

Alzheimer Society

WATERLOO WELLINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waterloo Wellington, ONTARIO - Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington held its **2nd Annual General Meeting** at Stanley Park Community Centre on September 14, 2015.

A special thank you to our Annual General Meeting sponsor **Home Care Assistance**. Home Care Assistance owners Angie Kunnath and Matt Vijayan were on hand to share their company's programs and services to the attendees. Angie then introduced the evening's presentation **Living Safely in the Community**.

Living Safely in the Community was a collaborative presentation by Eric Wertz, Waterloo Regional Police Service, Lisa Loiselle, Murray Alzheimer Research and Education Program (MAREP), Robin Smart, and Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington. Victim Services of Waterloo Region is an important member of this team but was unavailable to present this evening. All these partners share a united vision of supporting persons to live well with dementia. This presentation provided useful tips and information on living safely in our community, featuring the **Finding Your Way** program and the **Dementia-Friendly Communities'** initiative.

Annual General Meeting - Nancy Kaufman-Lambert, Chair of the Board of Directors and Dr. Jennifer Gillies, Executive Director provided a joint statement— *"It is hard to believe that Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington's first year as an amalgamated Society has already come to an end. Looking back now, we can say with confidence that amalgamation was in fact the best course of action. The amalgamation was a board-led and staff-driven process that enabled us to expand our service offerings and enhance our service quality. By joining together our talents, resources, and experiences, along with the support from amazing community partners, we are able to work seamlessly as one organization present in various settings across the cities and townships within our catchment area.*

This past year has been one of building, where we worked hard to establish a stable and strong foundation for our new organization. We learned from what had worked well in the past, and created new processes to allow us to grow for the future. These included new policies, programs, offices, and technologies that allow us to better meet client needs.

As we look to the future, we plan to continue to increase our organizational effectiveness and grow our capacity to ensure we have the financial and human resources necessary to achieve our mission. We are also working to enhance our outreach initiatives to ensure that we work seamlessly within our integrated health system. We are committed to delivering quality programs and services that are there for you when and where you need them. We are here to help all persons affected by dementia to live well by alleviating the personal and social consequences of dementia."

Board Members Elected - Returning and new board members were elected including: Nancy Kauffman-Lambert (Chair), Pamela Krauss (Vice Chair), Sue Hart (Secretary), David Brattan, Cathy Harrington, Brian Hummel, Melissa Kwiatkowski, Christopher Loucks, Melanie McKellar, and Scott Wahl.

New Program Announcement – Due to a special gift from Mrs. Faith Cook the Alzheimer Society will be launching a *Music and Memory iPod Project* to benefit persons living with dementia. Music can allow a person living with dementia to rediscover pleasure in the world. The gift was in memory of Faith's husband Frank. Frank was a true lover of music and Faith wanted persons living with dementia in our community to have that same gift of music in their lives. On a special note: Frank's grandson Fraser's class at Sam Sherratt Public School held a fundraiser and added over \$800 to this new project. Fraser, his classmate Taggart, and teacher Lori Belford were on hand for the announcement.

Right now we are in the research and planning mode for this wonderful project. We will announce how you can benefit and support this program and inform you about a launch event in the near future.

Alzheimer Society

WATERLOO WELLINGTON

Staff Service Awards - Following the business portion of the evening Society staff were acknowledged for their years of service. Lynelle Drudge, Jill Ross and Robin Smart were recognized for 10 years of service. Barbara Eastman Lewin and Thayna Walter were recognized for 5 years of service.

About Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington

The Alzheimer Society is the leading nationwide health charity for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington works to improve the quality of life for those living with dementia, their care partners, and the general public by providing support, education, and resources in the Waterloo Wellington community.

Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington is the amalgamation of the Alzheimer Society of Cambridge, Alzheimer Society of Guelph Wellington, and the Alzheimer Society of Kitchener Waterloo. Amalgamation became official on April 1, 2014.

Media Contact

Dr. Jennifer Gillies
Executive Director
831 Frederick Street
Kitchener, ON N2B 2B4
519-742-8518 ext. 2014
jgillies@alzheimerww.ca
www.alzheimerww.ca