

Alzheimer Society of Ontario seeks to build a safer Prince Edward County for people living with dementia

Belleville, ON – February 21, 2018 – The Alzheimer Society of Ontario is calling attention to the serious risk of going missing that people living with dementia-related memory problems face – 60 per cent will become lost at some point.

“Half of the people living with dementia who go missing for 24 hours face serious injury or death,” said Lisa Salapatek, Chief Program and Public Policy Officer, Alzheimer Society of Ontario. “It is everyone’s responsibility to keep these people safe. While having dementia presents challenges, there are many things we can do to manage the risk of getting lost or going missing.”

Through Finding Your Way®, the provincial charity is helping people throughout Prince Edward County who are living with dementia, their families and caregivers recognize the risk of going missing, be prepared for incidents of going missing, and ensure that people with dementia can live both happily and safe in their community.

Lloyd and Joanne Dawson make getting out a priority. “Since my wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s four years ago we’ve made it a priority to keep her mind active. She’s an avid painter and loves word games. We love long drives and working in the garden,” explains Lloyd. “Staying social and active is a key component to living well,” added Joanne. “Getting out of the house when and where possible can also reduce stress and boost one’s mood.”

Where safety is concerned, the Dawson’s have completed two identification kits that are kept on hand for first responders. The kits include personal information and potential places to look for Joanne if necessary. Their dedication to staying active, social and safe are important pillars of the Finding Your Way® program.

“Having a plan to reduce the risk of wandering is critical for people living with dementia and their caregivers,” says Dipika Damerla, Minister of Seniors Affairs. “By raising awareness and using strategies through Finding Your Way, we can proactively keep people safe in their home and community.”

About Finding Your Way

Finding Your Way® is a program developed by the Alzheimer Society of Ontario and funded by the government of Ontario through the Ministry of Seniors Affairs. Available in 12 languages, it offers valuable resources and information to help people living with dementia live safely in their communities. A full resource guide for people living with dementia, caregivers and first responders can be found [here](#). An interactive guide is available, [here](#).

About the Alzheimer Society of Ontario

Since 1983, the Alzheimer Society of Ontario has been dedicated to improving the quality of life for Ontarians living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and advancing the search for the cause and cure.

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