

October 25, 2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Doreen's statement:

I was very upset when I visited my Father in hospital only 48 hours after his fall, and he was extremely agitated that 'the 3 musketeers, as I call them' had already cleaned out his entire home, thrown out things without his permission and without him being there to supervise, and locking other possessions in sheds on the property, or on their own properties. He believed they would have snooped through and probably taken many of his private and personal financial and estate papers. He said they claimed it was because they were afraid Marlene would move in and control his assets and his life, now that he was injured, but, it was clear that Dad was less worried about that than he was about how Andy Bouchard and his two sisters had already stripped him of his privacy and rights, and home.

Dad talked to me about how Andy had tricked him into signing a Power of Attorney, or some other legal document (recollection doesn't serve me on which one it was, exactly). He said Andy slipped it under other paperwork, something to do with insurance, possibly the claim for his slip and fall injury at St. Eustache church (again, if I recall correctly); but that, in fact, he had been tricked into signing a legal document giving Andy control of something he would not have willingly done. He was very upset by that.

Dad even told me to quickly run over to the farm and take a TV; he wanted me to have

'something' before it was all 'gone', stolen by the others, he said. And, he went on to say how he was afraid of losing the money in his own bank account and gave me a handwritten note authorizing the bank to release \$1,000.00 to me immediately. He said I needed to go immediately, and tell no one, before it was all gone. I told him he shouldn't be doing anything until he was of sound mind and had healed; I did not use the signed note and discarded it some time later.

He never uttered a word about being afraid of Marlene's actions, or that he was upset with Marlene or that she had taken advantage of him. All the fears he expressed were about the actions of his son, Andy Bouchard, predominantly, and, as 'accomplices' (knowingly or not, I'm unsure), at Lynda Staub and Claire Demery.

As time went on, I became furious that these 3 siblings had, in fact, moved my Dad out of his home and confiscated all his private possessions before he even had more than 3 days to heal and express his own wishes.

I began to suspect that Marlene might be a scapegoat, since I felt they could have very easily only changed the locks, and/or removed ONLY Dad's personal papers, without cleaning out every corner and moving furniture out, and/or that Andy could have simply placed a restraining order on Marlene to keep her off the property. I felt something was just not 'right' about how quickly, thoroughly, and excessively they had 'protected' Dad from Marlene.

When Dad came out of the hospital, in the months and years that followed, Dad continued to tell me how he felt he'd been repeatedly lied to, manipulated, and taken advantage of by his son Andy Bouchard over the years. I couldn't grasp all the details of their legal agreements (all verbal, I might add) which stretched back 20 years, and so I didn't get involved. I simply counselled Dad to take it up with Andy Bouchard himself and/or to live with his mistakes of having trusted him (favoured him all his life, given Andy is the eldest son of a Fr-Cdn, R.C. Family - a cultural thing) .. and to simply not have any further contact or dealings with Andy Bouchard.

During the 'conflict' between the three Manitoba siblings and Marlene in the weeks immediately following Dad's release from hospital, and Dad having been relocated to St. Eustache Manor, I did visit him at his new apartment. To my surprise, Andy was there with binders and binders full of 'evidence' against Marlene; as was his wife Angela, and sibling Claire Demery. They tried to persuade me that it was all Marlene's fault, but I knew better than to take Andy's word at face value. I have always, my entire life, questioned his ethics and honesty - just a gut feeling. So, I agreed to attempt to 'mediate' the conflict on the condition that Andy Bouchard allowed Dad to return to his home in Elie if and when he so chose, and no later than July 1 that year. I asked him, several times, in front of his wife and my sister, and Dad, if I had his word. He said I did. Yet, 5 months later, and now, years later, Dad has not yet been returned to his homestead in Elie. I understand that, in the very beginning, it was Dad's choice. But, as time went on, I believe Dad began to 'wake up' to how much he'd been manipulated by his son, and when he later wanted to return to the homestead, Andy would not, and still has not, allowed him to return. I don't know if there's some legal reasons for this, but if there are, I'm not aware, and, regardless, I believe the ethical thing to do would be for my brother Andy to fairly compensate him for not being allowed to die in peace on the property in Elie that was once owned by Lionel, where he raised his nine children, and was once owned by Lionel's father before him. I do NOT think it would be wise or safe for Lionel to return to the farm, as the relationship between he and his grown children in Manitoba has been damaged beyond repair and no-one would be there to help him in his senior years. I, myself, plan to move out of province in the near future."

