



Darryl Henderson's Stollery Story

I was born in 1978 with a heart defect known as Tetralogy of Fallot which is a heart defect that affects normal blood flow through the heart which occurs when a baby's heart does not form correctly. In my case there was a hole between two of four chambers of the heart. During the first four years of my life I was in and out of The Stollery for observation and treatment as they decided the best course of action was to see if my heart would develop any further and close the hole as I got older. However it did not and in 1983 I had my first open heart surgery. My physician and heart specialist was a man named Dr. Duncan and I remember his kind, easy going manner even being as young as I was. The surgery was performed on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, by a surgeon named Dr. Fortune. My mom has long said that I couldn't have had any more luck bestowed upon me that day. The surgery was a success. I continued yearly check ups going through two other Doctors at The Stollery, Dr. Dyck and Dr. Kantock, the latter seeing me at The Stollery deep into my 30's. I've only recently graduated to the Mazankowski Adult Heart Clinic in the last 8-10 years. Before doing so I had a second open heart surgery under the guidance of Dr. Kantock and The Stollery. When they closed the hole in the chamber walls they stretched my Aorta valve apart enough that blood would pool in my heart. The second surgery was completed successfully in 2009 by a surgeon named Dr. Rebeyka. They replaced both my aorta and tricuspid valves. I have had a long, intimate and successful relationship with The Stollery Children's Hospital and I'm very grateful to have such an amazing resource in Edmonton.