

***Brigitte is ready to test her new lungs***

# 'First I'll go dancing'

by **Trudy Rolland**  
Montreal Daily News

THE FIRST thing 18-year-old Brigitte Laflamme is going to do after leaving the Montreal General Hospital with a new set of lungs is go dancing.

"I'm going to a discothèque, and I'm going to dance, then I'll go shopping and my other goal is to find a full-time job," Laflamme, who was born with cystic fibrosis (CF), said yesterday.

A graduate of Two Mountains High School, Laflamme is the first CF patient in Quebec to undergo a double lung transplant.

Aside from the incision from the Sept. 22 surgery, Laflamme said she feels great.

"I used to go dancing but I couldn't move around the floor for more than five minutes because it was too hard for me to breathe," she said at a press conference at the Montreal General.

But her doctors caution that a lung transplant is not a cure for CF, a chronic, heredi-

itary disease that causes the production of thick mucus in the lungs and the inability to digest food properly.

Laflamme will still have to take enzymes to help her digest food and anti-rejection medication for the rest of her life, but she will be free from the back-pounding therapy she used to need twice a day to loosen the mucus from her lungs.

"The only therapy I'll be doing now is on stationary bicycle," said Laflamme who is now able to walk two miles in only 15 minutes.

Doctors Hani Shennib, a cardiothoracic surgeon, and Pierre Ernst, a respirologist, performed the seven-hour surgery using the lungs of a 38-year-old donor.

"The proximity of the donor...as well as the patient's general health, were all contributing factors to the success of this difficult high-technology transplant," said Dr. Shennib.

Laflamme is the



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**Brigitte with André Lamarre, director of CF clinic at Ste-Justine.**

third patient in Canada to undergo the surgery, and the youngest.

Dr. Shennib would not speculate whether the operation would prolong Laflamme's

life beyond 25 years, the average lifespan of a CF sufferer, but the young Montrealer is optimistic.

And yesterday her personal physician,

André Lamarre, director of the CF clinic at Ste-Justine hospital, said he believes Laflamme is well on her way to a complete recovery.

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