



In This Issue:

- 1 2007 Walks shatter records
- 1 Making Betty Proud
- 2 ED Report
- 2 Research
- 2 Studies
- 2 Support Groups
- 3 Third-party fundraising
- 3 Combining friendship and fundraising
- 4 Northern News
- 4 Strategic Planning
- 4 Board of Directors
- 4 Condolences

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2007 Alberta Walks and Betty's Run for ALS Shatter all previous records!

Over 3000 people walked on June 9th and 10th, walking in memory and support of loved ones. The Alberta Walks and Betty's Run raised an incredible \$868,997 this year with 9 Walks all across Alberta!

Walking for a cure!

Each Walk was a great success, with a great turnout, wonderful food and prizes and a fantastic feeling of love and support. None of these Walks would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Walk coordinators and committees.

Many people put in a great amount of time and energy to ensure the Walks went smoothly, and thanks to their efforts, they did!

Planning for these Walks started in September and the work really showed! All the Walks had incredible sponsorship, which helped make the day so successful. Food, tents, equipment and time were all donated by generous companies who wanted to help make a difference. The day brought people together to share, listen, support each other and heal. Preparations are already underway for next year's walks. If you are interested in starting a Walk in your area, please call Rahael at (403) 228-3857 ext. 108.



Red Deer Walk

Location	Coordinator	Total
Cold Lake	Michelle Feduniak	\$ 8,200
Edmonton	Edmonton Walk committee	\$ 145,025
Grande Prairie	Debbie Dechant	\$ 18,328
Lethbridge	Marilynn Christie	\$ 16,658
Lloydminster	Colleen Christie	\$ 8,882
Manning	Saundra Dechant	\$ 12,544
Medicine Hat	Katie Jordison	\$ 9,698
Red Deer	Greg, Beth and Vince LeBlanc	\$ 100,156
Calgary	Betty's Run committee	\$ 557,702



Betty's Run off to a great start!

Making Betty Proud!

Just when you thought the records had been shattered forever, the Betty's Run for ALS does it again! On June 10, over 1400 people gathered together in Calgary for the 11th annual Betty's Run for ALS. They group raised an incredible \$557,702.04! That was over \$150,000 more than last year!

None of the successes would have been accomplished without the hard work of the Betty's Run committee. Thank you also to the fantastic sponsors who helped make the day such a huge success! Most importantly, thank you to everyone who participated on the day and all those who pledged those who participated via online donations and personal pledges. It was incredible to see how much money was raised this way! It was such a great day to honour loved ones, share stories and meet lots of new and old friends.

Save the Date! Betty's Run for ALS will be held on June 8, 2008!

ALS Society of Alberta Mission Statement

"The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Alberta is dedicated to making everyday the best possible day for people with ALS by providing support, facilitating the provision of care, promoting awareness and helping find a cure."

Message from the Executive Director

Over the past eight months, I have had the opportunity to meet many of the clients and families across the province living the journey through ALS. In the short time I have been with the Society, I have been overwhelmed by the incredible commitment and dedication of the volunteers, the ALS Society of Alberta team, Board of Directors, the North and South ALS Clinic staff, and the many partners with whom we are affiliated.

I've heard feedback on the great support we provide and ideas on how we can enhance what we do. We have just embarked on a strategic planning process that will help us develop a five year plan. Consultations and feedback will be sought through surveys, interviews and focus groups.

In the future we are committed to increasing our communication on the current ALS research that is happening across Canada. This will be done through our newsletter, website and mail outs.

I have learned a great deal from everyone over the past few months and look forward to continue to learn from your experiences and wisdom in making everyday the best possible day for someone living with or affected by ALS

- Karen Caughey, ED of the ALS Society of Alberta

Research

Research News!

A partnership between ALS Canada and The ALS Association in the US has been very effective. In 2006, \$160,000 was used to fund the following three prominent Canadian researchers

Dr Sanjay Kalra

MD, co-director of the ALS clinic at the University of Alberta, is using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to try and measure changes in chemical messengers in the brain. Focusing study on the brain may reveal why some people with ALS suffer from cognitive impairment while others do not.

