



MORE THAN 35 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE HAVE DEMENTIA SAYS NEW REPORT

Alzheimer community reinforces importance of early diagnosis

September 21, 2009, CHATHAM, ON – An estimated 35.6 million people worldwide will be living with dementia in 2010 according to the *World Alzheimer Report*, a new report released today by the Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) in recognition of World Alzheimer's Day.

This sobering statistic represents a 10 per cent jump in previous global dementia prevalence as reported in 2005 in *The Lancet*. What is even more alarming, the prevalence rate will nearly double every 20 years: to 65.7 million in 2030 and 115.4 million in 2050.

"The information in the 2009 *World Alzheimer Report* makes it clear that the crisis of dementia cannot be ignored," says **Jana Murphy, Public Education Coordinator, Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent**. "In **Chatham-Kent**, this disease will place enormous burdens on individuals, families, and our health care systems."

Murphy pointed out that in **Chatham-Kent**, over 1,690 people are living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. This number is expected to increase to **over 2,490** over the next **20** years. The **Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent** is dedicated to providing programs and services for everyone living with the disease, including the person with the diagnosis, their caregivers and family members.

Today's report is being delivered amongst a global message of ***Diagnosing Dementia: See it Sooner***. Alzheimer associations all over the world, including the Alzheimer Society, are banding together to speak out about the importance of early diagnosis.

"Early diagnosis is an essential first step towards receiving appropriate help and support. Delay in diagnosis means that people with dementia and their caregivers suffer unnecessarily from uncertainty about what is happening, are deprived of the treatment and care they need, and are unable to begin planning for the future," says Dr. Jack Diamond, Scientific Director, Alzheimer Society.

To read the full report, visit www.alz.co.uk/worldreport

About the Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent

Approximately half a million Canadians are living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias today, or 1 in 11 over the age of 65. **The Alzheimer Society of Chatham-Kent's mission is "To alleviate the personal and social circumstances of Alzheimer disease and related dementias through superior programming and research".**

For more information, visit www.alzheimerchathamkent.ca

About Alzheimer's Disease International

ADI is an international federation of 71 Alzheimer associations around the world, in official relations with the World Health Organization. Each member is the national Alzheimer association in their country that supports people with dementia and their families. ADI's mission is to improve the quality of life of people with dementia and their families throughout the world. For more information, visit www.alz.co.uk/adi

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