

# Alzheimer Society

Y O R K R E G I O N

Caregiver Support & Education / D.A.Y. Centres / Support Groups / Resource Centre / Research Support

August 9, 2019

Dear Mr. Emmerson,

Currently there are more than 15,000 York Region residents diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias (ADOD). With every person diagnosed, another 10 to 12 are directly impacted. Informal caregivers, those without training, provide 75 per cent more care hours to those living with dementia than any other chronic illness. And while ADOD is not a normal sign of aging, age is the No. 1 risk factor for developing the disease. The number of people expected to be diagnosed with ADOD is expected to more than double by 2031, bringing the number of York Region residents diagnosed to 31,000.

To help raise awareness about the disease and to change the stigma associated with a diagnosis, AS York – and Alzheimer Society chapters across the country – are celebrating Dementia Friendly Day for World Alzheimer's Day Sept. 21.

Dementia-friendly communities are ones where neighbours, business people and government representatives in buildings and public spaces understand what ADOD is and that people living with it are more than their diagnosis.

AS York, along with other chapters, including the Alzheimer Society of Ontario, is hoping to create a sea of blue and white at landmarks and public spaces across the province. In Niagara Falls, for example, the falls will be lit blue and white for 15 minutes, and the Gateway to the City of Markham will also be lit.

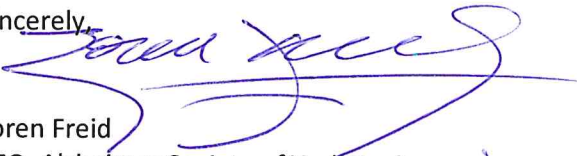
In addition, we are looking for the Regional Municipality of York to proclaim Sept. 21 Dementia Friendly Day for World Alzheimer's Day.

By lighting up a Municipality of York Region landmark in blue and white and proclaiming Sept. 21 as Dementia Friendly Day for World Alzheimer's Day, the region is demonstrating that people living with the disease are still important, valued and contributing members of the community.

On behalf of AS York, we thank York Region for helping raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; changing the stigma associated with a diagnosis; and creating dementia-friendly communities where all residents feel like they belong.

Lisa Day, the communications and fund development coordinator, will contact the clerks department in September to learn about your decision.

Sincerely,



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