

Soci t  Alzheimer Society

CHATHAM - KENT

VOLUME IV, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2013

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 24-hour Emergency Hotline
- Learn to take time for yourself
- Scholarship Winners
- Need New Board Members

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MedicAlert Safely Home Program 1

2013 Walk for Memories - the Results 2

Understanding Dementia 3

Upcoming Education Event 4

Launch of MedicAlert® Safely Home® Program



Earlier this year, the Alzheimer Society of Canada and the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation launched the MedicAlert® Safely Home® program to provide improved services to persons with dementia to help them live as safely as possible. This is an invaluable service that provides crucial medical details almost instantly and also helps identify persons with dementia who may become lost and assist in a safe return home.

The MedicAlert ID and service was originally created so that emergency first responders could use the information engraved on the back of the MedicAlert product to access life-saving medical and personal information.

The Alzheimer Society of Canada originally developed the Safely Home program so that persons with dementia could be registered with their local police department to help identify them and return them safely home.

Now, the Alzheimer Society of Canada has partnered with the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation to provide a more comprehensive electronic health and identity

record. This includes a 24-hour emergency hotline accessible around the world and is available in over 140 languages.

Merging the two programs will offer several advantages to families living with dementia. Persons with dementia can have all of their medical information (e.g. memory loss, allergies, surgeries, implants, etc) engraved on the back of the product. The 1-800 number is accessible across North America, eliminating dual registration for snowbirds. Less stigma is associated with the MedicAlert product as people of all ages and conditions wear them. The annual renewal process ensures that contact information is kept current, which has been particularly challenging under the old Safely Home program.

Persons with dementia may lose the ability to recognize familiar places, to communicate, or to remember their own name or address. They may leave home, become confused and get lost. This can be dangerous for persons with dementia and worrisome for families and caregivers. If they are wearing a MedicAlert product (there are 100 styles to choose from) then personal information and a hotline number are engraved on the back. Should they go missing, police can quickly identify them by calling the MedicAlert 24-hour Emergency Hotline. When

called, the emergency hotline specialists immediately contact the necessary family members and caregivers to let them know the situation and location of their loved one, reducing anxiety for everyone.

If someone is currently registered with the old Safely Home program, they will need to register with the new program to enjoy all of the new benefits. The registration fee will be waived if someone is already a Safely Home member. Once registration is completed and the new ID product arrives, the old Safely Home bracelet would be discarded.



There are 3 ways to enroll.

1. Online.
Visit medicalert.ca/safelyhome
2. By Phone.
Call 1-855-581-3794
3. By Mail.
Pick up a form at the Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent, fill it in and mail to the address provided.

There is a one-time registration fee, a product fee, as well as a \$5 monthly membership fee.

MedicAlert® and Safely Home® are registered trademarks.

2013 WALK FOR MEMORIES Alzheimer Society

Thank You !

The Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent would like to express its gratitude to the many community members who supported our recent Walk for Memories where over \$6600 was raised to fund our programs and services. A special thank you to the participants and the donors who supported them, the many businesses who donated prizes, the PUBCRAWLERS who kept everyone entertained and our MC Simon Crouch of Blackburn Radio.

Thank you to our local sponsors:



Residence on the Thames
MB Financial Services - The Money Broker
Lar-nick Lawn and Snow Services
St. Andrew's Residence
Alexander & Houle Funeral Home

Maple City Retirement Residence
Parks Blueberries
Screen Art International
Hinnegan-Peseski Funeral Home
RBC Royal Bank Chatham-Kent
TD Canada Trust - Chatham



Members of Team - 4 my Mother
The Alexander Family



Warm Up Exercises led by Rob Deneau of Goodlife Fitness



Members of Team Mulligan



Understanding Dementia

Imagine a close friend tells you that she has dementia. Would you avoid her for fear of being embarrassed by what she might say or do?

According to a recent poll by Alzheimer’s Disease International, 40 per cent of people living with dementia reported that they had been avoided or treated differently after diagnosis. One in four respondents cited stigma as a reason to conceal their diagnosis.

Despite the rising numbers of Canadians living with dementia, and its most common form, Alzheimer’s disease, these conditions are still widely misunderstood. That’s why the Alzheimer Society has just launched a new campaign, with the slogan: See me, not my disease. Let’s talk about dementia, to encourage everyone to see the person beyond the disease.

Our “First Steps” and “Next Steps” Learning Series is proving that by understanding dementia and learning about different options, we are better equipped to handle changes in our lives. We polled the

participants of these groups to see how they felt after they had taken the series. Here are some of the responses:

Name 2 key things that you learned that will be useful as you proceed on the dementia journey.

