

The gift of an active life

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The Flynns are a giving family and have instilled that value in their family business, as demonstrated with their generous gift to the University of Manitoba.



Don Flynn, founder of Flynn Canada, was diagnosed with Type A diabetes in the mid 1980s and endured chronic

complications for over two decades. After an exhausting and debilitating four years of dialysis, his kidneys gradually shut down and the need for a transplant became imperative. "Dad was basically reduced to palliative care," says Doug Flynn, the youngest of Don and Iris Flynn's four children. "There was little quality of life. It was clear a transplant was the only solution."

Doug was identified as an ideal donor candidate and decided to give his father the greatest gift possible – an opportunity for an active life with a new kidney. In December 2007, under the dedicated care of Dr. David Rush and Dr. Peter Nickerson, father and son underwent a kidney transplant. It was, undoubtedly, a critical and sensitive decision. However, Doug resists any moral accolades. "It was done for one simple reason," he says. "Dad either gets a new kidney or he dies. It really does seem that clear to me. He is the brave one."

This life-altering experience inspired another gift. On March 12th 2009, Doug and his father presented Dr. Rush and Dr. Joshua Koulack with a cheque for \$75,000. This will go towards the creation of a Research Chair in Renal Transplantation and is the result of fundraising efforts by employees at Flynn Canada Ltd, which the company then matched dollar-for-dollar.

Flynn Canada Ltd is a market leader in architectural metal building products and is best known for its commercial flat roofing products. Doug, President and General Manager, and his staff across Canada also raise money for diabetes research. In addition to the \$100,000 Flynn Canada donates annually to the Canadian Diabetes Association, the company also matches the funds that are raised by employees donated not only to the CDA, but also to diabetes-related illnesses.