

# Living Donor paired exchange registry in action in Acton

By: Jane Dougan

Acton's Sara Murray wants to promote the Living Donor Paired Exchange Registry (LPDE), a Canadian Blood Services programme that broadens kidney or liver transplant options. Sara owes her life to it, and to her sister Kirsten (Reddman), also of Acton, who became a vital link in the chain that gave her a healthy, living kidney in late April.

Make a fist. That's about the size of each adult kidney; two bean-shaped organs that filter toxins from blood as urine. If you're lucky, you probably don't give them much thought—until you have to, like Sara. Imagine a room of 10 Canadians waiting for an organ transplant. All but two need a kidney. Over 110 people a week are diagnosed with kidney failure, often from diabetes or high blood pressure.

Sara's kidney failure was the result of 12+ years of anti-rejection medications after a double lung transplant ("Otherwise I

had less than six months to live") in her mid-20s. She was born with cystic fibrosis (CF), a disease affecting the lungs and digestive system. It's hard to reconcile the serene, glowing young woman talking proudly of Kirsten, husband Kevin Carruthers and daughter Sadie with a chronic illness that 70 years ago claimed most babies within six months. Today most Canadians with CF are adults, testament to the progress in treatment and management.

Over the last six years, Sara's kidney function dropped from half to about eight per cent. She started dialysis, (removing excess wastes and water mechanically) and joined the eight-year transplant wait list. Then Kirsten offered to donate. "She has two boys, she'd never had surgery in her life and to do this for me? She's amazing, my hero." Tests found that antibodies in Sara's blood would reject Kirsten's kidney, so their medical information was entered into the LPDE database. Kirsten could

donate to someone whose elected donor was a match for Sara. Kirsten's remaining kidney went through a huge growing cycle to compensate for the loss, one that took an unexpected toll in tiredness. Like Sara, Kirsten is quick to praise her family (husband Andrew and sons Aydin and Owen) for their support. "It's a big deal for them, they go through a lot."

Sara "should be up to speed in another two months. I've started walking the dog again. I'm getting there. The big thing is drinking lots of water, at least 1.5-2 litres/day." Both sisters are dog-lovers. Kirsten holds up her rescue Scottie-Poo, Stuart, explaining "I lost an organ but got a dog." An inspiring family, indeed.

For more information on the Living Donor Paired Exchange Registry, please call Canadian Blood Services at 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) or visit the website at [www.blood.ca/en/organs-tissues/becoming-live-kidney-donor](http://www.blood.ca/en/organs-tissues/becoming-live-kidney-donor)



Sara Murray and Kirsten Reddman with Stuart

# Town restructures departments to strengthen customer service delivery

Council has approved a restructuring to Town departments that will enhance service to the community and result in a greater focus on corporate strategic planning.

"The Town is always looking at the way it delivers services to the community and we believe these changes are placing more of a premium on customer service," said Brent Marshall, CAO/Fire Chief. "In addition, we have formalized our strategic planning framework and created a corporate policy and intergovernmental affairs unit. This group will manage relationships with other levels of government so that we can take full advantage of ongoing opportunities."

The changes, which take effect immediately, include:

### Chief Administrative Officer's (CAO) Office

The CAO's Office, led by Brent Marshall, now includes Town Clerk & Legislative Services and the new Strategic Planning, Corporate Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs division. The Town is continually dealing with new initiatives from federal, provincial and municipal levels and this group will ensure the Town is well positioned to take advantage of opportunities, as appropriate, for the benefit of the Town. The CAO's Office is also home to the Town's Economic Development division.

### Town Clerk and Legislative Services

Suzanne Jones, who has served as Town Clerk, is now Town Clerk & Director of Legislative Services. In this expanded role, along with ensuring compliance with legislation, bylaw enforcement, business licensing and traditional Clerk services, Ms. Jones is leading a new customer service strategy for the Town that is designed to deliver more efficient and value-added service to the community.

### Community Services

Jane Diamanti has been named Commissioner of Community Services. Ms. Diamanti had been the

Executive Director of Library Services and Culture. In her new role, Ms. Diamanti will dedicate 50 per cent of her time serving as an advisor to the Library Board and senior Library staff and leading strategic Library projects, and in this capacity, will report to the Library Board. In the remaining time, Ms. Diamanti will continue to oversee the cultural services portfolio for the Town, and will also assume responsibility for

Corporate Communications and Human Relations. Ms. Diamanti will report to the CAO for her Town-related work.

To allow Ms. Diamanti to expand her responsibilities, Geoff Cannon has been appointed Director of Library Services and will provide the day-to-day oversight of Library operations. Mr. Cannon will report to the Library Board. These changes have also been approved by the Library Board.

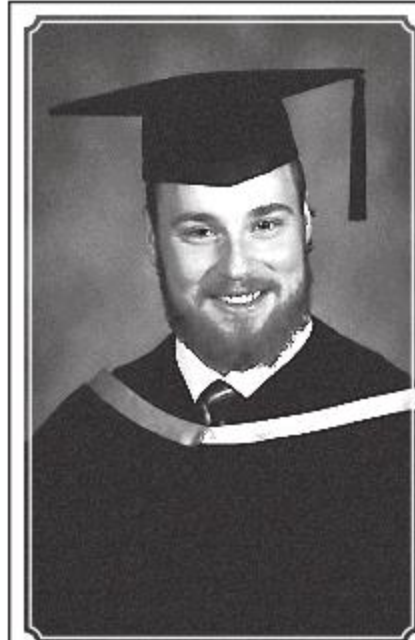
### Recreation and Parks

Warren Harris, who had been serving as interim Commissioner of Recreation and Parks has been appointed full time to the position. Mr. Harris has overall responsibility for managing Town facilities, delivering recreation services and overseeing the development of parks and open spaces.

### Fire Services

This department will continue to provide emergency response service, public education, prevention and inspections and dispatch/911 communications. The only change is in the expansion of Emergency Planning to include the area of climate change resiliency. With the increased frequency of major weather events triggered by climate change, the Town wants to be well prepared for a possible impact. CAO Brent Marshall continues to serve as Fire Chief.

Other department heads remain unchanged: Chris Mills, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure and Ed DeSousa, Commissioner of Finance. Ms. Diamanti, Mr. Mills, Mr. DeSousa, Mr. Harris and Ms. Jones all report to Mr. Marshall.



## Congratulations Cameron

You now have your Bachelor of Science with majors in Kinesiology and Math! And now you have been accepted into the Master's program at Cardiff University—you are amazing!!

You are more than ready for the Teaching world with all of your volunteer work and your summers of employment with the School board.

Go with confidence to Wales—we look forward to your next graduation. We are so proud of you.

Love you lots,

Mom, Dad, Connor, CJ,  
Nana, Poppa, and GrAnn

## Congratulations Connor

You did it! And you did it Bigtime!!!

You now have your Bachelor of Engineering (software), and not only did you graduate but you received the **Dean's Scholar Award** and graduated with **First class honors**. You are amazing

We are all so proud of you for your accomplishments. You are more than ready for the next phase of your life—go forward with confidence, the world is ready for your gifted talent.

Love you lots,

Mom, Dad, Cameron, CJ,  
Nana, Poppa, and GrAnn

