

# Société Alzheimer Society

CHATHAM - KENT

## NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014

Volume V Issue 4

### Mission Statement

*To improve the quality of life of people affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias through superior programs and research.*



### Christmas Holidays Hours

The Office and Day Programs will be **closed** on the following days only:

**Thursday, Dec. 25**

**Friday, Dec 26**

**Thursday, Jan 1**

*The Staff and Board of Directors wish everyone a safe and happy holiday which includes family and friends.*



### Day Program/VON Nursing Partnership

Since March of 2013, and with funding from the ESC LHIN, the Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent has embarked on a partnership with the Erie St. Clair VON. We are pleased and proud to say that we now have a successful nursing component in our Day Programs!

Our clients and caregivers take great comfort in knowing that their medical needs are being monitored by a registered nurse.

The nurse performs such duties as monitoring vital signs for changes, wound care, medication administration and foot and nail care. She can also communicate with other care partners such as the family physician, the pharmacist and the Community Care Access Centre. This has proven invaluable to streamline the transfer of information and avoid trips to the emergency department. We have also seen delays in admission to Long Term Care.



The nurse has developed a special bond with the clients in our Day Program. She has an extraordinary understanding of this very special population group. Her patience in treating each client as an individual with unique needs helps her to identify areas of concern and work towards improvement of overall health. Some of our clients have difficulty expressing their needs. Our nurse will work

patiently looking for clues to address a potential problem. Her gentle approach alleviates any hesitation felt by the client.

The mutual respect shown by all staff in the Day Program including the nurse and the Personal Support Workers has been critical to the success of the partnership. Each staff brings an expertise to the program which allows them to learn from each other and apply this knowledge to the future. It has been a "win win" for everyone!



### Coffee Break® Success!

Blenheim IODE who held a Muffin Coffee Break raising \$1,080! Pictured are Tammy Walzack, DP Support; Sharon Dye, Betsy Adair-Rice and Peggy Chapple from the IODE, Louise Crow, DP Ass't., Brandon Ball, DP Coord.

The money raised is to be used for our Day Programs.



## More Coffee Break<sup>®</sup> News!

Joanne Garant, President of the Tilbury Manor Family Council was all prepared for their Coffee Break<sup>®</sup> event held on September 18 at Tilbury Manor. They raised \$150!



Our special thanks to these participants who supported our Coffee Break Campaign to raise funds for those affected by Dementia in Chatham-Kent:

**Boston Pizza, Chatham**  
**Canadian Tire, Blenheim**  
**Canadian Tire, Chatham**  
**Dean and Barb's No Frills, Chatham**  
**Libro Financial Group, Blenheim**  
**Mahle Filter Systems**  
**McIntire Pharmacy, Blenheim**  
**Parks Blueberries, Bothwell**  
**Royal Bank, Blenheim**  
**Royal Bank, Chatham (King St.)**  
**Royal Bank, Ridgetown**  
**Scotialbank, Chatham (King St.)**  
**Tilbury Pharmacy**  
**Thamesville Credit Union**



An extra special thanks to:

**Bulk Barn, Chatham**  
**Maple City Bakery**  
**Francis Place**  
**IODE Blenheim**  
**Knights of Columbus (Dresden, Tilbury, Chatham)**  
**Meadow Park**  
**St. Andrews Residence**  
**Sydenham Residence**  
**Tilbury Lioness Club**  
**Tilbury Manor**

And another supporter!!



successful

## Save the Date! Walk for Memories 2015

After evaluating our walk in the past years, January has not been kind to us with regards to weather. In order to make it easier for you to participate, the Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent is moving our Walk for Memories to Saturday, March 7, 2015. The Walk will still be held at the [Downtown Chatham Centre](#) from 9:30am to 12 noon as in past years. Pledge forms will be available soon!



Alzheimer Society

**Be a walker.**  
**Be an end to Alzheimer's disease.**  
[www.walkformemories.ca](http://www.walkformemories.ca)

## Share Your Story...

The Alzheimer Society of Canada is collecting experiences of women affected by dementia to support their nationwide Alzheimer Awareness Campaign. If you are a woman living with Alzheimer disease, whether daughter, granddaughter, sister, partner, mother or friend or self, please consider sending them a photo and a short description to [meparker@alzheimerchathamkent.ca](mailto:meparker@alzheimerchathamkent.ca).



## Creating an LGBT Positive Environment

I welcome the efforts of support workers and staff to welcome and serve the LGBT communities. Of course, you have already been serving LGBT individuals since you started, but you may not have known it.

We are part of every community and we are a diverse group: able-bodied and differently-abled, black and white, Canadian born and new comer, well educated and not, English and French.

Our stories are unique and different from those of the mainstream.

That's why "We treat everyone the same" is a non starter for us.

Older members of our communities lived much of their adult lives under a cloud of oppression. We were criminals up to 1969 when sexual relations between consulting same sex individuals was decriminalized.

