Coming Events

Walk for Life
May 9th (See Pledge Sheet and Poster page 3,4)

March For Life
May 14th
A bus leaves from behind the Burger King on Fairway Rd. and Wilson Ave. 5:30am
We will carry our signs like Burger King on Fairway Rd.

Why Not Euthanasia? By Tim Runstedler Kitchener

Realizing that the political situation in Germany was not going to get any better under the Nazi regime, Dr. Ludwig Guttmann, a German born Jewish doctor and his family emigrated to England in 1939. At the time Dr. Guttmann was a well respected and world renowned doctor of neurology. In 1944, Dr. Guttmann was asked to run a Spinal Injuries Unit at a Ministry of Pensions hospital in Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. Dr. Guttmann agreed, provided he was given complete authority of the unit and was allowed to treat patients as he saw fit. Up until this point, a person who suffered a spinal cord injury carried a death sentence. The normal practice was to put the patient into a body cast and with little else that could be done the patient died a slow agonizing death as a result of infection.

The first patients that were treated at Stoke Mandeville were British soldiers that had suffered severe injuries from fighting in World War II. These were young men that before the war had hopes and dreams with their whole lives ahead of them. As a result of the war, their dreams were shattered and they had given up all hope of living any kind of fruitful life or a life worth living. These men asked and pleaded with Dr. Ludwig to end their suffering and simply put an end to their misery, but Dr. Guttmann had other ideas. Not only did Dr. Ludwig Guttmann give paraplegics a second chance at life, he also set the standards and showed the world what palliative care was all about.

Dr. Ludwig treated each of those soldiers as people who had unique gifts, interests and families that cared for them, rather than patient number whatever in need of care. He realized that the rehabilitation of patients with spinal cord injuries was not just physical, but mental as well. It was essential to care for the whole person. Writing about the care of paraplegics, Dr. Guttmann observed that, the sudden conversion of a vigorous man into a helpless cripple naturally tends to severe psychological shock and reactive depression. From the beginning, the patient’s mental condition needs careful attention and treatment to prevent anxiety or resentment, which lead to apathy and inactivity.

In dealing with these mental disorders, the creation of a cheerful atmosphere and high moral in the ward is of vital importance. The whole unit must be impregnated with enthusiasm, and this inspires the patient to cooperate to the full. “New Hope for Spinal Cord Sufferers.” Paraplegia 17 (1979):6-15.

In order to bring meaning and excitement into the lives of his patients, and to help with rehabilitation, Dr. Guttmann used sports. Sports were fundamental in the physical, psychological, and social rehabilitation of those who had spinal cord injuries. After some time, Dr. Gutmann held small competitions for the patients. As word got around and individuals from other countries got involved these small competitions evolved into the Paralympics, which now has over 4,200 participants from over 165 countries.

There is an obvious difference between those who are dealing with end of life issues and the patients that Dr. Ludwig Guttmann was dealing with; however the principals remain the same. People who are facing death are not just in need of physical care, they are in need of psychological, social, and spiritual care as well. The answer to euthanasia is not granting a dying person’s last wish, but rather to take that journey with them. The kind of care that Dr. Ludwig Guttmann gave his patients is what the World Health Organization defines as palliative care, which is “an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.” Proper palliative care can ease a person’s pain, but still allow them to take advantage of the few moments he or she may have left with family and friends.

Euthanasia was a topic of debate before and during World War Two. Hitler believed that it was for the “good of the Fatherland” to kill undesirables because they were a burden to society and on national resources. It was called “mercy killing” back then as well. Dr. Gutmann worked with patients that at the time were considered hopeless cases, but regardless of the diagnosis Dr. Gutmann took the time to give them best care possible; for some patients that meant giving them a new chance at life and unfortunately for others that meant making their last moments on earth as peaceful as possible. This is true health care! Right now our Canadian Senate is preparing to debate whether or not euthanasia should be legalized in this country. It is our job to take a stand like Dr. Ludwig Gutmann and make sure that our health care remains just that, “Health Care.”

KW Right to Life has Life Protecting Power of Attorney for Personal Care forms available at the office $5.
Contact the Minister of Health Rona Ambrose and urge her to do everything she can to keep euthanasia illegal in Canada. Also to keep RU-486 out of Canada. Health Canada wants to legalize this chemical abortifacient that is dangerous and sometimes lethal.

You can email her at rona.ambrose@parl.gc.ca or call 613.996.9778 Write her at Room 163 East Block Ottawa ON K1A 0A6 (postage free)
Some History of Canadian Abortion Laws

Beginning in 1803 the law rigorously protected the fetus from conception. In 1969 law reforms were enacted through Parliament by Pierre Trudeau as Justice Minister. Abortion in Canada was henceforth to be decided by 3 hospital physicians allowed to certify abortion if a pregnancy endangered the mother’s life or ‘health’. Over 95% of abortions are carried out on grounds of loosely construed social and psychological ‘health’. Abortions are permitted up to the point of natural delivery although the majority are done in the 1st trimester.

