



Parkinson Society Canada Central & Northern Ontario  
Société Parkinson Canada du Centre et du Nord de l'Ontario

A Regional Partner of Parkinson Society Canada

4211 Yonge Street, Suite 321  
Toronto, ON M2P 2A9  
Ph: (416) 227-1200  
Toll Free: (800) 565-3000  
[www.parkinson.ca](http://www.parkinson.ca)

Charitable registration number 10809 1786 RR0001

MAR 06 2008

March 4, 2008

Mayor Frank Scarpitti  
101 Town Centre Boulevard,  
Markham, Ontario,  
L3R 9W3

Dear Mayor Scarpitti:

My name is Libby Stunt and I am a public relations student from Humber College working on behalf of Parkinson Society Canada.

April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month. In an effort to raise awareness and gain support, we are contacting all communities with a Parkinson's chapter or support group to ask that April be proclaimed as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month in your community.

We would like to request that the town of Markham proclaim April 2008 as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a sample proclamation. We appreciate your support in bringing awareness of Parkinson's Disease to the Markham community.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at 416-227-1200 ext. 3370 or at [volunteer@parkinson.ca](mailto:volunteer@parkinson.ca). Karen Dowell, Community Resource Coordinator, may also be reached at [karen.dowell@parkinson.ca](mailto:karen.dowell@parkinson.ca)

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Libby Stunt

# MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

## “April is Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month”

**WHEREAS:** Parkinson Society Canada is celebrating 40 years as the national organization that helps to ease the burden and find a cure through research, education, advocacy and support services to improve the quality of life for those affected by Parkinson’s disease.

**WHEREAS:** Nearly 100,000 Canadians, and 6.3 million people world-wide, have Parkinson’s disease today.

**WHEREAS:** There is no way to predict or prevent Parkinson’s disease. It strikes randomly – affecting all genders, races, socio-economic groups and lifestyles. Parkinson’s disease is a chronic and progressive neurodegenerative illness that slowly but dramatically robs people of their independence over time. For most affected, their minds remain sharp while they endure an ever-changing combination of tremors, slowness, stiffness, balance problems, speech problems, rigid muscles, and pain. Many have difficulty walking, talking, and/or swallowing.

**WHEREAS:** Canadians with Parkinson’s disease and their caregivers rely on Parkinson Society Canada to provide them with information, resources and support groups to help better manage the physical and psychological effects of this debilitating disease.

**WHEREAS:** Through our partnerships with our twelve regional partners, health care professionals, research associations, and volunteers, Parkinson Society Canada touches every community across the country.

**WHEREAS:** Parkinson Society Canada has funded almost \$11 million dollars in research grants in its quest to find better treatment, and ultimately a cure for Parkinson’s disease.

**NOW THEREFORE:** I, Frank Scarpitti, Mayor of the Town of Markham, do hereby proclaim **April 2008** as “**Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month**” and encourage everyone to support Parkinson Society Canada during its Spring Campaign.

## FACT SHEET

### About Parkinson's disease

- Described by Dr. James Parkinson in 1817 (British doctor)<sup>1</sup>
- Parkinson's is a progressive neurological disease<sup>6</sup>
- When cells in the brain that normally produce a chemical called "dopamine" die, symptoms of Parkinson's appear<sup>2</sup>
- Most common symptoms are: tremor (shaking); slowness in movements, muscle stiffness and problems with balance<sup>3</sup>
- Other symptoms may also occur for some people, such as fatigue, difficulties with speech and writing, sleep disorders, depression and cognitive changes<sup>3, 4</sup>
- Currently there is no cure for Parkinson's disease<sup>3</sup>
- Most people manage their symptoms through medication<sup>3</sup>
- A small percentage of people with Parkinson's may benefit from surgery<sup>3</sup>
- Other interventions such as exercise programs and speech therapy can also help<sup>3</sup>
- Parkinson's progresses over time at different rates for each person<sup>3</sup>
- Finding the right treatment as symptoms change over time is important and requires the expertise of specialized health-care professionals
- A single cause for PD has not been identified. Researchers are studying many theories such as the role of genetics and environmental exposure<sup>4</sup>

