

# GORDON MITCHELL MEMORIAL FUND

DECEMBER 2007

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**MORE ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS 1**

**2007 GMMF RAP AWARD 2**

**2007 GMMF SPORT AWARDS 2**

**2007 DONORS 3**

**COMMUNITY LEARNING CAMPUS-CLC 3**

**FUND INFORMATION 4**

**MESSAGE FROM THE MITCHELL FAMILY 4**

## MORE ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS BEING REPORTED:

OTTAWA - A growing number of Canadians are reporting adverse reactions to the drugs they're taking, a troubling trend that Health Canada says has been on the rise for the last several years.



**Joanne and Jim Mitchell hold a picture of their son Gordon who [died by] suicide in December of 2003 at the age of 16. Gordon had been taking the antidepressant Paxil until about two months before his death.**

More than 10,500 new cases of adverse drug reactions were reported to Health Canada in 2006, mainly by health professionals, an increase of 108 cases compared to the previous year. Health Canada also received more than 250,000 reports last year of adverse reactions originating in other countries from drugs that are marketed in Canada, a jump of 43 per cent from 2005.

In addition, more than two-thirds of the 7,000 domestic adverse reactions reported by companies that sell drugs and other health products

were classified as serious in 2006. Drug manufacturers are required to report adverse reactions to their products to Health Canada.

"This is a major problem in Canada. It's a major problem in all countries," said Dr. Michael Hayden, director for the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics at the Child and Family Research Institute in Vancouver.

The number of reports of domestic adverse reactions "has increased steadily over the last several years," according to Health Canada's Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter, published earlier this month. The department's adverse reaction database is a voluntary system that allows doctors, health professionals and consumers to report suspected problems with drugs and other health products.

Health Canada says an increased number of reports could be the result of the fact more people are aware of the government's reporting database and doesn't necessarily mean more Canadians are suffering from adverse reactions. In fact, only a small fraction of such reactions are ever reported to Health Canada.

"Many factors influenced the number of reports we received," said Heather Sutcliffe, director of marketed

health products safety and effectiveness information bureau at Health Canada. "We are aware that in most situations, there is considerable underreporting of adverse reactions."

But a collection of health experts say the numbers highlight troubling problems with the way drugs are prescribed in Canada and how patients are monitored. The foremost disturbing issue is the fact few medical professionals or consumers report problems they have with drugs, which makes it extremely difficult to identify trends and alert people to potential problems with drugs, Dr. Hayden said.

"It's a massive problem that is still poorly reported and poorly ascertained," he said. "The ascertainment of adverse events needs considerable skill and active surveillance."

He and other health experts believe the number of Canadians who suffer from adverse drug reactions every year is massive, mainly because medication is overprescribed and the country doesn't have adequate systems to preemptively identify potential problems.

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Byline: Carly Weeks

Dateline: OTTAWA

Source: CanWest News Service

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- \$22,005 raised
- \$4,250 awarded in 4 years
- 13 Students have received an Award
- 3 youth share \$1,000 each year
- Independent selection committee selects the students annually

**2007 RAP AWARD: TODD WILLIAMS**

**Thank you** very much for providing me with the opportunity to enhance my skills through my apprenticeship.

Going into Grade 11, I knew that a welding career would be a good start to the beginning of my adult years; through the **Registered Apprenticeship Program** I have now completed my first year and have been working for **Westward Products** for the past year. I am now heading back to school to complete my second year.

This award will help me in continuing my career in this trade and help me to become the tradesman that I have always wished to be.

**Todd Williams**  
**Welding**



Todd Williams

2007 RAP Award

**2007 SPORTS AWARD: DANIELLE LAPPAGE**

**Thank-you** very much for the Scholarship you awarded me. It will be put to great use as I travel this summer to several wrestling camps. I have already returned from a tournament & camp in Austria, where I placed second. It was a BLAST! I have two more events scheduled—The Canada Cup in Guelph and the Cadet Pan-Am Games. I am really grateful that you chose me for the Gordon Mitchell Award, It does mean a lot. (June 2007)

**Danielle Lappage**  
**Wrestling**

"I believe that **imagination** is stronger than knowledge, that myth is more potent than history, that **dreams** are more powerful than facts, that **hope** always triumphs over experience, that **laughter** is the only cure for grief, and I believe that **love** is stronger than death."

