



# ALS Windsor Newsletter

May 2010 (Serving Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent Counties since 1984)

## Zehr's Tapes

Keep collecting them. Call 564-7172 or 736-4963 and we will pick them up.



**Cycle with the Herd**  
Sat. June 12<sup>th</sup>  
25 & 65 km rides

**3<sup>rd</sup> AVP Golf Tourn.**  
Sat. July 17<sup>th</sup>

**Stubborn Buffalo 8 Miler**  
Sat. Nov. 6th



ALS Windsor Walk  
Sunday, Sept 19, 2010

## Bingo:

Classic Bingo IV  
(Ottawa & Walker Rds.)

- Mon. May 31 10pm, 12am
- Wed. June 2 - 10am, 12pm, 2pm.
- Wed. July 21 - 4pm, 6pm, 8pm
- Wed. Aug 25 - 10am, 12pm, 2pm

### Mailing address:

1426 Front Rd. S.,  
Amherstburg, Ont.,  
N9V 2M6  
(519) 736-4963  
Or (519) 564-7172

Website:  
[www.alswindsor.ca](http://www.alswindsor.ca)

Email:  
[web@alswindsor.ca](mailto:web@alswindsor.ca)

## Chatham-Kent Quilt Show

Patty Morgan and I had the pleasure to draw the winners of the quilt raffle at The Chatham-Kent Quilters Guild Show – on May 8<sup>th</sup> in Chatham. Some of those quilts were true works of art and something to see. The raffle sold out and rumor has it that we will be receiving a nice donation from that fantastic group in the near future. We are grateful that we were the chosen beneficiary for this prestigious show that only occurs bi-annually.



This fundraising series has raised funds and increased awareness in Chatham-Kent. Ryan Van Praet has taken the bikes out of the gym and put them on the road. So please pass the info about the June event to anyone you know that rides. It would be great to see some of our Essex county members at these events.

For more information on any of these events go to our website or contact Ryan at [swimbikerunryan@yahoo.ca](mailto:swimbikerunryan@yahoo.ca) This year Ryan and his family introduced a relaxing wine tasting event that was held May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Smith and Wilson

Winery. It was a lovely afternoon and close to \$800 was raised.

## Cycle with the Herd

Sat June 12<sup>th</sup>

This non-competitive bicycle ride (25km or 65 kms) starts at the Pier in Erieau and goes to Morpeth and back.

## Golf Tournament

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Adelaar Van Praet Golf tournament will take place Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Countryview Golf course.

## Stubborn Buffalo 8 Miler

Is set to take place Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> at CM Wilson's Conservation Area and includes a competitive 8 mile run and 5 km non-competitive run/walk.



## Sunday - July 11<sup>th</sup>

The Windsor Area Street Rods Inc. is holding their 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Can-Am Nationals Car Show at the Gil Maure Park on Front Rd. in La Salle this year. They have chosen to support us again this year through fundraising efforts and we hope that some of you can make it out to this event that attracts vehicles from near and far. If you love classics this is definitely the show to see.



## ALS Windsor Walk

Will take place Sunday Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> – at Sandpoint Park. We are using the Ganatchio Trail this year – the Dieppe site will be under construction. Pledge sheets are available – on our web site or call for them. If you would like to help out – please let us know.

If you are having a yard sale and would like to dedicate some of the proceeds to the walk – we would be happy to send you literature that can be handed out. Or have a pledge sheet handy for donations.

If your workplace has a 'dress-down' day or other such fundraising opportunity – please keep us in mind. Let co-workers know that you are collecting Zehr's tapes. Getting the awareness out there is also important and is appreciated.

## In Memoriam

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Frank Bezeau. Frank, John Wilkinson's step-father, was one of our original members and was always willing to help out.

During a recent conversation about our organization, newsletters and fundraising – Kerry Wall offered to write a little something for the newsletter.

The kind words are appreciated and indicate that what we do has true value and meaning. We are not a large organization, but we like to think that we do big things.

I took the liberty to shorten it a little. I hope the following will help to inspire you and to know that the hard work of fundraising is making a difference and that we need you to help us.

Frank was a founding member of the Windsor Area Street Rods Inc and it was just announced that he will be inducted to the Street Rod Hall of Fame on September 11, 2010 in Hamilton.

May 19, 2010

On February 11, 2010 my Dad lost his battle with ALS. I feel compelled by him and his daily struggle to put out the word about ALS Windsor Essex County. My Dad, Frank Wall, lived with his diagnosis for 5 years, but had been undiagnosed for at least 2 years before that. Until his illness he was a very active and successful independent business owner. He got sick. Guess what, no benefits!

I cannot even begin to put into words what our family was going through, although, I suspect, too many of you know. It was a relief to know that ALS Windsor Essex looks out for ALS patients. It was like a miracle. Not only was there the delivery of supplies and equipment, but information was provided and questions were answered with a patience and compassion we so needed.

No person, no family ever should hear the words “*You have ALS*”. It is horrifying to be this sick, with no curative treatment; however, illness does not equal entitlement. ALS Windsor Essex is lucky to have relatively few patients and the resources to help all of them when needed. Unfortunately, there may come a time when those resources will dry up. That's where we come in. The patients, their families and their surviving families need to take up the cause.

My Dad went to every walk, every dinner, every car show/wash that raised money. He went to answer questions to talk to people and to get donations. He felt, as I do, that if he was going to be the recipient of such generosity, he would be the best supporter of the cause that he could be. He did so with his entire family by his side. He marveled at the money that was raised at these events. As his family, we saw where the money went and went and went.

I can tell you from my experience our family had 5 years to create wonderful memories with our Dad at these walks. We will walk again this year and next year and every year until ALS no longer needs to do research and no patient needs equipment and treatment or cure are commonplace. We will do this because our Dad showed such remarkable courage and because his life was made better by ALS Windsor Essex County.

I have found it necessary to educate so many people about ALS. It is not widespread and advertised like many other illnesses. I have found that once your friends, neighbors and coworkers understand

what is involved, they have no problem making a sponsorship donation for \$5 or \$10. What can \$5 do? Well times that by all of the patients and the families that have been affected in Windsor/Essex County; times that by the number of people walking in your family (last year ours had 23) and well you get where I'm going. An ALS diagnosis is devastating enough, now imagine no other support. The financial hardship would be enough to devastate some families, families already reeling from a terminal diagnosis. My wish is that we will have more families walking this year than ever before. My hope is that this year we will recognize the value of this charity and raise more money than ever. My prayer is that there will be a time when we will no longer need to fight this disease.

- Kerry Wall