### About Parkinson's disease in Canada

- It is estimated that more than 100,000 Canadians have Parkinson's disease<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>
- This number is underestimated as there is no national population-based study on PD
- *The majority of those diagnosed are over the age of 65*<sup>2</sup>
- The average age of diagnosis is 60 years<sup>3</sup>
- Parkinson's disease is not a normal part of aging<sup>3</sup>; but the incidence increases with age<sup>2</sup>
- Due to the increase of baby boomers, this number is expected to rise dramatically. The population aged 65 and over is predicted to rise over 30 years from 11.6% to 23.6%<sup>2</sup>
- *20% under the age of 40<sup>4</sup> commonly known as "Young Onset"*
- Direct costs for Parkinson's disease (hospital and physician care and drugs) total \$86.8 million<sup>2</sup>

### Parkinson Society Canada

- PSC was founded in 1965 to enhance the lives of Canadians living with PD<sup>5</sup>
- PSC is a national, not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization with 12 regional partners and over 200 chapters and support groups across Canada<sup>5</sup>
- Its mission is to: Ease the burden; find a cure . . . through research, education, support and advocacy
- Since 1981 PSC has funded over \$13 million in Research Grants (fund approximately \$1M per year for scientific research)

- In the Fall 2006, PSC will fund a pilot project as part of the newly launched psychosocial research program
- Since 1981, the National Clinical Program has awarded over \$3 M to clinics and community organizations that provide programs and services for people living with Parkinson's disease
- Information and support for people living with PD, their families and health-care professionals are available from PSC and its regional partners.
- To contact your regional partner, visit our web site at [www.parkinson.ca](http://www.parkinson.ca) or call 1-800-565-3000
- April is Parkinson's disease awareness month; PSC seeks to raise the awareness and understanding of Parkinson's disease
- PSC has adopted WHO's World Charter on Parkinson's disease<sup>6</sup> that people with the disease have the right to:
  - Be referred to a doctor with a special interest in PD
  - Receive an accurate diagnosis
  - Access to support services
  - Receive continuous care, and
  - Take part in managing the illness
- National Advocacy efforts have identified two major issues<sup>6</sup>
  - Sustained research funding
  - Universal access to home care services and supports

### **About SuperWalk**

- SuperWalk for Parkinson's: takes place every September in over 80 communities across Canada
- 12,000 participants are expected to walk in 2007
- The first walk took place in 1990 with seven walkers in Ontario
- Since 2000 SuperWalk has raised \$9.8 million
- Funds raised from SuperWalk go to research and support services
- This year's goal is \$2.1 million

### **References**

<sup>1</sup>James Parkinson, *An Essay on the Shaking Palsy*, London 1817

<sup>2</sup>Parkinson's Disease: Social and Economic Impact, 2003, Health Canada and Parkinson Society Canada

<sup>3</sup>Parkinson's: The Facts, Parkinson Society Canada brochure 2003

<sup>4</sup>A Manual for People Living with Parkinson's Disease, Parkinson Society Canada, 2003

<sup>5</sup>Parkinson Society Canada donor brochure

**Hau, Lucy**

---

**Subject:** FW: Naturopathic Medicine Week 2008 (May 4 - May 11) - Proclamation Request

----- Original Message -----

From: Service Members <SMembers@oand.org>

To: Scarpitti, Frank

Sent: Thu Mar 06 13:37:53 2008

Subject: Naturopathic Medicine Week 2008 (May 4 - May 11) - Proclamation Request

March 6, 2008

Mayor of Markham

Dear Mayor Frank Scarpitti,

This year, Naturopathic Medicine Week (NMW) is May 4 to May 11, 2008. Hundreds of naturopathic doctors (NDs) across Canada will be opening their office doors or going into their communities to inform and educate people on the benefits of naturopathic medicine. Naturopathic Medicine Week 2008 establishes naturopathic medicine as a distinct system of primary care that addresses the root cause of illness or disease and promotes health and healing using natural therapies.

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors and the Ontario Association of Naturopathic Doctors, I am writing to request that Mayor Frank Scarpitti proclaim May 4 to May 11, 2008 to be Naturopathic Medicine Week. This is an annual, national event occurring in municipalities across the country.

