and water and nature. Working with the Victoria Foundation seemed a wonderful way to turn this tragedy into something meaningful. They were incredible in our time of need."

The fund was set up almost immediately after the news of Chris's death and has already supported a number of initiatives that David and Debbie say Chris would have cared deeply about: Canada Company Military Employment Transition Program, the Campbell River Salmon Foundation and a fund supporting Thomas McQueen, a fighter pilot killed in the CF-18 crash last year, who flew with Chris in Cold Lake, Alberta. *(Continued on page 32)*

### OTHER DONORS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED THE VICTORIA FOUNDATION THROUGH THEIR ESTATE PLAN:

**ROGER JOSEPH BISHOP** (March 30, 2016) left a generous cash legacy gift in his will. This fund will support his interests in the arts and palliative care.

**ANNIE MONIQUE DAGUET** (June 13, 2016) left part of the residue of her estate to support local charities through the Victoria Foundation's community granting program.

**JOYCE REBECCA KIRBY** (July 26, 2016) named many charitable organizations in her will to receive cash legacies, and named the Victoria Foundation as a residual beneficiary with the monies to support the Vital Victoria Fund.

**BRIAN J. LAMB** (January 27, 2017) had a long-standing relationship with the Victoria Foundation. A fund was established in Brian's name by family and friends to support food security, a cause he was passionate about.

"This fund is also an opportunity to provide philanthropic leadership in our son's name," says Debbie. "We get to choose where this money goes, which I love, because it gives us the latitude to see what would have spoken to Chris. It's also a really important tool to help us constantly stay connected to each other, and carry on with Chris in our hearts."

Thanks to the fund, David says, the family regularly meets to talk about Chris and to decide where the monies should be directed. While attending these meetings can be difficult for some, it gives extended family members the opportunity to stay in touch as they keep Chris's memory alive.

"It's hard to accept the loss of your child — the hardest thing a parent could face," says David. "We all loved him deeply, and this active Fund brings him front and centre in conversation and enables us to create a legacy for Chris. Our son was a remarkable young man, and we want to embrace that leadership and carry it forward, since he can't be here to do it himself."

## VICTORIA CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Since 1964, the Victoria Conservatory of Music has been bringing world-class artists to its community.

It's one of the largest music schools in Canada, and over 4,500 students of every age and ability have benefited from the Conservatory's influence. And, with professional concerts and programs scheduled at the Conservatory's Alix Goolden Hall 280 days a year, Victoria has been the recipient of many outstanding performances.

Thanks to a recent change in criteria, the Conservatory is now eligible to participate in a matching endowment fund program for not-for-profit professional arts organizations.

The Canada Cultural Investment Fund, created by the Department of Canadian Heritage, provides matching funds, up to one dollar for every dollar raised. These monies create new endowment funds or enhance existing funds and help to establish long-

term sustainability for the organizations involved.

The Conservatory worked with the Victoria Foundation to take advantage of this matching program, enabling them to add to their existing fund with an 89 per cent match in 2016.

"We couldn't be more thrilled that we were approved this year," says Jane Butler McGregor, CEO of the Victoria Conservatory of Music. "We did a dance of joy.

"To keep tuition affordable and ensure anyone can access the school, we have to raise 35 per cent of our funding to keep our doors open. We've worked with the Victoria Foundation for a long time. They do a wonderful job of managing our funds."

For years, the Foundation has facilitated these kinds of gifts for many local arts organizations, including Ballet Victoria, Belfry Theatre, Canadian College of Performing Arts, Open Space Arts Society and more. Gifts of all sizes can be made through the arts organization, or directly to the Foundation, for the purposes of the organization's endowment fund, and, with matches up to 100 per cent, every contribution counts. All gifts are held in perpetuity, while the annual grants from the fund act as a continuing source of support for the arts organization.

Butler McGregor says the Conservatory's program, including scholarships and

## VITAL VICTORIA FUND

Many donors choose to make their gifts to this fund, allowing the Foundation to respond to critical issues in the community as they arise. When this fund receives support from donors, it allows us to be flexible and responsive. Grant decisions, made annually by our Board of Directors on the recommendation of our Community Engagement Committee, support the needs identified through our *Victoria's Vital Signs*<sup>®</sup> report. Current strategic priorities for the Vital Victoria Fund are homelessness and housing and food security.

To find out more, ask about our latest *Make It Happen!* booklet, which summarizes annual grant applications supported by the Vital Victoria Fund.



Thanks to a recent change in the federal definitions used for arts organizations, the Conservatory is now eligible to receive the matching endowment fund opportunities for professional arts organizations.

ALIJAH MACDONOUGH