



HAPPY TOGETHER: Mark and Joanne Pelosi joined with friends, family and members of the community recently in Eden Mills for a fundraiser that generated \$7,000 to help pay for experimental treatment for Mark's Muscular Sclerosis in New York. – Denise Paulsen photo

Eden mills man undergoes experimental MS treatment

Mark Peloso of Eden Mills was feeling fine on Monday after returning from hospital in Albany, New York, where he underwent Liberation Therapy on Saturday – a controversial treatment that may lessen the recurrence and delay the progression of symptoms of the debilitating disease, Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

Peloso said recent headlines about the death of a Canadian man allegedly related to Liberation Therapy were scary, but he and his doctors in New York needed more details before commenting, or drawing any conclusions about the case.

Peloso had endovascular surgery to unblock his jugular vein, and to alleviate symptoms including fatigue, muscle weakness and vision problems. Medical coverage for the controversial therapy is currently under review by the Federal Health Minister, while Saskatchewan has taken the first step by funding independent clinical trials of the experimental treatment.

A ballet dancer, accomplished singers and several musicians recently helped raise over \$7,000 for Peloso's treatment expenses. The joyous occasion contrasted his

health problems. The husband and father of six was stricken with MS ten years ago.

The fundraiser left Peloso overwhelmed with the outpouring of community support. "People from the village, my family and friends have come out to support me," he said. His wife, Joanne said, "I am overwhelmed. I had no idea there would be such a huge turnout, and I think this speaks to the bigger picture, of MS in general." Due to the progression of his MS, Peloso has been unemployed since 2004, and is a stay-at-home dad, while his wife works full-time.



TREATS AND TREASURES: The Second Hand Shop in Rockwood opened its doors wide recently for a 50 per cent saving on all in-store items. Proprietors Vija and Peter Celmins have 2,000 square feet of arts and crafts and antiques at great prices. – Denise Paulsen photo

OPP R.I.D.E. ready

With the holiday season just beginning, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – including the Rockwood detachment – remind motorists there will be a visible increase of OPP officers again this holiday season as they focus on efforts to track down motorists who place everyone's safety at risk by drinking and driving on Ontario roads and highways.

This year's annual OPP Festive R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaign will be in effect from Friday November 26, 2010 through January 2, 2011.

As of November 21, 2010, 304 people have died on OPP patrolled roadways, 50 of which were alcohol-related collisions. The Festive R.I.D.E. initiative has proven to be an effective deterrent and an important tool in raising awareness about the continued, senseless loss of life and injuries that result from driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

During the 2009 five-week OPP R.I.D.E. initiative, OPP officers stopped 1,199,280 vehicles at roadside checkpoints, compared to 884,729 in 2008.

The results were that 299 persons were charged with criminal code alcohol-related offences compared to 319 in 2008. Officers also laid a total 5,195 other driving-related charges and issued 746 warn range suspensions during last year's R.I.D.E. campaign.

The OPP is reminding the public about changes to driving laws in Ontario

that take effect on December 1, 2010, where drivers who have a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) over 80 milligrams or who fail/refuse to comply with a demand to provide a sample by a police officer will see their vehicles impounded for seven days.

This change to the Ontario driving law is in addition to other recent changes that took effect in August, 2010 where drivers under 21 years, regardless of the class of licence they have, must have a zero BAC or be suspended on the spot for 24 hours.

Also, under the new Safe Roads for a Safer Ontario Act introduced last year, drivers caught driving with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) between 0.05 to 0.08 (known as the "warn range"), will have their licence immediately suspended for three days for a first occurrence, seven days for a second occurrence and 30 days for a third or subsequent occurrence.

"The OPP is committed to doing our part to

promote traffic safety by removing impaired drivers from our roads to ensure that everyone can arrive at their destination safely this holiday season. We are calling on all drivers to support our efforts by doing their part and not mixing driving with alcohol or drugs," said OPP Deputy Commissioner Larry Beechey, Provincial Commander responsible for Traffic Safety and Operational Support.

"It is a tragedy when a life is taken by an irresponsible driver who got behind the wheel of a vehicle while impaired by drugs or alcohol," said Chief Superintendent Bill Grodzinski, Commander of the OPP Highway Safety Division "Drivers have numerous options available to them such as public transit, taxi cabs or having an alcohol and drug-free designated driver. Make the right choice and act responsibly," he added.

Anyone who suspects a driver is driving while impaired is encouraged to call police by dialling 9-1-1.



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