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Local Parkinson's group wins accreditation as a chapter

Posted By CECILIA NASMITH NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

Posted 39 mins ago

The Parkinson's support group that has run locally for so many years has evolved into a formally accredited chapter of the Parkinson Society of Central and northern Ontario.

Instead of their monthly meeting May 10, they are celebrating the occasion, said facilitator Claire Lloyd, and everyone is invited.

From a meeting of three couples in the late-1970s, the group gradually outgrew the hospitality of the Victoria Retirement Residence. Now some 80 members are involved, with meetings taking place the second Monday of each month in the Golden Plough Lodge auditorium.

No longer just a support group, it has matured into an effective support network, providing educational events and fundraising for Parkinson research and programs.

The charter executive members, in addition to Lloyd, are president Bill Andrus, treasurer Bette Stirling and fundraising chair Andrew Haynes.

The May 10 meeting, which runs from 1 to 4 p.m., features a guest speaker who represents a first, Lloyd said -- a Parkinson's researcher coming to town.

Parkinson's is a progressive neurological disease. When cells in the brain that normally produce a chemical called "dopamine" die, symptoms of Parkinson's appear. The most common ones are tremor, slowness in movements, muscle stiffness and problems with balance.

Neuroscientist Dr. Naomi Visanji will discuss her investigation of the interaction between two proteins considered important to understanding the cause and progression of Parkinson's disease: alphasynuclein, which is present in brain cells but clumps together in the neurons of those with Parkinson's disease, and ferritin, which stores and releases iron but seems to do so irregularly in those with Parkinson's.

Visanji believes the interaction between alpha-synuclein and ferritin may be key to unlocking Parkinson's disease.

Other special guests May 10 include the head of the provincial Parkinson's organization Debbie Davis, and mayors from across the county have been invited.

Northumberland Chapter meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Golden Plough (983 Burnham St., Cobourg).

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Loyalist College graduates continue to get jobs

BELLEVILLE - An Ontario college education continues to prepare people for success - even in a difficult economy, new data released today show. New Key Performance Indicators (KPI) results indicate that 87.1 percent of Loyalist College 2008-09 graduates in the labour force to

Loyalist College Spring Open House Saturday, April 17

BELLEVILLE - Loyalist College welcomes prospective students and members of the community to the annual Spring Open House Saturday, April 17th from 10:00 until 2:00. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the campus, interact with students and staff, and attend a parent informatio

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Advertisement for Dr. Andrew Simic & Associates Family Dentistry, 12 Elgin St. E. Unit C, Cobourg.

The group consists of people with Parkinson's and spouses or caregivers, and new members are always welcome. For more information please call 905-885-6243 or 905-342-9858.

For more information regarding Parkinson Society Canada or Parkinson's disease, please visit www.parkinson.ca.org call the national hot line number at 1-800-565-3000.

cnasmith@northumberlandtoday.com

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