Naturopathic doctors are highly educated primary care providers who integrate standard medical diagnostics with a broad range of natural therapies. Treating a broad range of conditions ranging from common ailments such as cold and flu, food allergies, chronic fatigue, and childhood illnesses, to chronic degenerative conditions such as arthritis, asthma, heart, immune system, digestive, naturopathic medicine is an integral part of Ontario's health care system. Naturopathic Medicine Week helps to raise the profile of this growing profession.

In Ontario, naturopathic doctors have been practicing for 83 years and today we have 1413 NDs practicing across Canada, about two-thirds of whom practice in Ontario.

On behalf of the tens of thousands of patients in Ontario who see an ND for their primary health care, and particularly the individuals in your community, I would very much appreciate you taking the time to proclaim this year's event. A draft proclamation is attached. Please send a confirmation of the proclamation to Ronda Parkes, Program Manager, Marketing and Publications, by email; ronda@oand.org or to her attention at the address below. A poster celebrating Naturopathic Medicine Week will follow the proclamation.

Sincerely,

Shelley Burns ND,

Chair, Board of Directors

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK

May 4 - May 11, 2008

WHEREAS:

Naturopathic medicine is a distinct system of primary care that addresses the root cause of illness or disease and promotes health and healing using natural therapies. Naturopathic doctors are highly educated primary care providers who integrate standard medical diagnostics with a broad range of natural therapies; and

WHEREAS:

Naturopathic doctors across Canada will be opening their office doors or going into their communities to inform and educate people on the benefits of naturopathic medicine; and

WHEREAS

A significant number of residents of Ontario are turning to naturopathic doctors for valid, science-based complementary healthcare.

NOW, THEREFORE:

I \_\_\_\_\_, Mayor of the City of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim May 4 to May 11, 2008 as "Naturopathic Medicine Week in the City of (your city's name)".



February 8, 2008

Mayor W. Frank Scarpitti  
Town of Markham  
101 Town of Markham  
Markham, Ontario L3R 9W3

Honorable Mayor W. Frank Scarpitti,

The Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign is aimed at bringing awareness to the community regarding the issue of missing children and how one can safeguard their child from predators, on-line or in the streets, which seek to harm their love ones. In the year 2006, **60,461 cases of missing children** were reported to the RCMP National Missing Children Services, of which **20,874** were recorded here in the Province of Ontario alone.

This year marks the Child Find Ontario's **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Ribbon of Hope™ Campaign** during the month of May. We are seeking the support of you and your council members to assist us in bringing this message to your constituency and supporting our Annual Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign during the month of May, including National Missing Children's Day on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

The concept of the Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign was developed by the students of Holy Cross Secondary School in St. Catharines and is a result of the abduction and subsequent murder of 15-year-old Kristen French on April 16, 1992. The Green Ribbon is now a symbol of recognition for the many children who go missing every year. The colour green embodies a sign of hope for those children who have gone missing.

Child Find Ontario Inc. is a registered non-profit, charitable children's organization whose mandate is to assist searching parents and law enforcement agencies in the search for missing children and teenagers and to educate children and adults about safe guarding their children from the unthinkable. Since 1984, we have been working for the safe return of missing children and educating families and communities about child safety.

Child Find Ontario Community Link volunteers continue to reach the children and families in your community and supply them with our educational programs and services, enlightening them with all important safety rules.

In honor of all searching parents we would ask that your leadership play a key role in promoting the safe return of all missing children by granting this issue the support of your office and elected colleagues during our Annual Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign. Enclosed are sample proclamations for the Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign and National Missing Children's Day on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, for which we encourage you to recognize and lend your support. We would also be pleased to provide you free of charge

**Provincial Head Office**

440A Britannia Rd. E. Mississauga, Ontario Canada L4Z 1X9  
Tel: 905-712-3463 Fax: 905-712-3462 Toll Free: 1-800-KID-TIPS (543-8477)  
National Toll Free: 1-800-387-7962 • E-mail: [mail@childfindontario.ca](mailto:mail@childfindontario.ca) • [www.ontario.childfind.ca](http://www.ontario.childfind.ca)



Green Ribbons to wear and fliers to post during the month of May in support of the safe return of all missing children. Just complete the attached order form and fax it back to me at (905) 712-3462.

