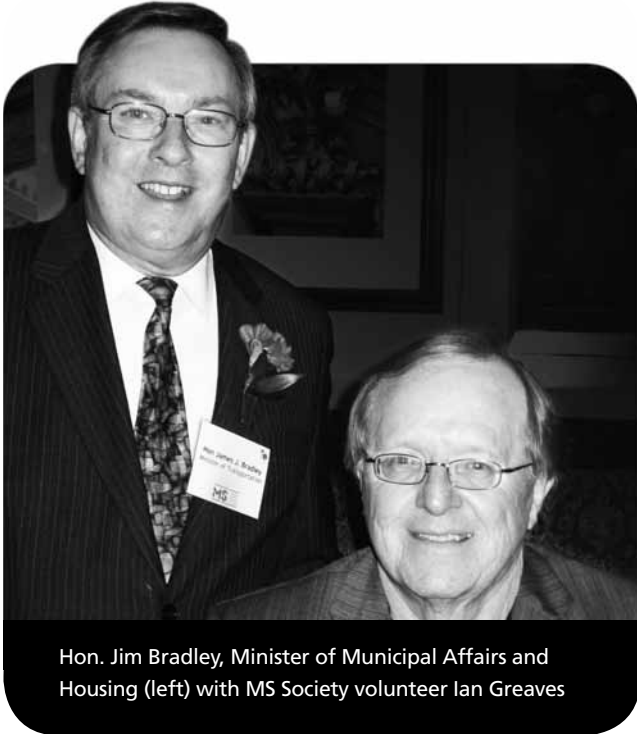


Changemakers in Niagara



Hon. Jim Bradley, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (left) with MS Society volunteer Ian Greaves

Ian Greaves is passionate about social action and improving the lives of people with MS. Whether it's greeting MPPs at the three Niagara MS Walks, the volunteer appreciation BBQ, Canada Day celebrations, his chapter's annual general meeting or meeting with MPPs in their constituency offices, Ian is a visible and active member of the Niagara Falls community.

"Political contacts can be so helpful," said Ian, an MS Society volunteer. "I just try to get out there and meet people in my community to help move our public policy agenda forward."

Ian's strategy serves him well. On a first name basis with Niagara Region's MPPs, Ian has top-notch access to some of the province's key decision-makers.

continued on page 3

Is there new hope for those living with MS?

Many people living today with multiple sclerosis remember a time when nothing could be done to control their disease. That changed in the 1990s for people diagnosed with relapsing-remitting MS, the most common form of the disease, with the introduction of the first therapies that now offer a number of treatment options to reduce relapses and slow progression of the disease.

Since its founding in 1948, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada has acted as a key partner with

the MS research community. Today, the MS Society provides over \$8 million per year in research funding, exploring what causes the disease, how it develops, why it progresses, how its symptoms can be managed and how its damaging effects might be halted or even repaired.

Media reports and a recently released research study have revived the idea of an association between inadequate venous drainage from the brain and spinal cord, generally referred to as chronic cerebral spinal

continued on page 4

Message from Yves & John

The Ontario Division board of directors recently welcomed John Clifford to the position of board chair. Learn more about John on page 7.

With spring comes renewal, excitement and hope. This spring, we find hope in the renewal of our economy and great excitement and hope in the world of MS research.

Spring is also a critical period for the MS Society, whether in our work with government representatives to enhance the quality of life for people with MS or participation in fundraising events like the MS Walk or MS Read-a-Thon. The volunteer commitment and generosity of so many Canadians are a source of strength for everyone affected by MS.

Helping to build an accessible society and enhancing the quality of life for individuals living with MS in Ontario is of concern to us all. In this issue, we are especially honoured to highlight longtime MS Society volunteer Ian Greaves, who was recently appointed to Ontario's Accessibility Standards Advisory Council. There, he will help advance the Government of Ontario's objective to make the province accessible to all Ontarians by 2025. Ian's role will help create a better Ontario, not only for people who live with MS, but for all Ontarians with disabilities.

We are exceptionally grateful for the financial support from individuals, corporations, local chapters and foundations that fund important discoveries through the MS Society's research programs. John Panneton and the J.E. Panneton Family

Foundation are among the generous supporters of the endMS Research and Training Network, which is designed to accelerate the pace of discovery in MS research. John also serves as a valued and active member of the Ontario endMS Campaign Cabinet.