Leona
Bouchard
 Signed for *Doreen Bouchard*
Oct 25/2010

Leona Bouchard on behalf of Doreen Bouchard with the express permission of Doreen Bouchard

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He never uttered a word about being afraid of Marlene's actions, or that he was upset with Marlene or that she had taken advantage of him. All the fears he expressed were about the actions of his son, Andy Bouchard predominantly, and, as "accomplices" (knowingly or not, I'm unsure), at Lynda Staub and Claire Demery.

As time went on, I became furious that these 3 siblings had in fact, physically moved my Dad out of his home and confiscated all his private possessions before he even had more than 3 days to heal and express his own wishes.

I began to suspect that Marlene might be a scapegoat, since I felt they could have very easily only changed the locks, and/or removed ONLY Dad's personal papers, without cleaning out every corner and moving furniture out, and/or that Andy could have simply placed a restraining order on Marlene to keep her off the property. I felt something was just "not right" about how quickly, thoroughly, and excessively they had "protected" Dad from Marlene.

When Dad came out of the hospital, in the months and years that followed, Dad continued to tell me how he felt he'd been repeatedly lied to, manipulated and taken advantage of by his son Andy Bouchard over the years. I couldn't grasp all the details of their legal agreements (all verbal, I might add) which stretched back 20 years, and so I didn't get involved. I simply counselled Dad to take it up with Andy Bouchard himself and/or to live with his mistakes of having trusted him (favoured him all his life, given Andy is the eldest son of a French/Canadian, R.C. Family – a cultural thing) – and to simply not have any further contact or dealings with Andy Bouchard.

During the "conflict" between the three Manitoba siblings and Marlene in the weeks immediately following Dad's release from hospital, and Dad having been relocated to St. Eustache Manor, I did visit him at his new apartment. To my surprise, Andy was there with binders and binders full of "evidence" against Marlene; as was his wife Angela and Claire Demery. They tried to persuade me that it was all Marlene's fault, but I knew better than to take Andy's word at face value. It has always been my experience, my entire life, to question my brother's ethics and honesty. So, I agreed to

attempt to "mediate" the conflict on the condition that Andy Bouchard allow Dad to return to his home in Elie if and when Dad chose to do so and no later than July 1 of that year. I asked him, several times, in front of his wife and my sister, Claire, and Dad, if I had Andy's word. Andy said he gave his word. Yet, 5 months later, and now, years later, Dad has not yet been allowed to return to his homestead in Elie. At the very beginning, Dad was okay with moving out temporarily as he was being forced to and thought he would be returning. But, as time went on, I believed Dad began to "wake up" to how much he'd been manipulated by his own son, and when he later wanted to return to the homestead, Andy would not, and still has not, allowed Dad to return. I don't know if there's some legal reasons for this, but if there is, I'm not aware, and, regardless, I believe the ethical thing to do would be for my brother Andy to fairly compensate Dad for not being allowed to die in peace on the property in Elie that was once owned by my Dad, where he raised his nine children, and was once owned by Dad's father before him. I do NOT think it would be wise or safe for Dad to return to the farm, as his relationship with his grown children in Manitoba has been damaged beyond repair and so I doubt they will be there for him as he ages and needs more assistance. I, myself, plan to move out of province in the near future.



Signed: Doreen Bouchard, Winnipeg, Manitoba