We were perverts, sickos or mental health cases until homosexuality was removed from the listing of mental health conditions in 1968. We were discriminated against in employment and housing until the Human Rights codes of provinces and territories got around to incorporating sexual orientation as a grounds for discrimination. Sadly, we are still called sinners and abominations of God's law by most religions traditions although in all such traditions there are small groups who stand up for LGBT rights.

Because of this history of oppression, we often experience internalized homophobia with negative consequences in our lives and health.

We tend to be more socially isolated, age alone and lack the support of family and children.

The news isn't all bad. We're a resilient bunch, managing the slings and arrows of aging better than our straight brothers and sisters. If you've been through what we've been through, you're tough.

Learn more about creating a queer positive environment with this recorded webinar from the [Brain Exchange](http://brainexchange.ca/Public/Resource-Centre-Topics-A-to-Z/LGBT-and-dementia.aspx) or at <http://brainexchange.ca/Public/Resource-Centre-Topics-A-to-Z/LGBT-and-dementia.aspx>



Dick Moore is an experienced educator re: older LGBT concerns & needs. He is the coordinator of Older Adult LGTBTT at 519 Church St and has spent 9 years as director of Senior Services of TFS, 5 years as director of Older Adult Centre at St. Christopher House, and is Chair of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee of the City of Port Colborne.

Guest blog posting courtesy of the Alzheimer Society of Canada website, [www.alzheimer.ca](http://www.alzheimer.ca).

## 5th Annual Alzheimer Society Scholarship Competition

The Scholarship Writing Program for 14-19 year old students in Chatham-Kent, involves a 1,000 word written essay about Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

The objective of this program is to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, provide scholarship money to assist those pursuing a college or university education, as well as to encourage students to consider a career in gerontology. This is your opportunity to do research and learn about a disease that affects so many people in your community. Those essays selected will be posted on our website.



### 2 Age Categories:

14-16 year old

17-19 year old

**First Place:** \$500 Scholarship (for each category)

**Second Place:** 200 Scholarship (for each category)

**Deadline for submissions: December 5, 2014**

For an application and scholarship guidelines contact the office at (519) 352-1043 or visit our website: [www.alzheimer.ca/chathamkent](http://www.alzheimer.ca/chathamkent)

## Heroes in the Home - Louise Crow

The Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent is pleased to announce that our very own Louise Crow received a "Heroes in the Home" award from the Erie St. Clair CCAC on October 4th in a ceremony at Club Lentinas. Louise was nominated by Jana Murphy, Day Programs Manager who described Louise this way:

*"Louise has acted as a professional caregiver for over twelve years. Louise is described as a 'compassionate and selfless person' with a commitment to all of the clients in the Adult Day Program at the Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent. Louise has a way of making all of her clients feel at ease as her approach is extremely calming and person-centred.*

*Louise's clients often look to her for reassurance as they trust and respect her for her compassion, empathy and professionalism. They recognize her as a "Hero in the Home."*

We are extremely proud of Louise and all of our staff for the work they do.



Louise Crow, Chatham Day Program Assistant at the CCAC Awards Ceremony on October 4, 2014.

## Finding Your Way

Finding Your Way is a multicultural safety awareness initiative from the Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Ontario and the Ontario Senior's Secretariat to help caregivers prevent missing incidents before they occur. Anyone who has dementia and

is able to walk is at risk of going missing. Did you know that 3 out of 5 people with dementia will go missing at some point?

**50% of those missing for more than 24 hours risk serious injury or death from exposure, hypothermia and drowning. This is an emergency! When someone is missing, call 911!!**

The risk of people going missing is greater when the community, caregivers or persons with dementia are unaware of the potentially severe consequences. Preparation and planning are crucial to prevent people with

dementia from going missing, and to ensure they are found safely and quickly. Currently, there is a very low awareness of missing incidents in our community and many people do not know where to seek help.

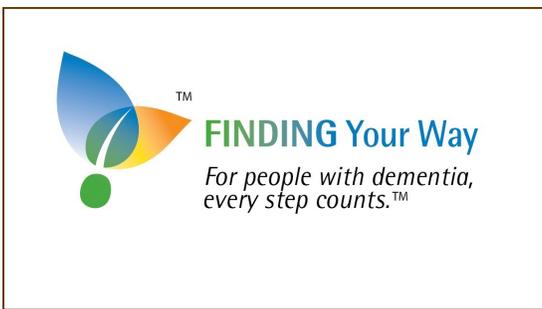
The Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent will provide caregivers with a Finding Your Way safety kit which contains tools to help ensure the safety of the individual without depriving them of their independence or dignity.

For more information or to learn more, please contact our office at:

**519-352-1043**

Or visit:

[www.findingyourwayontario.ca](http://www.findingyourwayontario.ca)



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**Supported by:**

