

# The Glengarry News

## Walk for Alzheimers

June 10 2018 BY TARA MACDONALD News Staff

Sunday's 6<sup>th</sup> annual Walk for Alzheimers at the Tim Hortons Dome in Alexandria was a huge success with more than \$12,500 raised to support Alzheimer's programs in our communities such as case-working and support groups.

According to Campaign Coordinator Josée Roy-Pilon, the Walk helps bring awareness to the cause and provides financial support for programs that enable people affected by dementia to continue to be part of our communities.

"I have 4 kids and we are all here to walk for grampa," said Liane Green. "My dad Roger Geaurond grew up in Alexandria. In 2009, he was diagnosed with Frontal Temporal Dementia, or FTD for short. Every since he was diagnosed, we've been trying to create awareness." Mr. Geaurond was diagnosed at only 59 years of age and now resides at the Maxville Manor. "The money raised goes to the local Alzheimer's Society. My dad used a lot of those services, like the day program," said Ms. Green.

Ms. Green's understanding of the disease, how it impacts families in our communities and her compassion for others motivated her to participate in the event, share her story with others and ring in some of the top dollars raised. "It's important to create awareness and raise funds for the society," continued Ms. Green. "We know because we've been there, we've used them, and it's available to the community but some people don't even know it's out there to help them."

Simon McDonald – MacDonald Highlanders Alexandria youth group leader – also knows all too well the challenges of Alzheimer's Disease and how it can affect children and caregivers. "My mother has Alzheimer's, she's now living at home with us," said Mr. McDonald. "A few of the cadets are our children, so they are affected by it too. Events like this are important not only for the fundraising aspect but also for education and awareness."

Mr. McDonald's youth group played a strong role in supporting Sunday afternoon's Walk for Alzheimer's, which took place at the Tim Hortons Dome in Alexandria. Group members managed the door, sold 50/50 tickets and provided first aid services.

Students from Glengarry District High School also pitched in to help ensure the Walk was a success. While some students gained credit for their school programs, others – such as Joy King of Tagwi Secondary School – were driven by personal reasons.

"Alzheimer's runs in my family," said Miss King. My great-grandfather had it, so I'm a little afraid that maybe my parents could have it too. That's why I like to help raise awareness. I'm glad I came and my parents are proud of me for being here today. I got to learn about people's stories. It was really impactful."