

Thanks to Demers Family Hall of Fame

Thank you very much Alain for this beautiful presentation that goes straight to my heart.

I would like to warmly thank Maurice and the Board of Directors of the Demers Family Association for choosing me as a new member of the Demers Family Hall of Fame. What a great honour! I also thank everyone who made today a memorable day.

Who am I?

I am described as an innovative physician, a pioneer in my field, who brings new ways of thinking and doing to medicine.

But what I accomplish, with the greatest of happiness, would never have been possible without the colossal work done by the generations of men and women who preceded me. I feel so privileged.

The past is a guarantee of the future, as the saying goes. Knowing the past is essential to better prepare for the future. For this reason, I want to express to you, dear members of the Demers Family Association, my sincere gratitude for the duty of remembrance that you show to those to whom we owe so much.

You bring to life in our hearts and minds, our ancestors to whom we owe our lives, of course, but who, also, from France to New France, and through all the history that followed, made their lives a true epic testifying to their valour, their courage and their resilience. We should be proud to be the descendants of these great men and women. Thank you for honouring their memory by reminding us of their history.

Closer to home, I was fortunate to have wonderful parents, who loved their nine children and demonstrated it every day. My father, Robert Demers, was a fair and good man. He told us that they had loved us even before they had made us. I have always found these words extremely comforting. Mom and Dad were valiant people, businessmen, entrepreneurs like many of the Demers family, with heart in their bellies and immense generosity and hospitality. I was raised to know how to *work hard* but also how to *reward yourself strongly*. Family gatherings and parties were, and still are, commonplace in my family - it's a lot of fun at the Demers events.

On an even more personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my husband, my unfailing ally, Sylvain, as well as our children Alexandre, Anastasia, Priya, our protégé Mélia, our stepsons Martin and Mathéo, and also Suzanne, who is the other granny as much in love as I am, and that's an understatement, believe me, of our two adorable granddaughters Amélie and Ariane. My little tribe, I love you forever and more.

Now, dear cousins of the Demers families, let's have a good time together. THANK YOU!

Dre Sylvie Demers

15 Juin 2024, Montebello