

## **Shoppers Drug Mart a major sponsor in Oxford County**

In a unanimous collective move, the five Shoppers Drug Marts in Oxford County have become a vitally significant major sponsor of the Alzheimer Society of Oxford's Client Programs and Services.

The owners/pharmacists involved in the sponsorship are: Lisa Silverthorne (Woodstock east), Stacey Andrecyk (Woodstock west), Christin John (owner of both Norwich and Tillsonburg operations) and Lela Persaud (Ingersoll).

Speaking on behalf of her colleagues, Lisa said she is proud her Oxford associates saw the importance of such a move and eagerly embraces the continuation of the relationship between the pharmacies and the Alzheimer Society of Oxford. The agreement was recently renewed.

"We've supported the Society since I've been the owner here," she said. "During that time the focus was on other aspects of the organization's work and donations. Just over a year ago (Executive Director) Shelley (Green) approached me about Shoppers becoming a major sponsor.

"I discussed this with my Oxford colleagues, all were extremely supportive. We thought, due to the nature of our business and the fact we see clients with Alzheimer's and their families on a daily basis, this arrangement would show us how well the money is used and also let us give back."

Praising the Alzheimer Society of Oxford for following through on its promises to sponsors, Lisa said the owners/pharmacists are pleased with the exposure it has given Shoppers Drug Mart operations in the county.

"As Alzheimer's is so pervasive, we're happy to participate in the pursuit for more research and, of course, to support the many excellent programs and services offered by the Society," she added. "In our daily and professional lives, we've seen first-hand how this mental deterioration progresses over the days, weeks, months and years.

"I've spoken with caregivers, some often in a state of exasperation, looking for the proper medication for a relative and explaining their personal situations. The first words that come out of my mouth are always 'are you getting support from the Alzheimer Society?' I'm relieved the answer is often yes. If not, I make sure they know exactly how to contact the organization."

As a major sponsor, the name Shoppers Drug Mart is seen in a variety of the Society's publications and on their website and Facebook page.

"My grandmother, not an Oxford County resident, suffers from Alzheimer's," added Lisa. "So, I have experienced this on a personal level, as well as talking with people dealing with the effects of dementia over the years. I and my colleagues know how important the work of the Alzheimer Society of Oxford is for so many individuals and families.

"Shoppers Drug Mart is pleased to support the organization's excellent client programs, services and incredible resources because they help make very difficult situations better for caregivers

and those affected by various forms of dementia. A day doesn't go by without me referring someone to the Society.”

In addition to her business' major sponsorship, Lisa has also offered her support and expertise as an active participant and speaker/presenter in two consecutive Brain Booster programs at Goff Hall in Woodstock.

“I was gratified to take part in those great events,” she said. “Last year, as well as speaking there, I participated in a follow-up to my address, essentially a group session for the Society's Volunteer Companions. These volunteers visit homes and sit with clients, giving caregivers some much-needed time for a break.

“This means more insight for me personally and professionally. Shelley is so helpful, kind and gracious when we touch base. I was worried there may be questions about our sponsorship but all owners are onboard. There'll be a tour of the Society's operation at a yet-to-be-determined date in 2020. The store owners who haven't been there before will get a first-hand look and a greater appreciation.”

To learn more about sponsors and other pertinent details on programs, services and upcoming events please go online to the Alzheimer Society of Oxford's website - <https://alzheimer.ca/en/oxford>.