Minh Dang Nguyen

PhD, assistant professor, departments of clinical neurosciences, cell biology & anatomy, biochemistry and molecular biology, faculty of medicine at the University of Calgary, is investigating a way to slow down motor neuron degeneration and boost the regeneration of injured nerve fibres.

Christopher Shaw

PhD, at the University of British Columbia is investigating the potential environmental factors connected to ALS.

Memantine Study Now Recruiting

We are now recruiting patients for a clinical trial of memantine in ALS. The study involves 11 monthly visits over a 10 month period. Participation will involve muscular, respiratory, and cognitive testing. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) will be done at 3 of the visits. Each patient will receive one of two doses of memantine. Participants must be age 18-80 with symptoms less than 3 years duration and Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) greater than 70%. Eligibility will be assessed at an initial screening visit.

This trial is funded by the ALS Association and is under the direction of Dr. Ming Chan and Dr. Sanjay Kalra at the University of Alberta ALS Clinic.

If interested, please contact Meredith Lynch at 780-407-2944 or meredith.lynch@ualberta.ca for further details.

Support Groups

Calgary ALS Group – **Saturday November 24** –
1:30pm – 3:30pm at the ALS Society office. "More on Caring for the Caregiver"

The support group/information sessions offer a time for people who are travelling or who have travelled through this ALS journey to share ideas and receive support and information from each other. People living with ALS, their families, friends and caregivers are all welcome. Questions? Call Jane at (403) 228-3857 ext 102 or (403)714-8211.

Sponsorship

The ALS Society of Alberta would like to thank the following generous donors:



Third Party Fundraisers!

Charitee Golf

The ALS Charitee Golf tournament was held on June 18 at the Pinebrook Golf Course. The day was a great success as a large group of avid golfers joined together to raise money for ALS. \$50,000 was raised for the ALS Society of Alberta and \$50,000 for the ALS clinic at the University of Calgary. Thank you so much to the Charitee committee who helped make this day such a success! **Mark your calendars for next year's Charitee Golf Tournament - June 16, 2008!**

From the Heart

Linda McMurray organized an evening of friends, music and love entitled "From the Heart". The night featured local musicians who performed for the many guests that were in attendance. There were a number of items up for silent auction, and her event raised close to \$10,000 for the ALS Society of Alberta. And she did it all, From the Heart.

Bo's Bar and Grill

Bo continues to provide support to the ALS Society by hosting his famous charity dinners. The last one took place on October 20 and the event was sold out! The food and wine was incredible, second only to the fabulous company! Thanks Bo!

Calf Roping

Cowboys from all over joined Rosalie Smith at her "Calf Roping for ALS" event in September. The event raised \$1,900 and was held at the newly renamed "Howard Smith Memorial Arena".



Rosalie Smith, and the winners of the Calf Roping competition, Jim Smith and his son Luke.

Stampede BBQ

A big thanks to Kathryn and Robert Stan who held a BBQ during the Stampede to raise money for ALS. The event brought in \$560 and fed many hungry cowboys!

Canal at Delacour Golf Tournament

Victor Deveyrac and his friends organized a superb day of golfing at the stunning Canal at Delacour Golf Course in September. The weather was beautiful, the golfing was great and the event raised \$3,265 for the ALS Society of Alberta. Thanks guys!

Spatial Technology Golf Tournament

Rick Kurash and the people of Spatial Technology held a very successful golf tournament in October for the ALS Society of Alberta. The group raised over \$9,000 by putting down their pens for the day and picking up their clubs!

ALS Ride Across Canada

A team from the Vancouver Film School decided to shoot a documentary in one day asking "What can you do in one day?". The team raised \$530 in one day simply selling hugs on the street. The documentary won first prize at the Cannes Film Festival! The team then decided to take the idea all the way across Canada, spending two months shooting a second documentary and driving all the way across Canada in a motorcycle with side car. The team was in Alberta for 3 days and participated in a number of exciting fundraisers such as braving the zipline at the Caanada Olympic Park!



Glen and Jeannie Tedham in their motorcycle that drove them across Canada.

