



**MEMORY LANE # 80 (EDITED)**  
**FROM THE BULLETIN OF THE YOUNG ISRAEL OF CHOMEDEY**  
**SUMMER 2001 EDITION**

**YASHER KOACH TO SHIRLEY AND WALTER ROLL FOR SPEARHEADING THE COCHLEAR IMPLANT CAMPAIGN FOR RYAN DUCHOENY:**

THIS IS THE SAGA OF OUR OWN NINE YEAR OLD RYAN DUCHOENY. HE WAS BORN DEAF TO NOREEN & FRANK DUCHOENY. HIS PARENTS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO MAKE SURE THAT RYAN RECEIVED THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATION. THEY LEARNED SIGN LANGUAGE, AND INCLUDED GRANDPARENTS BUBBY BERTHA & ZAILY JACK SCULNICK AND BUBBY BEATRICE & ZAILY WILLY DUCHOENY IN THE PROCESS. SEVERAL YEARS LATER CAME THE NEWS OF A MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGH THAT INCLUDED A NEW PROCEDURE CALLED A COCHLEAR IMPLANT WITH A 95% SUCCESS RATE. THE FAMILY FILED AN APPLICATION WITH QUEBEC REQUESTING THAT IT COVER THE EXPENSE OF THE OPERATION, WHICH WAS REFUSED. FRANK EMBARKED ON A CAMPAIGN TO GET THE EXPENSE APPROVED BY MEDICARE, ALSO TO NO AVAIL.

TWO OF OUR MEMBERS, SHIRLEY & WALTER ROLL ENCOURAGED THE DUCHOENY'S TO FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS ON RAISING THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO HAVE THE SURGERY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WITHOUT THESE APPROVALS THE OPERATION COULD NOT BE DONE IN CANADA. THE CLOSEST PLACE WAS BURLINGTON VERMONT WHERE IT COULD BE DONE AT A COST OF \$36,000 U.S. DOLLARS! THE ROLLS MADE HUNDREDS OF PHONE CALLS, SENT OUT HUNDREDS OF LETTERS, AND ENLIGHTENED THE GENERAL POPULATION ABOUT RYAN'S PLIGHT. THEY SENT OUT FUNDRAISING REQUESTS AND CONTACTED ALL THE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS. MONEY STARTED FLOWING IN FROM HERE IN CANADA, FROM THE U.S. AND FROM AS FAR AS ENGLAND, BUT MOST OF ALL FROM OUR OWN MEMBERS OF THE YOUNG ISRAEL. IN SIX WEEKS THEY HAD COLLECTED \$50,000 AND ON MARCH 5 RYAN HAD THE FIRST STAGE OF SURGERY AND IN A MONTH THE SECOND PROCEDURE WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THE IMPLANT ALLOWING RYAN TO HEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME!

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**WE REGRET ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS**

(**Yashor Koach to Fred Rudy** for providing us all with these memorable historical moments, which some of us may still remember!)