The launch of the MS Champions program at last summer's RONA MS Bike Tours highlighted the involvement of some of our most committed and inspiring participants. By providing cyclists with the opportunity to identify that they live with MS, this initiative increased the connection between riders and provided additional motivation to many as they travelled along the route.

On Sunday, April 18, we will welcome spring in our local communities by fundraising and participating in the MS Walk. To our supporters, who will be out in full force this spring and summer taking part in a variety of activities, we wish you much success in your efforts to raise funds for and awareness about multiple sclerosis. Together, we will end MS. ■



Ontario Division

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Our Mission:

To be a leader in finding a cure for multiple sclerosis and enabling people affected by MS to enhance their quality of life.

Chair: John Clifford

President: Yves Savoie

Editor-in-chief: Annette King

Managing editor: Carol Kim

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Yves Savoie
President, Ontario
Division



John Clifford
Chair, Ontario board
of directors



To better direct your funds to other mission-centered activities, we will be releasing two issues of *MS Ontario* in 2010. For the latest MS-related news and information, visit mssociety.ca.

Province strikes accessibility advisory council

To build a more accessible Ontario by 2025, the provincial government has created the Accessibility Standards Advisory Council. The council provides advice to the Minister of Community and Social Services on how to move Ontario's accessibility agenda forward.

In 2005, Ontario enacted the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The first act of its kind in Canada, the AODA requires that Ontario become fully accessible by 2025, and it mandates that this be done through the implementation of accessibility standards.

The Accessibility Standards Advisory Council will play a key role in guiding the development, implementation and enforcement of accessibility standards concerning goods, services, accommodation, facilities, buildings and employment. For more information on the council visit bit.ly/advisorycouncil. ■

Join the global movement to end MS!



On May 26, the MS Society, along with individuals, groups and organizations will be united in the movement to end MS by celebrating the second annual World MS Day. This year, World MS Day will focus on employment and MS. To participate in the employment survey or to find out how you can get involved with events and activities for World MS Day, visit worldmsday.org. ■

Changemakers in Niagara *continued from page 1*

"I raise issues of vital importance to people with MS: accessibility, housing and health care funding," added Greaves. "I am non-partisan and work cooperatively with all political parties. It's beneficial, because social action issues can take years to resolve, transcending the terms of governments."

Ian was recently appointed to Ontario's Accessibility Standards Advisory Council, which provides advice to the Minister of Community and Social Services on developing, implementing and enforcing the province's accessibility standards. We congratulate Ian on his appointment and are pleased to have him represent issues that are of importance to the MS community. ■

RONA MS BikeTour

Get ready to ride

2010 Tour Dates:

- Grand Bend to London: July 24-25 150 km
- Ottawa to Kemptville: August 7-8 80 km to 180 km
- Acton to Waterloo: August 14-15 150 km
- Niagara: August 22 40 km or 75 km
- Toronto: September 12 30 km or 55 km

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MS Champions inspire thousands at the RONA MS Bike Tours



An MS Champion proudly wears her jersey alongside fellow riders at a recent MS Bike event.

Starting in 2009, Ontario participants will be given an opportunity to self-identify that they live with MS by donning an “I have MS. That’s why I ride” jersey during the RONA Bike Tour, as part of the new MS Champions program. By providing an opportunity for participants to self-identify that they live with multiple sclerosis, the event creates a way of forging a connection between those who have MS

and those who ride in support of them.

MS Champions are grateful for the funds generated by thousands of cyclists annually. “I am overwhelmed and humbled at the number of people who ride and raise money to end MS,” says one MS Champion. “I get to say ‘thank you.’ I am able to use disease-modifying therapies and have access to a wonderful MS clinic; it all comes from research dollars raised by previous and current riders.” Likewise, MS Champions offer inspiration to their fellow cyclists through their determination, optimism and commitment. For those riding alongside them, it puts a face to the cause.

What does being an MS Champion mean? According to one rider, “Being an MS Champion means I can adapt to what has been forced on me.” The program provides an opportunity for those who ride and live with MS to be recognized for their achievements and dedication to end MS. As another rider put it, “I have MS but it doesn’t have me!” ■

Walk 'n Roll with Hugo!



Beginning December 2009, AMG Medical Inc. will be donating a portion of its proceeds from sales of Hugo® mobility products to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

The campaign is expected to raise over \$10,000 and will run until May 31, 2011.

With the mission of empowering people with the freedom to live and feel better, AMG Medical Inc. provides a wide range of medical, professional and healthcare products.

