Connect

THE ALS MB NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017

ALS SLA
ALS SOCIETY OF MANITOBA
LA SOCIETE MANITOBAINE DE LA SLA

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A New Way To Connect

Evolving is an essential characteristic of life. For organizations, an ongoing internal and external transformation is essential to effectively serve the community and achieve their mission. At ALS MB, connecting with our clients, supporters, health authorities, and the community at large is very important. To improve our communication, we have redesigned and given a name to our newsletter. Every season, Connect will give you updates about the latest research on ALS/MND and our services; provide information about our achievements and challenges; share stories and experiences of clients and families affected by ALS/MND; as well as an overview of our past and upcoming events. If you prefer, you can subscribe to our e-newsletter version at www.alsmb.ca.

Spring/Summer was full of activities and although it has come and gone, it was not without bringing important achievements. We had our CORNFLOWER GALA that brought together families, clients, and sponsors for a lovely evening of fine dining, dancing and fun. In June, we partnered with the Winnipeg Goldeyes for our Annual Pass The Helmet, known as LOU GEHRIG'S NIGHT. The traditional ALS MB FLAG RAISING CEREMONY with Mayor Brian Bowman at City Hall was held. The WALK FOR ALS celebrated in both Winnipeg and Belmont were a tremendous success, setting new records in attendance and donations with more than 2,400 people and over $250,000 raised. To close this important month for ALS/MND, we had our AGM/VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENING to say thank you to all our volunteers for an amazing job helping our community and supporting our activities throughout the year.

Third-party events have continued all summer long with golf tournaments, dancing, fishing, and more. Big or small, thank you everyone; every piece counts and makes our organization stronger.

With the holiday season upon us, I would like to invite you to participate in the LITE UP A LIFE 2017-2018 campaign and to join us at this year's lighting ceremony on December 6, 2017, 7 p.m.

Enjoy all the moments this wonderful season can bring!

Diana Rasmussen

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RESEARCH

Webinars: A Good Way to Be On Top of ALS Latest Research

Research is a very significant source of HOPE to make ALS/MND treatable and not a terminal disease. Attending webinars is a good way to keep you informed about what is happening with ALS/MND research in Canada and where your dollars are being invested. ALS Canada with the support of their provincial partners, funding organizations, and the scientific community offer free webinars throughout the year. These online resources allow you to learn about the latest research advancements and clinical trials across the country.

COMING UP:

The ALS Treatment Pipeline
Thursday, November 30, 2017
3:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. CST
A webinar by Neurologists for Canadians affected by ALS
Presented by the Canadian ALS Research Network.
Sponsored by the ALS Canada Research Program.
To learn more or register, go to: https://www.als.ca/research/webinars-and-education/

If you missed this webinar, you can still view it as well as past webinars through the ALS Canada website (https://www.als.ca/research/webinars-and-education/).

Do you need support to get into these resources? Contact us:
(204) 831-1510
HOPE@alsmb.ca

Connect with us:

- Be involved.
- Become a volunteer.
- Tell us your story. Do you have a family member or friend affected by ALS/MND? We would love to hear from you.

Left to right: *Belinda Wiebe-Friesen, Kelsey Jackson, Joanne Mills, Jessica LoRusso, Grant Zipursky, Eric McCormick, Real Picard, Dr. Jiming Kong, Diana Rasmussen.*

Connect to Our Community

Meet The Board of Directors

The board of Directors is the governing body responsible for overseeing all our activities and helping the organization to achieve its mission to **H**elp **O**ur **P**eople **E**very way we can. At the **ALS Society of Manitoba**, it is important to ensure we have the best people directing our steps, and we certainly do.

Our board is combined of 12 community leaders with different professional backgrounds that meets once a month in a friendly and very productive environment. They work together on an ongoing basis to make decisions and bring together ideas on how to improve our services and develop resources to help the growing number of people affected by ALS/MND in our province.

A unique characteristic of the current board is their passion, camaraderie, and commitment. It is amazing to see that every member is always willing to share their experiences and points of view, to participate actively in the discussion and the decision making and to be part of the fundraising and advocacy activities.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Jessica LoRusso
(President)
Janelle Batters
(Past President)
Micheline Chaput
(Vice President)
Real Picard
(Treasurer)
Kelsey Jackson
(Secretary)
Sharon Blady
Dr. Jiming Kong
Eric McCormick
Joanne Mills
Ernst Schell
Belinda Wiebe-Friesen
Grant Zipursky

Do you want to become a board member?
(204) 831 1510 Ext. 20
HOPE@alsmb.ca

Dan and Eileen Coates.

Catfish Buy The Pound: A Third-Party Event to Fish On For ALS

An active and wonderful way to help the ALS/MND community is through holding a Third- Party Event. These fundraising events are planned by outside parties who donate all the proceeds to the ALS Society of Manitoba.

Catfish Buy The Pound was a successful example of a third-party event that helped support our Client Services. Dan and Eileen Coates kicked off a unique fundraising campaign in memory of Eileen's dad, who died of ALS. They caught and released catfish to raise funds for ALS/MND during the 2017 Manitoba Fishing Season on the Red River. Dan and Eileen were on the water 26 times, from June 3 to Oct 8 and boated 5,156.2 pounds of fish, including 65 master angler catfish (34" or longer).

