

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, 303 Fifth St., Rainy River, ON P0W 1L0 Ph. 807-852-3815, Fax. 807-852-1863, Email. westendweekly@tbaytel.net Vol. 22, No. 20 Wednesday, August 27, 2014
Serving the Rainy River District for over 23 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca. Check out the pictures on line. They are so good!

Alzheimer's Ride for Memories



Local volunteer, Bill Naturkach assists Garry Winik with picking his poker hand for prizes.



Local volunteer, Mikaela Jensen registers Jo-Ann Brown from Atikokan for the ride. She was riding with her husband, Wayne. "He's the driver", she said.



Mary O'Conner, Client Services Coordinator came out to meet the riders.



Antero Cabral and Garry Toderian from Red Lake get ready to embark on the ride back home. They both agree, "It's a good cause".



Ed and Norma Pearson were well supported in their Ride for Memories bringing in over one thousand dollars in pledges.



Chris and Sherree Denby have participated in the ride for eight years.

By: Teresa Hazel

About a dozen bikers were ready to get their motors running and head out on the highway for the 12th Annual Ride for Memories in support of the Alzheimer's Society.

The local riders gathered at the Harbourage Restaurant and were set to ride to Dryden for a BBQ lunch at the IGA store where they will meet up with more bikers from across the region. The final leg planned was from Dryden to Red Lake where dinner and fun was planned at the Red Lake Legion.

Riders collect pledges to support the cause. They have various reasons for involvement whether it's an opportunity to get out for a ride with fellow motorcycle enthusiasts or because they have a personal experience with Alzheimer's disease in their own family.

Antero Cabral from Red Lake is dealing with the reality of both his parents in the beginning stages of dementia.



Ready to ride...

Photographers' showcase



"It's been a long, long winter and this bat is looking around to see if it's safe to come out." Photo taken last spring.

Photo by Ed Haglund, Fort Frances

"My sister is helping them now. They're still at home", he says, adding that the ride is for "a good cause".

His friend, Garry Toderian has also come in from Red Lake to take part in the entire ride.

"My mother lives in the old folks home in Kenora and the Alzheimer's Society does a lot of work in her complex so that why I'm taking part in the ride", explains Toderian.

After registering, Garry Winik picked his poker hand from local volunteer Bill Naturkach who has assisted with organizing the ride and has enjoyed participating in the ride with his wife, Heidi, "right from the beginning". Winik said he enjoys going for the ride. "Not yet", he answers about whether there is any family connection to Alzheimer's disease.

Ed and Norma Pearson from Bergland have brought in over one thousand dollars in pledges. "This is my first time on the ride" says Norma who

adds that she enjoys being a passenger on her husband's bike. Ed went for his inaugural ride solo last year.

Mary O'Conner is the local Client Services Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Society - Kenora/Rainy River Districts. She came out to greet the participants and thank them for their involvement.

"It's good", she says of the annual ride. "It helps us to provide services and programs for clients and their caregivers". The Alzheimer's Society also provides public education. "We give presentations to organizations about the ten warning signs and anti-stigma workshops". O'Conner also notes that presentations are provided to first responders including police and doctors.

The camaraderie amongst the bikers is evident as they prepare to start on their journey together and create some memories.

One can't help but think how important being in the moment

is and the uncertainty of what life may bring. Although some memories may bring sorrow, the joyful memories bring happiness and connection with others. For those suffering with Alzheimer's Disease this connection to family and friends is lost and new relationships must be forged. A difficult process for most and that is where the Alzheimer's Society can be a great help. Don't wait to call them and discuss any difficulties you or a loved one may be experiencing.

To those who took part in this year's ride and for those who supported the riders through pledges, thanks for getting involved. You are making a difference in the lives of others!

For more information about the services and programs provided by the Alzheimer's Society, contact Mary O'Conner at 807.276.9105 or email mary@alzheimerrr.com. Additional information is available by visiting the website at www.alzheimer.ca.



Martin Dufresne
274-6688
275-8916
852-4237

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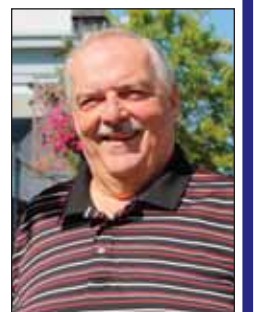
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