

Tulips sold for Parkinson's Awareness Month

With April being Parkinson's Awareness Month, Hope in Bloom Tulip campaign volunteers will be selling the floral symbol for the disease tomorrow (Thursday) and Saturday (April 19).

The fundraiser will be held at RioCan Oakville Place, just outside the Shoppers Drug Mart from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Thursday and 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday — pots cost \$10 and a bunch \$6, with funds going towards the Parkinson Society Central and Northern Ontario.

On April 1, Ontario Minister of Labour

and Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn launched Parkinson's Awareness Month at Queen's Park.

Parkinson's is a chronic degenerative neurological disease caused by a loss of dopamine in the brain. It affects more than 100,000 Canadians and approximately 40,000 Ontarians — currently, there is no cure.

Symptoms include: resting tremor, slowness of movement, stiffness or rigidity of muscles, difficulty with balance and walking, changes in voice volume and speech, and difficulty with fine movements.

Non-motor symptoms include: depression, loss of sense of smell, sleep disturbances and cognitive changes.

Throughout the month, the Hope in Bloom Tulip campaign will spread the word about Parkinson's and raise funds to support its four pillars: research, education, support services and advocacy.

"Honouring Parkinson's Awareness Month during April is one of the many important ways we continue to get the word out about Parkinson's disease and its impact on the community," Earla Fitzjohn, Parkinson So-

ciety Oakville branch co-ordinator.

"We are thankful to have hardworking and passionate volunteers, many of whom are directly affected by Parkinson's, who have played an instrumental role in making Parkinson's Awareness Month a success, year after year."

RioCan Oakville Place will also play host to the first annual SuperWalk benefitting the Parkinson Society on Saturday, Sept. 6.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.parkinsoncno.ca or call 1-800-565-3000.

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DATES

Thurs, April 24th 10:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm
Fri, April 25th 10:00am, 2:00pm
Sat, April 26th 10:00am, 2:00pm

LOCATION

Peter Watson Investments
220 Randall Street,
Downtown Oakville

Free Parking

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