

# 'This is just one big, huge miracle'

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without a hefty price tag.

He will be on anti-rejection drugs for life, which will cost \$3,000 to \$10,000 each month, Mrs. Campkin said.

It doesn't matter.

Although the Campkins, who have

three daughters and four grandchildren, are facing enormous medical bills, they can't wait to start living again.

"I just can't wait to get well," said Mr. Campkin, who is an avid motorcyclist. "I want to get my life back."

"We're really looking forward to enjoying every day," his wife said. "This is just one big, huge miracle."

The men and their families hope by sharing their story, they will raise awareness of the importance of organ donation.

"There's not enough organ donation happening," Mrs. Campkin said. "When you die, you can save someone else's life by donating your organs. It's the best gift you can give."

## An Ontarian dies every three days awaiting a transplant

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

Looking to make a difference?

The Trillium Gift Of Life (GOL) Network, Ontario's organ and tissue donation agency, is always looking for donors, both living and deceased.

There is a shortage of donors and many are on the waiting list, president and CEO Frank Markel said.

"We very badly need donors and would encourage anyone.. to become an organ donor," he said. "We lose one person every three days, on average, who is waiting for organs."

Currently, 1,665 men, women and children are

waiting for a transplant in Ontario. Of those, more than 360 are waiting for a liver.

The liver isn't the only organ that can be donated. The heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas, stomach and small bowel are all needed by those on the wait list. Tissues can also be donated, including bone, skin, corneas and heart valves.

### LIVING DONORS

Besides becoming an organ donor at death, people can donate some organs while they are still living.

"About one half of kidney and liver transplants would be from living donors," Mr. Markel said.

Becoming a donor is easier than ever. People can register their wishes at an OHIP office when renewing a health card.

If a health card was recently renewed, potential donors can go to the Trillium Gift of Life Network website, download an "Organ and Tissue Donor Registration" form, fill it out and mail it in to the address on the form.

Anyone can be a donor, regardless of age or sex. According to the network's website, the oldest tissue donor was 102, while the oldest organ donor was 90.

"The most important consideration for living donation is that the blood types have

to match." Mr. Markel said. "The other aspect to this is our transplant programs are very careful to make sure the donation was done willingly. (We make sure) the person is well motivated and isn't being coerced in anyway."

### DISCUSS WITH FAMILY

If you are interested in donating, you should discuss your wishes with family members, should an unplanned situation arise, he said.

Anyone looking for more information on organ donation can visit [www.giftoflife.on.ca](http://www.giftoflife.on.ca) or call 416-363-4001 or toll-free 1-800-263-2833.

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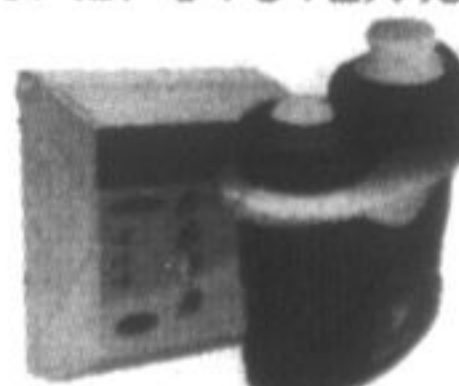
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