- “patience”
- “humour”
- “communication strategies”
- “take time for myself”
- “the Long Term Care process”
- “approach strategies”
- “thinking outside the box in recognizing activities that we are already doing and could do in the future”
- “I now understand the different types of dementia and how the brain functions”
- “how the disease progresses and how to plan”
- “I now know that I’m not the only one facing this. That is such a relief.”

“talking with others about similar issues”

“the staff who provided the information were extremely knowledgeable and supportive of everyone’s unique situation”

“I have a better understanding of the Power of Attorney”

“I am aware of how dementia symptoms/behaviours can affect the caregiver”

“learned to take time for myself—do for myself”

“I understand how to navigate the Long Term Care option”

The people who attended these sessions are grateful for the information provided. Learning Series sessions will be held in several communities in Chatham-Kent and will be scheduled for morning, afternoon or evening time slots. If you or someone you know could benefit from our sessions or support and education from one of our social workers, please call the office at 519-352-1043.



3rd Annual Scholarship Winners 2012

17-19 year olds

First Place: \$500

Laural Miller

Second Place: \$200

Carol McFadden

This Scholarship Writing Program for 14 -19 year old students involved a written essay about Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias.

The objective of this education program was 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.

Call for Nominations

The Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent is currently seeking persons who are interested in furthering our mission, “To improve the quality of life of people affected by Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias through superior programs and research.” Through this volunteer role as a board member, you will assist in providing guidance and support for the strategic plan, fund development opportunities and awareness. In order to maintain a balanced skill set, we are looking for these attributes; however, we are willing to consider other applicants:

Accounting (CGA or CA)

Youth (18 and under)

Law

Senior Business Administration

Caregiver

Rural/Small Community Living

The prevalence of dementia is increasing rapidly. In response to this increase, the Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent is in a state of unprecedented growth! Through the support of our funders (Erie St. Clair LHIN) our programs and services are increasing to meet the needs of the almost 2000 people with dementia in Chatham-Kent. Help us make a difference. Please contact:

Mary Ellen Parker, CEO
 Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent
 519-352-1043
meparker@alzheimerschathamkent.ca

Soci t  Alzheimer Society

CHATHAM - KENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joyce Vidler, PRESIDENT
Ed Gibson, VICE PRESIDENT
Mary Jane Comiskey, SECRETARY/
TREASURER
JoAn Dale, PAST PRESIDENT

DIRECTORS

Kirk Earley Brenda Regnier
Cindy Stokes Sue Thomas

STAFF

Loree Bailey,
Wallaceburg Day Program Coordinator
Brandon Ball,
Chatham Day Program/Volunteer
Coordinator
Corinne Cazabon,
Social Worker
Esterina Cataldo,
Finance Coordinator
Louise Crow,
Chatham Day Program Assistant
Lina DeMattia,
ESC LHIN BSO Regional Education
Coordinator
Deborah Gammage,
Wallaceburg Day Program Assistant
Jillian Heard,
BSO System Navigator
Marie Humphrey,
Administrative/Finance Coordinator
Michelle Janisse,
Support Services Manager/Social Worker
Aimee Meriano,
Respite Supervisor/Events Coordinator
Jana Murphy,
Day Programs Manager
Mary Ellen Parker,
CEO
Tara Seney,
Public Education Manager/First Link®
Christina Stergiou,
ESC LHIN BSO Regional Coordinator
Nikki Stergiou,
Policy Research Assistant
Robert VanDevelde,
Tammy Walzack
Day Program Support Staff

IN-HOME RESPITE CARE WORKERS

Loree Bailey	Tammy Murphy-
Rick Bernard	Lodewegen
Kim Chenier	Alison Myers
Jolanda Chevalier	Kate Rademaker
Cecile Fox	Pat Spears
Lisa Kochnowich	Felicia Trigo
Lindsay Martin	Kim Verfaillie
	Brenda Wrobel

You Are Invited To a Free Information Session...

“Alzheimer’s Disease: Warning Signs, Communication & Prevention”

Date:

Wednesday, April 10th, 2013

7:00pm-8:30pm

Refreshments will be served

Location:

Eden Villa Retirement & Assisted Living
190 Stanley Ave.
Chatham, Ontario
N7M 3J9

Please RSVP or Sign-up by April 5, 2013 at the
Eden Villa Retirement & Assisted Living Home:
(519-354-2273)

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Supported by:



36 Memory Lane
Chatham, ON N7L 5M8

Phone: 519.352.1043

Fax: 519.352.3680

E-mail: info@alzheimerchathamkent.ca

www.alzheimerchathamkent.ca