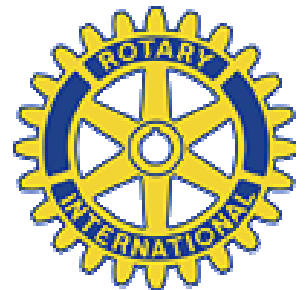
Robert Fulgham

**2007 SPORTS AWARD: ASHLEY WILSON**

To the Mitchell Family/Donors :

I got back from Hockey Camp; it was so much fun! I met so many new girls from all over the States. I got some excellent coaching and feel I greatly improved my skills. **Thank you** for giving me the scholarship and allowing me to have such a great opportunity.

**Ashley Wilson**  
**Hockey**



Rotary-  
Gordon Mitchell Sports Award  
[www.oldsrotary.com](http://www.oldsrotary.com)

**2007 INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tom & Wendy Clark      | Craig & Cathy Scott (2) |
| Tania & Mike Foster    | Retire 1st (Red Deer)   |
| Egon Larsen            |                         |
| Ted or Lynne Jardine   |                         |
| Julie Calderwood       |                         |
| Greg & Karin Kondas    |                         |
| Linda & Terry Kondas   |                         |
| Tracey Melnyk (2)      |                         |
| John & Gwen Melnyk     |                         |
| Jim & Joyanne Mitchell |                         |
| Kaitlyn Mitchell       |                         |
| Shirley Mitchell       |                         |

*Thank you  
to all of the  
original  
donors &  
for your  
continued  
Support!*



What's your mountain to climb?

**COMMUNITY LEARNING CAMPUS, OLDS, ALBERTA**

Olds Jr. Sr. High School (The Chinook's Edge School Division) is growing to enrich the Community.

**The Vision of the Health & Wellness Centre**

- To provide and promote a holistic approach to physical, emotional, intellectual and social growth.
- Will strive to galvanize all users by encouraging a commitment to physical activity and health lifestyles
- Will be a key venue in addressing the outcomes of the high school health, physical education and career and life management programs of study
- Will be a key venue in the college health and fitness and athletic programs

(Source: <http://www.communitylearningcampus.ca/health-wellness-facility.shtml>)

***“If you can't help a hundred people, then help just one.”***



Cory Leischner & Alex Moebis commissioned a print of Gordon.

## Gifts are tax deductible

### OLDS JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

Gordon Mitchell Memorial Fund  
5122-48 Street  
Olds, Alberta  
T4H 1T1  
Phone: 403-556-3391



“ M A K I N G   A   D I F F E R E N C E   F O R   Y O U T H ”

## MESSAGE FROM THE MITCHELL FAMILY

At a recent Association of Fundraising Professionals **Philanthropy Day** luncheon; we were challenged with “How have you made your mark”? ...and how not to become a “grumpy old lady”. While they were talking, I had a great opportunity to remember Gordon and the things that his life has meant. It's meant we had sixteen years to enjoy him, it's meant that we had to face what life is really about when we lost him ... and it's given us the opportunity to clarify **what is important!**

So what's important?

People. Being nice. Sharing and helping others.

Our daughter, Kaitlyn, had an opportunity to test this out, once again, in her first year of University. She was doing a fundraiser this fall in conjunction with *End Poverty Now*. She got exposure to her *new* city as some people willingly opened their door to assist her in her quest to build a stronger community. She also got the door slammed in her face by people who didn't want to take the time to understand that she was just presenting them with an opportunity to be involved.

With enough practice... they'll get to be “grumpy old people”. With a little practice we'll remember not to judge.

So, at this time of year. **Thank you!** ...For taking the time to “make your mark”, to share, and to build community by investing in youth.

We remember Gordon and hope that his legacy fund will positively impact this Community and the terrific young people that it invests in.

*Sincerely,*

Jim, Joyanne & Kaitlyn Mitchell

The Memorial Fund honors Gordon Mitchell (Grade 11 student at Olds Jr. Sr. High School) who passed away December 29, 2003, at the age of 16.

Three (3) awards are awarded annually (to students from Olds Jr. Sr. High) from gifts made by family, friends, & faculty.

### **Gordon Mitchell (RAP) Scholarship Fund**

1 x \$500 annually (Sept)

Students are nominated;  
See: Ms. L. Statchuk

### **Rotary - Gordon Mitchell Sports Awards**

2 x \$250 annually (June)

Applications available at Olds Jr. Sr. High School



(L-R): Jim, Kaitlyn & Joyanne

2007