

Canadian Cancer Society

LOCAL CAMPAIGN CHAIRPERSONS
HEAR ELOQUENT THANKS FROM
TOP ONCOLOGIST

RIDEAU BRANCH- CANCER SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE 1986

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Dobson

At the 1986 Cancer Society's Conference, Marlene & Ron Dobson, Campaign Chairpersons for Rideau branch, heard an exemplary speaker and worker for the fight against Cancer. Dr. Phil Gold, Physician-in-Chief of Montreal General Hospital, Head of the Department of Medicine at McGill University, recipient of the Order of Merit and an Officer of the Order of Canada, gave the conference address. Detailing the various aspects of cancer, research and development of treatments, Dr. Gold closed with two of his favourite quotations, very relevant to the fight against cancer: paraphrasing from "Alice in Wonderland" - "You see, slow sort of country this. If you want to stay in the same place, you must run as fast as you can. If you wish to get elsewhere, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"

Dr. Gold then thanked all those volunteers whose efforts "keep our legs a little more brisk" His final remarks gave each person the incentive to try that little bit harder from a nephew of Nathaniel Hale: "I am only one but still I am one. I cannot do everything but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do".

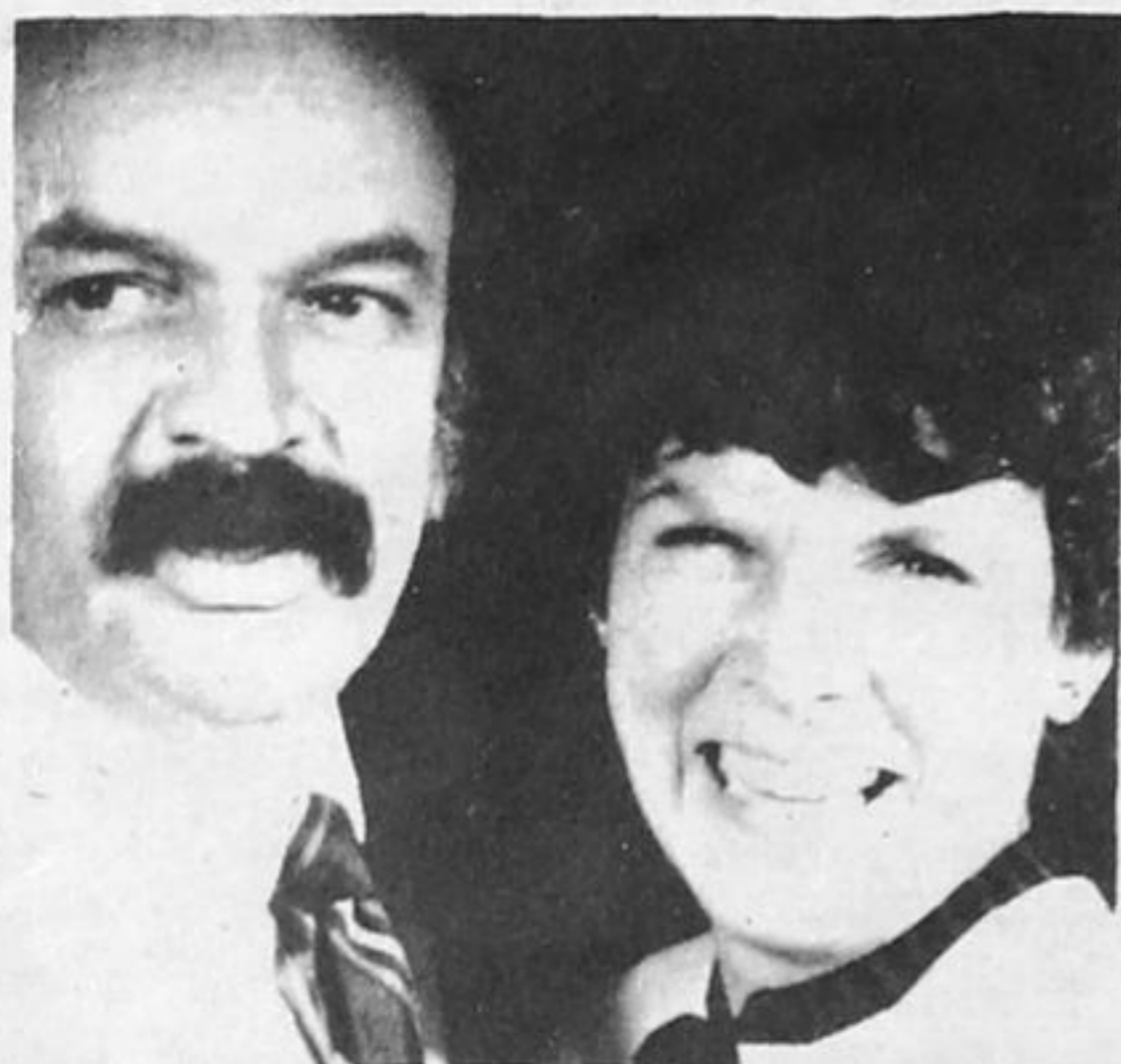
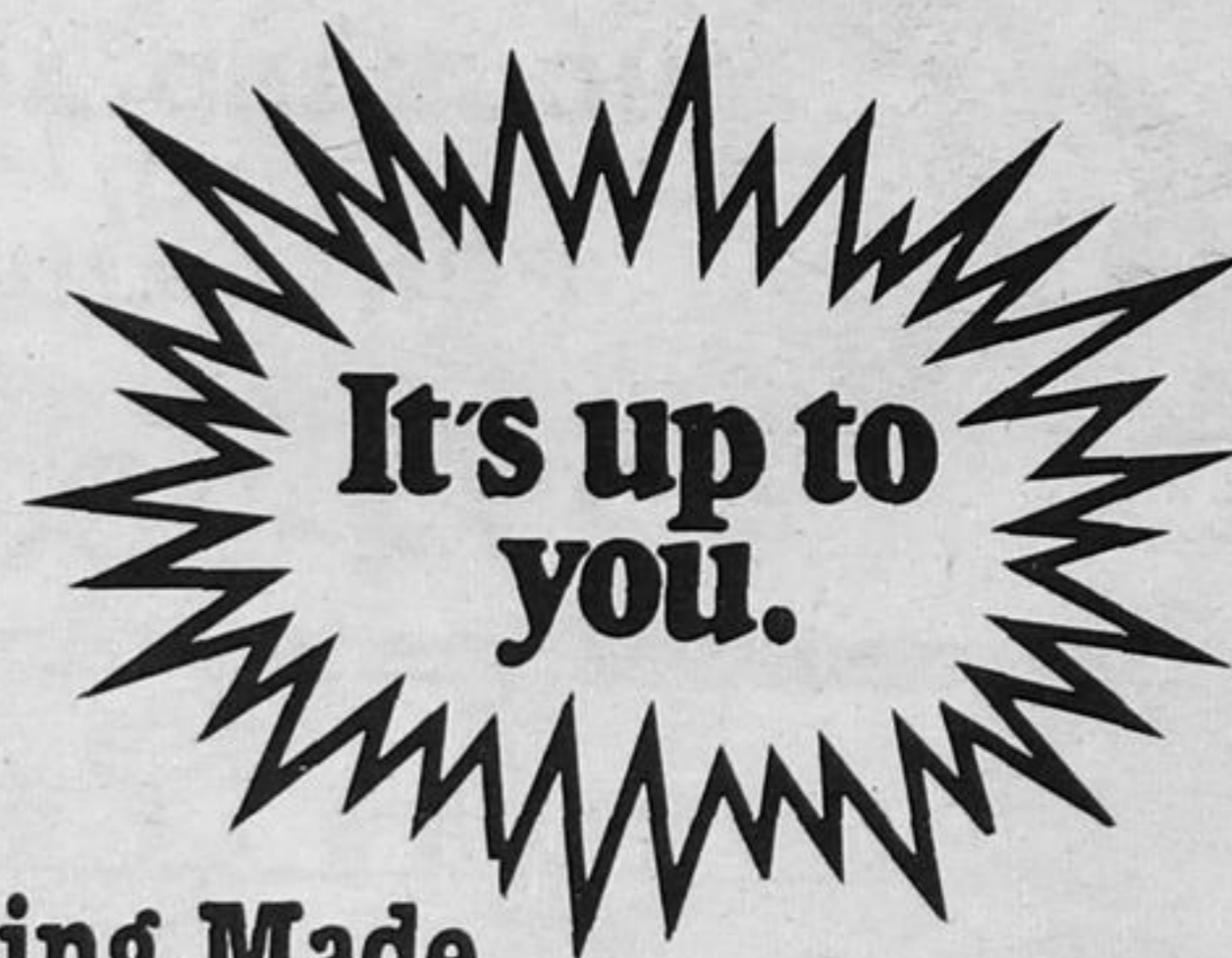
If we all do "the something we can do" our local Rideau branch should be able to easily exceed this year's goal...Give generously and help us win!

