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Clayton woman needs community's help; fundraiser to be held Dec. 14

By **TARA GESNER**
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Community – “We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone.”

A fundraiser will be held next month in aid of a Clayton woman suffering from pulmonary fibrosis, leaving her breathless and dependent on oxygen.

Dew Rotor, only 33 years old, is permanently hospitalized at the Toronto General Hospital (TGH) until she receives a life-saving double-lung transplant.

According to close Rotor family friend, Terry Garwood, it was earlier this month that Dew learned her lungs have failed to the point that she must stay at the health-care facility until she receives her transplant.

“It is not known how long it will take to find an organ donor,” said Garwood.

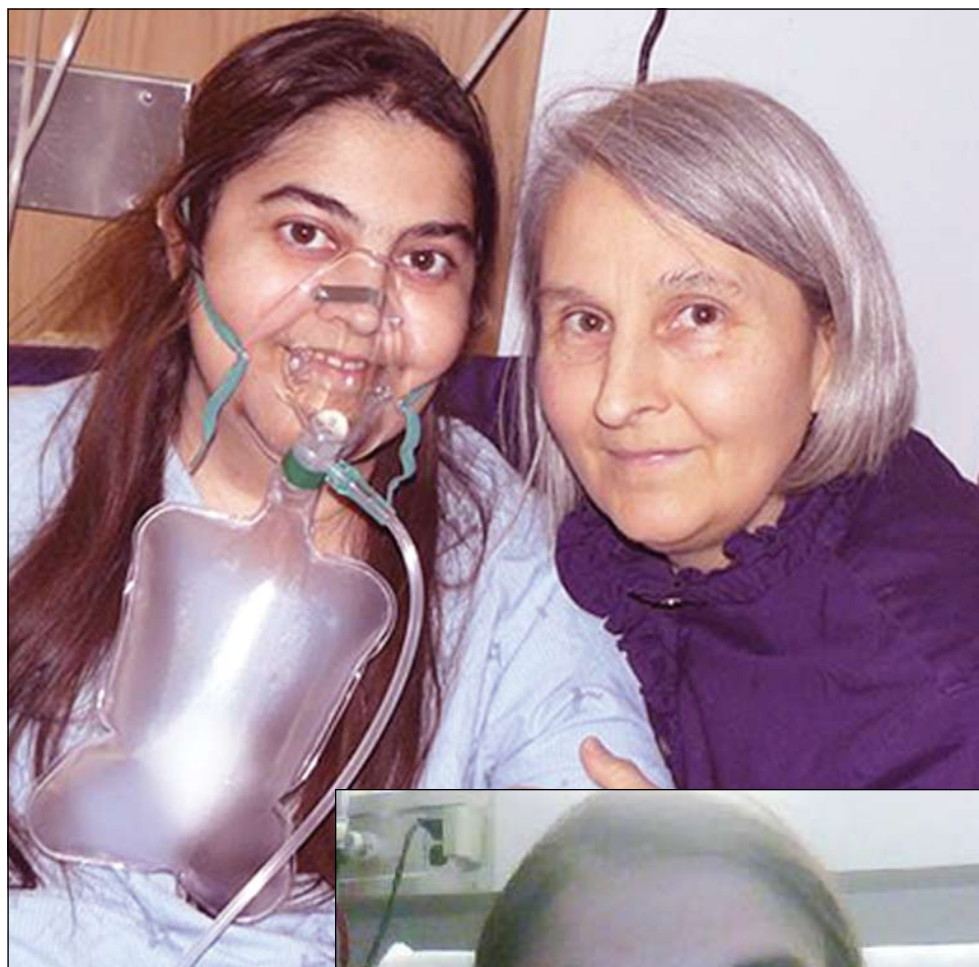
Pulmonary fibrosis is a chronic disease that results in scarring of the lungs. The scar tissue replaces healthy tissue and causes inflammation. This damage causes the lungs to stiffen and makes breathing increasingly difficult.