On January 28th, 1988, the Queen v. Morgentaler case, section 251 of the Criminal Code which prohibited abortion was voted as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Although the Court did not argue for a Charter right of ‘privacy’ it irresponsibly stretched the meaning of the Charters section 7 guarantee of ‘security of the person’ using it to invalidate section 251 of the Criminal Code. A right to abortion was not found, and that it was up to parliament to decide when the state’s interest in the fetus began.

All five Justices comprising the majority acknowledged that the interests of the fetus was deserving of constitutional recognition under Section 1. Three, expressly stated that a law restricting abortion might yet be consistent with the Charter, for at some point in the pregnancy, the state’s interest in protecting the fetus might be sufficiently compelling to override the rights that women otherwise have under the Charter. However in the Morgantaler case at that time, it did not consider what rights, if any, the fetus might have. This is a case the Supreme Court has yet to hear. In striking down section 251, the Court left Canada without any law to adjudicate, one way or the other. The Charter of Rights applies to all levels of governments. Each Province has the power to access or deny abortion.

Unborn children in Canada have a realizable right to inherit property. They can sue a 3rd party for injuries sustained during their time in the womb i.e. a driver hits the mother and injures the child. They can even sue the mother for abuse or neglect while in the womb i.e. suing for health problems sustained from mother using drugs during pregnancy. Yet, the one right that is not supported, on which all these other rights depend, is the right not to be killed through abortion. How can someone be a ‘person’ or ‘human being’ in the civil law, yet be a non person under the criminal law?

This brings us to Motion 312 in 2012 by Stephen Woodworth MP Kitchener Centre who spoke at U of W on Nov. 14, 2013 regarding “The importance of the legal principle which requires recognition of the equal worth and dignity of every human being and the implication of Parliament’s abandonment of that principle in defeating Motion 312.”

His initiative to investigate the outdated Personhood Law Section 223 (1) in relation to current medical scientific research and evidence was supported by 93 members of parliament. Section 223(1) of the Canadian Criminal Code states: A child becomes a human being within the meaning of this Act when it has completely proceeded, in a living state, from the body of its mother, whether or not:) it has breathed; b) it has independent circulation; c) the navel string is severed

MP Stephen Woodworth stated the Denial of human equality is the greatest threat to democracy in Canada today. Categories of being human are never closed to tyranny and we should never accept any law that says someone you know to be a human being is not a human being. The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the inherent dignity and inalienable rights of all members of the human family. It is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Is there anything more important?

How do we resolve rights between kinds of people?

Statistics Canada records 491 born alive abortion victims. No one was prosecuted. People are even purporting that children should be allowed to be euthanized up to age three years as they have not reached the stage of self awareness.

Stephen Woodworth resolved that the Parliament of Canada affirm that every Canadian law must be interpreted in a manner that recognizes in law the equal worth and dignity of everyone who is in fact a human being. All options should be reviewed in the light of science and medicine when there is reasonable doubt.
### SPONSOR RECORD

#### 36th Annual Walk for Life • Saturday, May 9, 2015

**Purpose:** To further the aims of the Right To Life Association by promoting greater respect for all human life through educational programs.

**Registration** 10:00 a.m.
Historic St. Paul’s
137 Queen St. S.
Kitchener

**The Walk** 10:30 a.m.
RTL of Kitchener-Waterloo & Area
215 Lancaster St. W.
Kitchener, ON
N2H 4T9
519-746-5433

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### Details about the walker you are sponsoring

Name:  
Age:  
Address:  
City:  
Signature: (of Parent, if under 14)  
Postal Code:  

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**Reminder:**
1. Pledges are to be collected by the walker, preferably prior to the event.
2. Please provide complete names and address, including Postal Code, for Tax Receipts.
3. Income Tax Receipts will be issued at year end for donations of $10.00 or more, if requested above.

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**TOTAL PLEDGED**
KW Right to Life 36th Annual

Walk for Life
Saturday May 9th, 2015
Registration: 10:00am
Historic St. Paul’s 137 Queen St. S. Kit.
Walk begins at 10:30am (about 3 km)

• From Historic St. Pauls turn Right on Queen St.
• Then Left on King St.
• Follow King St. W.
• Cross the Street at Victoria St.- Stay on King St.
to Kitchener City Hall for a 15 min. break
• Continue to King St. E. then Right on Eby St.
• Right on Charles St.- Finally Left on Church St. to Historic St. Pauls

Prizes - Draws - Good Food - Meet Old and New Friends

Every $50. pledged receives a chance for a $150. gift certificate from McPhails
(Sponsor Sheet inside)

Please check below to see when your membership expires.

News&Views
SPRING 2015

K-W Right to Life
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
215 Lancaster St. W.
Kitchener, ON
N2H 4T9
Tel 519-746-LIFE (5433)
Fax 519-746-5433
kwrtl@golden.net
kwrtl.ca