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Parkinson's Awareness Month brings support, education, tulips

Posted By CECILIA NASMITH Northumberland Today.com

Updated 6 days ago



CECILIA NASMITH Northumberland Today.com From left, Cobourg residents Lawrence Massey and his wife Joanne have had first-hand experience with the promising new Deep Brain Stimulation treatment. Buttermilk Cafe owner Linda Marr will do her part with Buttermilk Cafe Day on April 22, and facilitator Claire Lloyd is helping to co-ordinate tulip sales.

COBOURG -- April is Parkinson's Awareness Month, and the Northumberland Chapter will be offering support, education and tulips to the public.

Sales of the floral symbol will be taking place both on busy streets and restaurant tables, according to facilitator Claire Lloyd.

Tulips will be sold for \$6 per bunch, with six-inch pots also offered for \$10, in Cobourg on April 22 and 23. A week later, on April 29 and 30, sales will take place in Port Hope, Grafton and Colborne.

Seven local restaurants will also be selling those potted plants in the Take Me Home promotion that runs between April 12 and 24, Lloyd added.

"They will put the pots on the tables with a little card explaining that they are for sale," she said.

The participating restaurants in Cobourg are the Oasis Bar and Grill and Meet at 66 King East. In Port Hope, tables at the Railside, Zest, The Palm, The Black Bean and The Great Farini will be decorated with the plants.

For the second year in a row, Cobourg's Buttermilk Cafe will offering another kind of help: Buttermilk Cafe Day on April 22.

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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 fo

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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OSHAWA — While the school year may be nearing its end, the Student Association is just getting started on its community initiatives for 2010. On April 24 the Student Association invites you to participate in our community clean up, as students work together to improve the neighbourhood and sol

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Open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., the restaurant will donate a percentage of the day's proceeds to Parkinson's research.

Last year's Buttermilk Cafe Day was a huge success, Lloyd said, so reservations are recommended.

"Bring a group of work colleagues or friends and enjoy good food and companionship," she said.

"We are really excited about this. The Bank of Nova Scotia has already reserved a room for breakfast," café owner Linda Marr added.

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For that day, she said, they are setting aside one of their tables for information, so people can know more about the cause they are supporting and the progress that is being made.

Cobourg resident Lawrence Massey is a living example of that, having just undergone the new Deep Brain Stimulation procedure. This involved the implantation of a pacemaker-type device on Dec. 2. The stimulation can be adjusted through a remote-control kind of device, Massey explained.

The average Parkinson's patient applying for the procedure undergoes two years of prescreening and testing. Even then, 90% of them are not accepted for a number of reasons (such as age, depression or having some other major health condition).

"It should be emphasized that DBS is not a cure. It does not affect the natural progression of the disease," he said.

However, it does improve tremor control, decrease painful muscle cramping and increase control over voluntary muscle movements.

For Massey, what he referred to as brain fog is gone -- though that may be to some extent because he has reduced

his medication intake 75% (to five pills a day down from 19).

A little bonus for his grandchildren, he added humorously, are the bumps on his head that they say remind them of antlers.

The procedure was definitely worth it, he said, though there are two down sides: his speech is not always very clear, and he tends to be clumsier than he used to.

The procedure was done at Toronto Western Hospital.

"They are the leaders in the field in Canada. I can't say enough about the doctors and the staff. It's a team effort," he said.

It is hoped that, with enough research, there can be more success stories like Massey's. Toward that end, the Northumberland Chapter has set a goal of \$9,000 for April 2010.

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