For a list of where to buy Hugo® mobility products, please visit hugoanywhere.ca.

Is there new hope for those living with MS? *continued from page 1*

venous insufficiency (CCSVI), and multiple sclerosis. While the early data has sparked much interest, it is important to acknowledge that the concepts are relatively untested and require replication and validation in much larger, well-designed scientific studies before they can be accepted as established.

Recently, the MS Society of Canada initiated a first-ever request for research operating grant applications on this topic. It will be very interesting to follow the developments of MS research worldwide in this area and others in the coming years.

Now is the time to step up our fundraising efforts and be part of the future research that will help those living with multiple sclerosis. For more information on CCSVI, visit mssociety.ca/ccsvi. ■

In the wake of uncertainty... why it's important to give



An important part of our fundraising efforts at the MS Society is the building of strong, lifelong relationships with donors. We are proud of the relationships forged with all our donors, whose contributions help fund innovative MS-related programs and services across Canada, as well as ground-breaking research.

The dedication of many of our donors has especially come to light in the wake of the recent economic uncertainty. At a time when many reconsidered their support of non-profit organizations, we are grateful for the continued generosity from our loyal donors, who keep those affected by MS at the forefront of their minds. This includes individuals, corporations and foundations such as the J.E. Panneton Family Foundation.

“We know that as challenging as it is for us personally, people living with MS are constantly challenged,” says John Panneton from the J.E. Panneton Family Foundation. “We realize that a recession does not mean the needs of a person with MS get put on hold and that sometimes it means they are exacerbated. [People living with MS] did not cause this current economic condition but they do suffer, perhaps more than others, from it.”

With a mission to support world class medical research, the J.E. Panneton Family Foundation was drawn to the MS Society as a global leader in multiple sclerosis research. In particular, they were interested in the endMS campaign and the opportunity to be a part of a final solution for

people and their families living with MS.

Without the support of generous donors such as this, we would not be able to continue funding the vital services or invest in the research programs that we hope will one day bring about the cure for MS. ■

“When we need to evaluate the organizations we fund, impact is a key indicator, and the MS Society has a tremendous impact on people living with or caring for friends and loved ones with MS.”

**John Panneton,
J.E. Panneton Family Foundation**



Make your step the one that ends multiple sclerosis.

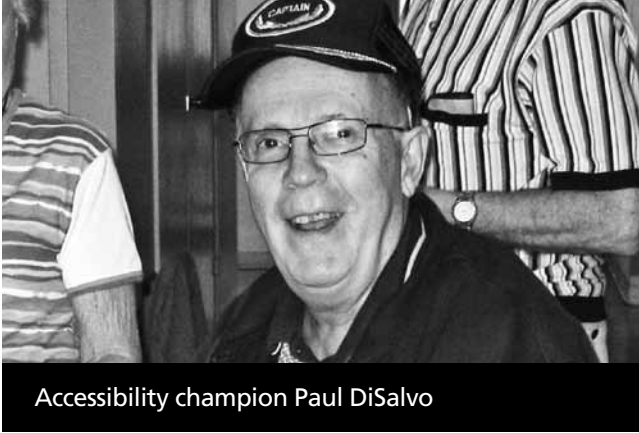


Register today at mswalks.ca.

Join over 30,000 walkers and volunteers across Ontario in the movement to end MS.



Burlington man wins landmark case



Accessibility champion Paul DiSalvo

After a year-and-a-half-long battle with his condo board, Paul DiSalvo will finally be able to enter his condominium townhouse through his front door.

DiSalvo, who has MS, had asked his condo board to install a wheelchair ramp to allow him access to his unit. When the condo board refused, he took his case to Ontario's Human Rights Tribunal.

At issue was whether Mr. DiSalvo was responsible for installing and maintaining the ramp or if responsibility fell to the condo board. In the end, the tribunal decided that it was the condo board's responsibility, since the installation of a ramp would occur on common property and is a reasonable accommodation that will not cause the condo board undue hardship.

"I'm delighted at the outcome," said Mr. DiSalvo. "The case was arduous and, at times, was hard on me. I did this because somebody had to. Many others should benefit from the decision."

This ruling comes as welcome news for the MS Society's clients and members, who are optimistic about the tribunal's ruling on the role that condo boards play in ensuring common spaces are available.

The full decision can be read at tinyurl.com/disalvohrtddecision ■

Support for a cause that grows



Nancy Sue Thomson

With the help from their local community of Seaforth, Ontario, Nancy Sue Thomson and her husband Mike are doing their part to raise money for MS through their involvement with the MS Carnation Campaign.