The results of this event were amazing. Catfish Buy The Pound raised $6,545 with the help and active involvement of many sponsors and donors.

Thank you Dan and Eileen and all their supporters for your donations, hard work, and enthusiasm.

Third-party initiatives like this promote and inspire action in our community. We are looking forward to see how Catfish Buy The Pound will tackle ALS in 2018!

To learn more about Catfish Buy The Pound: **catfishbtp.com**

Giving a Gift of HOPE and Optimism Requires Action

As the 2017 year comes to a close, people often think about tax receipts and want to make a charitable donation. ALS Society of Manitoba would like you to include us in your plans.

We need your help to convert HOPE and optimism in actions that support research and improve the quality of life of those who battle ALS/MND every day. Make your dollars count. Every $20 donation will receive a tax receipt.

To Donate: **(204) 831 1510**
HOPE@alsmb.ca

ACHIEVEMENTS, CHANGES & CHALLENGES

Spring and Summer, as stated, were very active seasons for us. Thanks to the commitment, participation, and effort of our families, friends, donors, and volunteers, we have achieved amazing results in different events, such as:

- Cornflower Gala 2017. *April 29*
- Catfish Buy the Pound. *2017 Fishing Season**
- The Goldeyes Evening. *June 2*
- Walk for ALS 2017 -Belmont. *June 3*
- Walk for ALS 2017 -Winnipeg.
- *June 17*
- IFMA Manitoba Golf Tournament. *July 18**
- Henry Derksen Memorial Golf Tournament. *July 20**
- Crown Utilities Golf Tournament. *Aug. 18**
- Drive for Life Golf Classic. *Sept. 7*
- Vipond Golf Tournament. *Sept. 18**
- Bud, Spud and Steak. *Oct. 12*
- Scottish Ceilidh Evening. *Oct. 28**

* *Third-party event*

14 YEARS OF DRIVING OUT ALS

After 14 years of exceptional success, it was time to retire The Drive for Life Golf Classic in memory of Marcel Bertrand, giving the trophy a special place in the Society's history. Throughout these years, the golf tournament brought together 2,400 participants, 400 volunteers and sponsors, and raised more than $550,000 to support client services. Special thank you to our committee members, sponsors, volunteers and golfers for helping us to drive out ALS for many years.

CHALLENGES

- Being a small not-for-profit.
- Growing number of people diagnosed with ALS/MND with essential needs.
- Volunteers needed in many areas and committees to maintain and grow our services.

Our Services & Programs

The Equipment Lending Program

Improving mobility is key to maintaining quality of life for many people with ALS/MND. Equipment needs are constantly changing, depending on where clients are in their ALS/MND journey. Certain items can be very expensive, and some require a custom fit.

At **ALS MB**, the Equipment Lending Program is an important program designed to help clients with the daily challenges of decreased mobility and to help maintain their independence at minimum cost. We currently have more than 3,000 pieces of basic and essential assistive equipment, which includes mobility aids, porch lifts, ramping, bathroom equipment, electric beds, cushions, poles, and more.

There are different agencies in Manitoba that provide certain equipment to clients, such as Home Care, Society for Manitobans with Disabilities and/or you can go through private insurance. Our Equipment Lending Program is used in conjunction with these agencies to ensure clients have access to all the needed equipment. Equipment needs are assessed by an occupational therapist that works with clients to certify that the right equipment is provided for their current condition.

TO APPLY FOR OR DONATE EQUIPMENT CALL CLIENT SERVICES:
Angela Hallam
(204) 837-1300
Diana Rasmussen
(204) 837-1291

DO YOU PREFER AN E-NEWSLETTER COPY? SIGN UP AT:
www.ALSMB.ca

To Donate or Contact us:

ALS SLA
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Phone (204) 831 1510
Toll Free 1 866 718 1642
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Winnipeg, MB R3H 0H2

Coming Up

Lite Up A Life

The holiday season is around the corner and our Lite Up a Life 2017 -2018 Campaign is ready to make the front yard of the Brummitt-Feasby ALS House glow with support.

Help us to light the bulbs of the 12 beautiful holiday trees generously donated by **Lacoste Garden Centre.** When you buy lights for the trees, you support the recreation program of the ALS house, which enriches the quality of life of the residents. The Lite Up a Life 2017-2018 campaign runs from December 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018. Bring your family and friends to the **Official Lighting Ceremony** that will take place on December 6th, 7 p.m. at the Brummitt-Feasby ALS House, located at 106 Kirby Drive, Winnipeg. It is a free event with great speeches and delicious refreshments.

Save the Date: April 21, 2018
Cornflower Ball

LITE UP A LIFE

2017-2018
CAMPAIGN
December 1
to January 31

We invite you to be part of the

Lighting Ceremony
Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Brummitt-Feasby ALS House
106 Kirby Drive, Winnipeg

Help light the bulbs:
$10 for 10 Bulbs
$20 for 25 Bulbs
$50 for 75 Bulbs
$150 to Light a Whole Tree
Funds raised support the recreation program

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To donate:
(204) 831-1510 Ext. 20
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