Lethbridge Walk for ALS combines friendship with fundraising

By Marilynn Christie, 2007 Lethbridge Walk Coordinator

Eight year-old Savanna Saranchuk is no stranger to fundraising. How did she get involved in the Lethbridge Walk for ALS? She heard about it through her close friend, Marilynn, whose brother recently passed away from ALS. Marilynn is the 2007 Lethbridge Walk Coordinator.



Savanna Saranchuk

Savanna set about raising \$350.00 through her ALS website. She really enjoyed setting up the website with the help of her mom, Hilary. What was really exciting was checking the site and seeing the donations go up as well as seeing all of the posts from her friends and relatives. She even had a donation from as far away as Shanghai from her uncle, aunt, and little cousin.

Savanna enjoys raising money for her favourite causes. She said, "I like to help people and it makes me feel good." Her two favourite causes are the Lethbridge Walk for ALS and the Terry Fox Run. I'm very proud of Savanna and what she has accomplished in helping us to make the Lethbridge Walk a success.

Planning for the future

The ALS Society of Alberta recently launched a strategic planning process to identify a 3-5 year future plan for the Society. The process will be led by a planning committee and stakeholders across Alberta will be consulted. The consultation with stakeholders will be completed through focus groups, one on one interviews and surveys. We would like to thank the Calgary Foundation for providing the resources to make this possible.

Welcome!

The ALS Society of Alberta would like to welcome Yulia Eskin as their new office coordinator! Congratulations Yulia! We would also like to welcome our new board members, Dave Williams and Norm Pollock! Thank you for offering your time and support.

ALS Society of Alberta Board of Directors

Chair	Cathy Martin
Past Chair	Tim Stauff
Vice-Chair	Tara Pentney
Treasurer	Candice Li
Secretary	Mark Stauff
Directors	Ron Chiovetti
	Olga Maciejewski
	Jan Desrosiers
	Hank Geerlof
	Dave Williams
	Norm Pollock

Edmonton Caritas Team Award

The ALS Team at the Misericordia Community Hospital in Edmonton were just awarded the Caritas Mission Team Award of 2007! Congratulations! The Mission Team Award is presented to the team that best adheres to the spirit of the founders of Catholic Health Care at Grey Nuns Hospital and Misericordia Community Hospital for their incredible way of using modern day innovation and creativity to improve quality of life and foster hope.



The Caritas Group

Education Sessions

The north region office offers opportunities for learning and socialization by hosting education sessions and opportunities to drop into the office. The current monthly education sessions are held the third Tuesday of the month from 1:30pm - 3:30pm at the office and are focusing on Living with Hope. Wendy Edey, who is the Director of Counselling at the Hope Foundation is presenting. Registration requested at (780) 487-0754 or 1-888-309-1111 for these no-cost sessions.

Want more research news?

Check <http://www.als.ca/researchnewsletter/> often for updated newsletters dedicated to the latest research on ALS

Condolences

Our sincerest condolences go out to the families of the following people who recently passed away: (April 18, 2007 to November 2, 2007)

Dorothy Pickett
Ellagene Clark
Sheila Collar
Caroline Schwartz
Segundo Nieto
Florence E. Cooper
Doug Hopkins
Robert Lutomsky (Bob)
Roni Greschuk (Erica)
Patricia Partridge
Derek McNeil
Everett Dilts
Annette Ross
Rose Marie White

Roland Paradis
Julia Imschweiler
Dorothy Henry
Lyvena Maahs
Margaret Anderson (Peggy)
Marlene Warren
Joseph Desmond
Dwain Pitre
Anna Kerr
Leo Schaaf
Lois Giroux
Peter Kemp
Eileen Boland
Brent Peters

Patricia Poteet
Donnita Taylor
Agnes Rogers
Donald Ning
Peter Hodgson
Vern Reum
William Sutherland (Bill)
Claudette Bazinet
Americo Parravano
Asela Guarin
Wes Ratzlaff
Jim Wheeler
Randall Nichols

A special thanks goes out to all those who kindly sent donations to the ALS Society of Alberta in memory of friends and loved ones affected by ALS. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.