

65K run helps raise awareness, \$20,000 for Alzheimer Society

Run organized by Amherstburg resident Chris Uszynski

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AMHERSTBURG -- A local man has fulfilled his promise to raise awareness for Alzheimers Disease and helped raise over \$20,000 to boot.

Amherstburg resident Chris Uszynski organized the 65-kilometre Run Across the County which was held on Friday. The run was held as part of World Alzheimer Day. The run began at Uszynski's Lakewood Beach home, stopped at Sobeys where they were joined by a group of runners including those from General Amherst High School. Other runners joined the group at St. Thomas of Villanova Secondary School, Western Secondary School, Essex District High school and Belle River District High School. Runners were able to run 5K or 10K if not the entire 65 kilometres.

The run ended in Lakeshore. A fundraiser was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Emeryville Friday evening.

"I came up with the idea for a cross county run to raise awareness of Alzheimer's Disease, give recognition to the Alzheimer Society and the many caregivers who give so much of themselves to those affected by the disease," said Uszynski.

Uszynski's father Edmund is afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease. He noted that took 12 weeks to plan the event. He was pleased with the amount of support he received.

"The support is unbelievable," said Uszynski.

Substantial support came from Chrysler Canada as they supported the event with a \$5,000 donation. President and CEO Reid Bigland was one of seven runners to take part in the run.

Alzheimer Society executive Sally Bennett Piliotis, said there are roughly 5,000 people in Windsor-Essex County with Alzheimer's Disease. If at least ten people are impacted by a relative or friend's disease, that number swells to 50,000 to 60,000 people in the area who are impacted.

"The funds are going to stay in Windsor and Essex County for the programs and services we provide," she said.

Mayor Wayne Hurst met the group at the stop at Sobeys and applauded their efforts. He said everyone should do as best they can to help further Alzheimer's awareness. Hurst said the Town of Amherstburg appreciates their efforts on World Alzheimer Day.



A group of runners, led by Amherstburg's Chris Uszynski, run down Sandwich St. as part of the Run Across the County.

(Echo photo by Ron Giofu)