

Denolm's drive, dedication, determination

By Noble Joe Johnson

Editor-in-Chief

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Nobles and Ladies, below is a patient success story letter from Shriners Hospital for Children - Canada from a very happy parent. There has been considerable news about the Dorsal Rhizotomy procedure. Sick Kids Hospital would only recommend it being done in St. Louis, MO. It costs about \$140,000 CDN to perform and OHIP is now covering it. Shriners perform this procedure for free in Montreal and Vancouver.

Emmanuelle Rondeau is our Public Relations Person at the Shriners Hospital for Children - Canada in Montreal.

Emmanuelle,

I'm not sure if this note is going to the right place (I obtained the address from the website) but I wanted to pass along a sincere thank you to the Montreal Shriners team for all of the past help they provided for my son Lorance "Denolm" Stephens. We recently met a boy with a similar condition to my son that received a different form of treatment to him and the results were very noticeable.

When Denolm was 2-years-old the doctors in Saskatchewan told us that the best course of action for Denolm, who has Cerebral Palsy, was to "buy him a really comfortable wheelchair to improve his quality of life".

The Shriners felt that they could further improve his quality of life with some innovative treatments starting with a Dorsal Rhizotomy. The medical professionals in Saskatchewan did not appreciate this procedure and ultimately refused to provide follow-up treatment so we continued to be treated in Montreal.

In 2011 Denolm moved to Calgary and the children's hospital there agreed to provide some follow-up instead of continuing in Montreal.

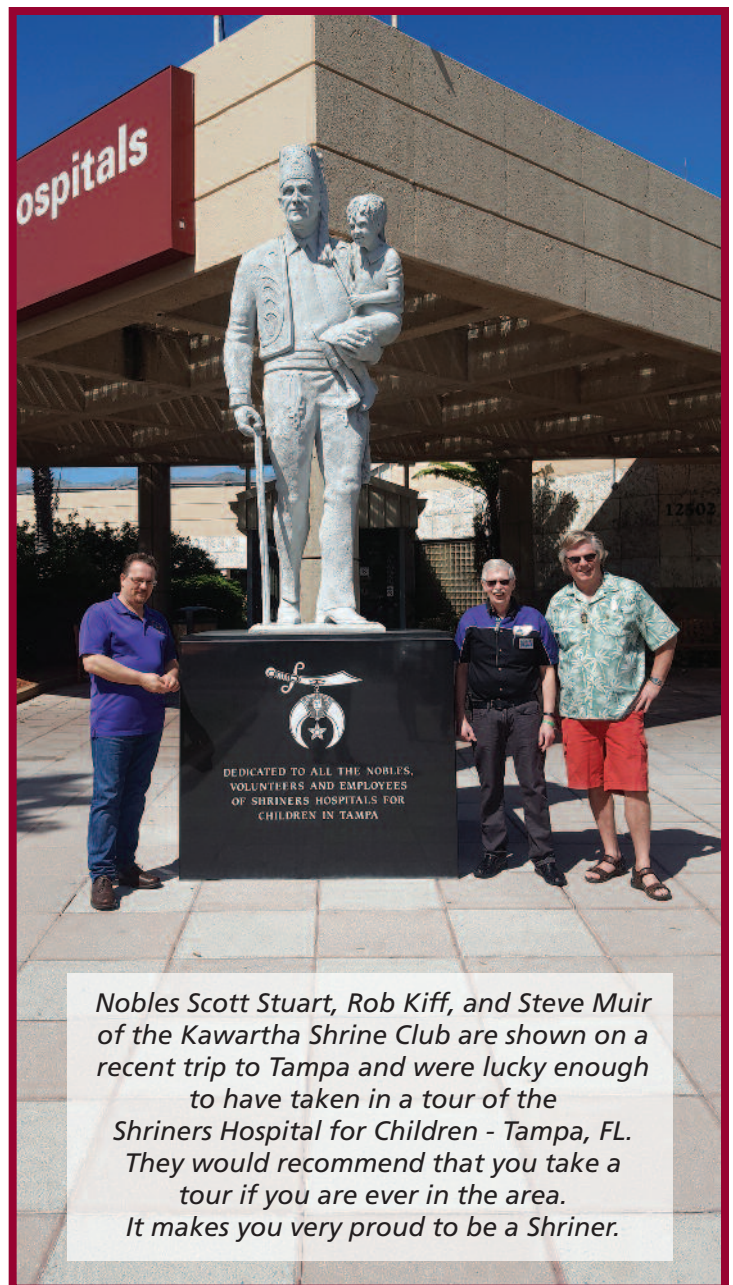
- Denolm has never required a wheelchair and has been able to walk with the use of one cane for balance.
- Denolm is now 20-years-old and in his second year of University where he intends to obtain a degree in sports medicine. He hopes to work with people with disabilities and getting them involved in adapted sport.
- Denolm has been involved in Wheelchair Rugby since he was 14. He is now a very experienced and promising athlete and in fact trying out for Team Canada in March with the goal to playing for team Canada at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Japan.
- Denolm is about to get his drivers license and during the advanced reflex testing it was determined that there is no requirement for him to use a mobility assisted vehicle to drive.
- Denolm and his teammates are creating a great deal of awareness with the benefits of adapted sports for people with disabilities by volunteering at many charitable events as well as volunteering to teach adapted sports in Calgary High Schools as part of the Phys Ed curriculum.

I say all of this, as we really believe that achieving these goals was in large part Denolm's drive, dedication and determination, however, having the physical ability and motivation to overcome obstacles was, and continues to be, a major contributor. This is directly connected with the amazing treatment and care that was provided by the Shriners Hospital.

Once again, thank you so much for all you have done and we do hope to give back in some way in the future.

Best regards,

Todd Stephens



Nobles Scott Stuart, Rob Kiff, and Steve Muir of the Kawartha Shrine Club are shown on a recent trip to Tampa and were lucky enough to have taken in a tour of the Shriners Hospital for Children - Tampa, FL. They would recommend that you take a tour if you are ever in the area. It makes you very proud to be a Shriner.



A Post Card from the Rameses Drum Corps on parade for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Toronto, "Irish for a day"