Less than 10 per cent of Dew’s lungs are still functioning and even the functioning parts of her lungs are severely compromised.

“In August, the transplant team at the Toronto General Hospital put Dew on the list for a double-lung transplant,” said Garwood.

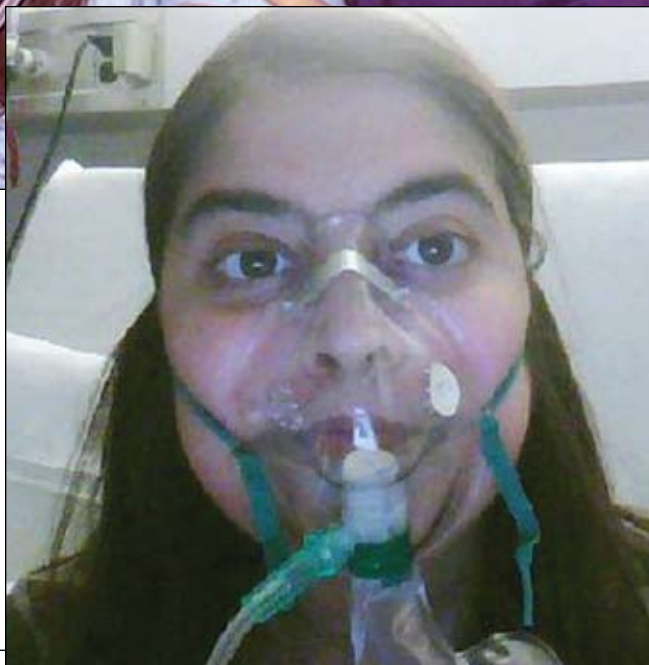
TGH has become the undisputed world leader in lung transplantation.

Ottawa native Hélène Campbell received her double-lung transplant at TGH in April 2012. Her story became public after she reached out to celebrities including Justin Bieber and Ellen DeGeneres to raise aware-



Clayton’s Dew Rotor, right, has pulmonary fibrosis. She is in Toronto with her mother and sole caregiver, Leslirae Rotor, above, while she waits for a lifesaving double-lung transplant. The family desperately needs financial help. A fundraiser will take place on Dec. 14 in the upstairs hall of the Carleton Place arena.

Submitted photos



ness about the need for organ donations while awaiting her surgery.

On Aug. 11, Dew and her mother (Leslirae Rotor) moved from their home in Clayton to an area near Guelph, to be within the required two-hour radius of the TGH. They have lived in Mississippi Mills for the last eight years.

However, now that Dew is unable to leave TGH until her transplant, Leslirae must now find accommodation in the city as soon as possible, while maintaining the family home in Clayton.

“I am worried about them,” said Garwood. “They are barely coping financially.”

What’s more, TGH requires the mother and daughter to live in Toronto for a minimum of three months post transplant, which will add additional expense.

People First of Lanark County (PFoLC), along with Garwood are spearheading the Dec.

14 fundraiser to help cover costs for Dew and her mother: accommodation, meals (the hospital cannot meet Dew’s requirements for a specialized diet), medical, transportation, moving expenses, the list goes on.

The fundraiser – Life4Dew – takes place Dec. 14 from 7 to 12 p.m. at the Carleton Place Arena (upstairs hall), located at 75 Neelin St.

There will be live music (lineup still to be determined), raffle draw, refreshments and more.

Admission is a \$10 donation to the cause.

Dew needs your financial help. To donate or for more information, go to www.Life4Dew.ca. Moreover, follow Dew’s journey on social media: www.facebook.com/Life4Dew (Facebook) or @Life4Dew (Twitter).

Watch the *Canadian Gazette EMC* for more details about Dew and the upcoming fundraiser.



Due to her fragile health status, Dew was given a hypoallergenic cat in 2010 – Toby Cat – her best friend.

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