Shortly after being diagnosed with MS in 2003, Nancy had heard of an opportunity to get involved with the MS Walk. It was during this time that she learned about the MS Carnation Campaign and thought it sounded like a good way to raise money. "We didn't know how well it would go," says Mike. "If we had, we would have ordered more flowers!"

Support from their local community has only grown since then. Each year Mike and Nancy increase their order, and each year they've sold all their carnations. In fact, support has been so high, that the entire town of Seaforth was awarded "Best Non-Chapter Campaign" for the past two years. This honour is awarded to the non-chapter area campaign that raises the most money in relation to their population.

As for what keeps the couple ordering more flowers each year, Mike says, "We just have fun. We're interacting with the community."

From May 6-8, hundreds of volunteers across Ontario will be showing their dedication to finding a cure by selling carnations. To find out how you can get involved, visit mssociety.ca/ontario/carnation.htm. ■

Doing everything we can to achieve our mission



Congratulations to the newly elected chair of the MS Society of Canada, Ontario Division board of directors, John Clifford. An active member of Ontario Division's board for seven years, John is a partner of the McMillan law firm in Toronto, where he is a business lawyer who specializes in mergers and acquisitions and competition law matters. *MS Ontario* interviewed John in January.

What are you looking forward to accomplishing during your term as chair?

Making sure that Ontario Division and the entire board are doing everything we can to achieve the mission of the MS Society. Two things of particular interest to me are: ensuring that all our volunteers are well engaged and productive; and supporting the significant and exciting work happening right now on the research front.

You are actively involved with government relations. Why is it important for the MS Society to participate in government relations and social action?

Decisions made by governments have a direct impact on the clients that we serve, so it's important to educate governments about what MS is and how it impacts individuals, so we can influence policy decisions.

Your professional work experience is with large corporations. What transitions do you need to make when you work with people in a non-profit environment?

A lot of what I do in my job is related to people skills, so I think that skill set transcends very well into the not-for-profit sector. In my law firm we do a lot of work that is team based, with a broad spectrum of people. It requires a lot of knowledge about individuals, about the reason we come together to formulate change or take on an issue and I think that skill set is completely applicable to my role as chair of Ontario Division.

John's mother, who lives with multiple sclerosis, has provided him with a personal understanding of what it means to be affected by MS. "It helps me...when I'm talking to others about how MS affects an individual." Although he currently resides in Toronto, John assured us he wasn't always a city boy. He grew up outside of Guelph in a rural environment, even worked on a farm, and has also lived in London and Ottawa.

When asked about the best compliment he's ever received, John's response is simple: "That I made a difference."

Past chair Linda Lumsden has taken on a national position as the chair of the board of directors for the MS Society of Canada. ■

Event listing for spring/summer 2010!

March – June Applications are being accepted for the Summer Adventure Camp for children and teens with MS

April 18 – 24 National Volunteer Week

April – June MS Walk – contact your local chapter or division office for dates in your community

May is MS Awareness Month!

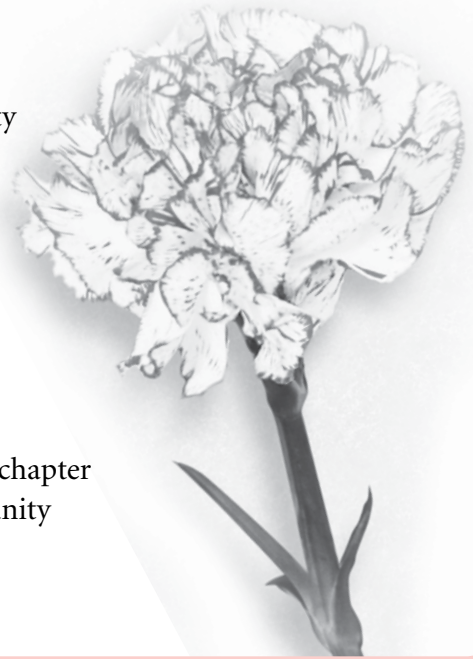
May 6 – 8 MS Carnation Campaign – plan to buy carnations in time for Mother's Day!

May 7 Women Against MS (WAMS) luncheon

May 26 World MS Day

July – September RONA MS Bike Tour – contact your local chapter or division office for dates in your community

August 26 A&W Cruisin' for a Cause Day



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