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EDITOR'S NOTE KIMBERLEY KEARSEY

Hardship and hope

I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A WRITER. My earliest journal entry dates back to a time I could barely articulate myself verbally, let alone on paper (yes, this was before computers). I can't imagine a challenge big enough to stop me from doing what I love. And I share that sentiment with the nurses featured on the pages of this issue.

Lisa McKay, Lyn Garnett and Lorrie Reynolds are three RNs who have generously shared their stories of perseverance and passion for the profession despite hearing loss, a severe latex allergy, and paralysis (respectively). They will no doubt inspire readers, and leave some (myself included) wondering what they might do in the face of such hardship. We called on members in early March to tell us about an experience with adversity, and we want to bring more of these stories to you online (www.RNAO.ca/adversity).

There are few challenges in life that rock an otherwise stable existence the way a cancer diagnosis does. Windsor RNs

Amanda Ellard-Ryall and her husband Francis know what it's like to get not one, but two diagnoses at home (page 22). Each is fighting cancer, but they say they will not let that deter them from spending quality time with their four young children.

In this issue, we also bring you news of RNAO's *Queen's Park Day*. That notion of quality time may have rung true for some members at the event, as they were involved in brief but intense breakfast meetings with MPPs who can be hard to pin down (page 17). Leave it to RNAO members to get to the heart of important nursing, health and health-care issues during these short conversations.

This May, RNAO welcomes its 53rd president, Vanessa Burkoski. In her first interview with RNJ, she tells us what she hopes to achieve over the next two years (page 24). As things shift and change at RNAO, we're reminded that spring symbolizes new beginnings, and not just in nature. After the winter we've had, I for one can't wait for the change. **RN**



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