

Being the youngest of 11 children, Jerry Coughlan saw his mother, Millie, as the engine of the family.

Growing up in an old farmhouse with no electricity or running water, he watched her work hard to plant and harvest the food they ate, pulling weeds, tending livestock, making meals, washing clothes, and chopping wood, yet she still made the time to attend many of his high school team's hockey games, help any of her children if they had problems, answer their questions, listen to their stories, heal their hurts and pass over their mistakes.

In honour of his special relationship with his mother and to recognize her quiet strength and fortitude, the Jeremiah F. Coughlan Foundation made a gift to the Jerry Coughlan Health & Wellness Centre to name the building's emergency generator "Millie".

The plaque reads: "Jerry started his company in the 1950's with a \$15,000 loan from his mother; many years later, Jerry donated \$15 million to philanthropic projects in Durham Region including this very building that bears his name. Mildred gave Jerry love and laughter, and showed him that these qualities go a long way towards a happy life. May this space and equipment forever keep our lights on, our patients cared for, and keep everyone safe and secure."

Not many people will ever see the plaque or framed photograph of Millie up in the engineering space, but knowing that she is there when we need her makes her one of the most important parts of the entire building.

pictured below (L-R): Lynn Duggan, Jerry's long-time secretary who knew Millie; Lyn Dunlop-Coughlan, Jerry's widow



Click <u>here</u> to read the full press release about the official opening of the Jerry Coughlan Health & Wellness Centre.

If you want to get in touch with me, just give the Foundation office a call at 905.683.2320 x11501 or drop us an email at <u>aphfoundation@lh.ca</u>.

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to!

Yours in Philanthropy,

Tracy L. Paterson

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