On behalf of the families whose children are missing, Child Find Ontario would appreciate the support of your office during the month of May to help bring the message of missing children to the forefront. For further information on Child Find Ontario or the Green Ribbon of Hope Campaign, please visit our website at [www.ontario.childfind.ca](http://www.ontario.childfind.ca) or contact us at 1- 866-KID-TIPS (543-8477) or email me at [john@childfindontario.ca](mailto:john@childfindontario.ca). Our Provincial Office mailing address is 440A Britannia Road East, Mississauga, Ontario, L4Z 1X9

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Durant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J".

John Durant  
Associate Executive Director

**Provincial Head Office**

440A Britannia Rd. E. Mississauga, Ontario Canada L4Z 1X9  
Tel: 905-712-3463 Fax: 905-712-3462 Toll Free: 1-800-KID-TIPS (543-8477)  
National Toll Free: 1-800-387-7962 • E-mail: [mail@childfindontario.ca](mailto:mail@childfindontario.ca) • [www.ontario.childfind.ca](http://www.ontario.childfind.ca)





May 2008  
17<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Ribbon of Hope™ Campaign

Order Form

Package Request	Quantity Ordered	Quantity Shipped
Bags of 100 Pre-cut & pinned Green Ribbon – <i>No Charge</i>		
Rolls of 100 Green Ribbon Stickers – <i>No Charge</i> (Available in French and English)		
Collection Boxes – <i>No Charge</i> (Complete with tray to hold Stickers or Ribbons)		
Green Ribbon Posters - 13" x 22" – <i>No Charge</i> (Available in French and English)		
Green Ribbon Fliers - 8½" x 11" – <i>No Charge</i> (Available in French and English)		
Green Ribbon "Spirit of Hope" Wrist Band * \$2.00 each		

☐

**YES, We would like to raise funds to help reduce the incidence of missing children**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

CITY/MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON/TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

SHIPPING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX # (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

To receive your order before May, please reply by fax before April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Please fax this sheet to 905-712-3462 or email me at [john@childfindontario.ca](mailto:john@childfindontario.ca). If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 905-712-FIND (3463) or 1-800-543-8477**

**Child Find Ontario, 440A Britannia Rd. E., Mississauga, ON, L4Z 1X9**



## *Proclamation*

### *Green Ribbon of Hope Month*

- WHEREAS** over 60,000 children were reported missing last year in Canada and thousands more are the victims of exploitation; and
- WHEREAS** children and families in Ontario are victims of this tragedy; and
- WHEREAS** increased awareness of the problem is needed to help reduce the incidence of missing children and teenagers, as well as to help locate missing children; and
- WHEREAS** this a community issue, not just a family one; and
- WHEREAS** a Missing Child is Everyone's Responsibility; and
- WHEREAS** this month is set aside to rekindle new hope in the search for all missing children; and
- WHEREAS** this month also supports National Missing Children's Day on May 25<sup>th</sup>;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN THAT I,**

do hereby proclaim the month of **May 2008** as

**MISSING CHILDREN'S MONTH IN [MUNICIPALITY]**

and join Child Find Ontario and all law enforcement agencies in urging citizens in Ontario to remain vigilant in our common desire to protect and nurture the youth of Ontario.



## *Proclamation*

### *National Missing Children's Day May 25<sup>th</sup> 2008*

- WHEREAS** over 60,000 children were reported missing last year in Canada and thousands more are the victims of exploitation; and
- WHEREAS** children and families in Ontario are victims of this tragedy; and
- WHEREAS** increased awareness of the problem is needed to help reduce the incidence of missing children and teenagers, as well as to help locate missing children; and
- WHEREAS** this a community issue, not just a family one; and
- WHEREAS** remember that "Some things can't be replaced"; and
- WHEREAS** this month is set aside to rekindle new hope in the search for all missing children; and
- WHEREAS** this month also supports National Missing Children's Day on May 25<sup>th</sup>;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN THAT I,**

**DO HEREBY PROCLAIM** that May 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 is **National Missing Children's Day**

**MISSING CHILDREN'S MONTH IN [MUNICIPALITY]**

and join Child Find Ontario and all law enforcement agencies in urging citizens in Ontario to remain vigilant in our common desire to protect and nurture the youth of Ontario.