1986 Campaign



If your volunteer canvasser misses you, we would appreciate your donation being mailed directly to the CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY in your area

Cancer can be beaten.



Progress Sometimes Slow But Research Advances Are Being Made

"There have been very few spectacular breakthroughs in cancer research, and progress is sometimes tedious and difficult, but we're getting there - we are winning," Dr. Phil Gold told Campaign volunteers attending the Saturday morning session at the Ontario Division Campaign Conference.

Dr. Gold is currently Professor of Medicine and Physiology at McGill University in Montreal, and has devoted many years to cancer research.

ONE IN TWO CURED

Dr. Gold told the audience of 500 that one in four people will develop cancer (60 million in North America), but approximately one in two cancer patients will be cured.

"In this decade we will have about four million cancer deaths," he said. "Cancer is a major problem but it is a lot less than it used to be. We are moving ahead."

Breast cancer is still the leading cause of cancer deaths among women but lung cancer is rapidly overtaking it, Dr. Gold said.

"You've come a long way baby," said Dr. Gold, in response to this latest statistic. "You can smoke like us and now you can die like us." (Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths among men).

MANY FACTORS

Cancer is caused by a multiplicity of factors accumulated over a lifetime, Dr. Gold explained. "Cancer is an accumulative problem taking place over many years. Over 50 per cent of all cancer occurs in people over 50."

Dr. Gold discussed the biology of cancer describing cancer cells as "pushy cells that contact and invade normal tissue which destroys normal function."

CANCER CELLS BREAK AWAY

"Normal cells of a like type stay together but cancer cells break off the major mass and colonize in other parts of the body. These cancerous cells then destroy what they've attached themselves to."

"Cancer cells destroy locally and at a distance, and can be in place 5 to 15 years before the patient feels the effect of the cancer cells."

Dr. Gold said that research has been done to see if cancer is a matter of genetics or environment.

TWO STUDIES

He talked about studies undertaken on two major population shifts - Japanese people moving to the west coast of America, and the East European Jews moving to the Middle East.

"The first generation of both



Dr. Phil Gold

these shifted groups suffered from the same types of cancer that had been evident in their homeland. But the children and

grandchildren of these groups began to acquire the cancers of the place where they'd moved.

"For the most part we don't think cancer is caused by genetic factors, it is caused by our environment. This is everything we eat, drink, and breathe."

TREATMENT TECHNIQUES

Dr. Gold discussed some treatment techniques such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and immunotherapy.

"Immunotherapy may give us the means of finding the tumor and homing into the cell to explode it without damaging the normal tissue around it."

Dr. Gold concluded by saying the magical "panacea" for a cancer cure has not yet been found but that it is only with the volunteers' efforts that advancements in research happen.

"Researchers spend a lot of time thinking about problems but we need your help to put thinking into action."