

## City Proclaims June 6-12 as ALS Awareness Week in Parksville

Parksville, BC - The Mayor of the City of Parksville has proclaimed June 6 to 12, 2010, as ALS Awareness Week in the City of Parksville.

The ALS Society of BC will hold its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Mid-Island Walk for ALS on Sunday, June 6 starting at noon from the Parksville Civic & Technology Centre. The walk is a fun, family friendly event that raises funds for ALS. Registration forms are available at <http://www.als.ca/events/event.aspx?e=29>

The walk is hosted by the Parksville AM Rotary Club, Ballenas Secondary School, and local ALS volunteers. The ALS Walk in Parksville is the longest walk in British Columbia, now in its ninth year. The Rotary connection with ALS began following the deaths from the disease of Rotarians, Peers Davidson and David Spearing.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is a devastating neurodegenerative disease for which there is no cure or effective treatment. Commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, it can strike anyone, regardless of age, gender or circumstances. Eighty per cent of people with ALS die within two to five years of diagnosis. For every person diagnosed with ALS a person with ALS dies. Approximately 2,500 to 3,000 Canadians currently live with ALS.

Along with ALS, neurodegenerative diseases include Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease and Parkinson's disease. According to the World Health Organization, neurodegenerative diseases are predicted to surpass cancer as the second leading cause of death in Canada by 2040.

Information about the walk is available from Ray Walker at 250 248-5138 and more information about ALS may be found at [www.als.ca](http://www.als.ca)

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**For more information:**

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