

GORDON MITCHELL MEMORIAL FUND

DECEMBER 2005

WWW.GORDONMITCHELL.CA

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- \$16,015 raised
- 115 donors
- 135 Gifts
- 3 youth share \$1,000 each year
- Independent selection committee selects the students annually

OLDS, AB — May 29th, 2005 marked the official launch of www.gordonmitchell.ca.

The purpose of the website was two-fold. First, to educate the public and advocate for change around mandatory reporting of *adverse drug reactions*. This is a complex topic with many variables. The site has allowed us to voice facts that we believe were important factors in Gordon's death. Secondly, but of equal importance, we wanted the site to be a legacy link to Gordon. Youth are mobile, they like access to information when they are ready to receive it; the web seemed a logical choice for sharing a few pictures, video, and stories.

Since the launch of the web page, we have had 3,638 hits and 41,795 click-throughs.

According to the site statistics a lot of visitors are referencing photographs, therefore, at the next update in January additional photo's will be added.

The project has allowed us to share information and encourage others to analyze their "beliefs" around health systems.

Health Canada has advised us that they have now added an "Adverse Reaction Centre" for reporting in Edmonton, Alberta. Prior to this, Albertan's reported to British Columbia.

However, we still have a long way to go. Even though Ujjahl Dosanj, Minister of Health [Federal], has stated that he supports mandatory adverse drug reaction reporting—the Government has not been able to develop systems to enforce it.

It's estimated that only 10% of adverse drug reactions are reported.

The webpage also offers a sample letter and a "quick connect" to Alberta MLA's and the Federal Health Minister to voice support of mandatory adverse drug reaction reporting. We believe in democracy and that your voice will make a difference, especially during a federal election.

Finally, the College of Physicians and Surgeons have advised us that all Albertan's can request copies of their medical records—take them up on it.

Quote:

"I believe effective communications and sharing of information among health care providers are critical, and the Alberta government sees Electronic Health Records as key to improving the quality of health care delivery. Accountability of the health system to the citizen can be increased by putting better information into the hands of those who need it and by providing continuity of standards, and consistent individual health information across office, facility and regional boundaries. Linkages to sites such as the Canadian Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Program are being established within the system to facilitate enhanced awareness and reporting."

Honourable Iris Evans
Minister of Health & Wellness

3,638 HITS, 41,795 CLICKS

"I believe the information on your website, particularly the stories about the benefits and the risks of drugs, as well as the correspondence to elected officials, will lead to increased awareness of how drugs are prescribed and used. I also believe the increased emphasis on teams of health care professionals working with and involving patients in their care will contribute to optimal drug use."

Alyssa Haunholter,
E.A. to Iris Evans

Gordon Mitchell

www.gordonmitchell.ca



2005 GMMF AWARD RECIPIENTS

Rickee Holgerson

SPORTS AWARD 2005

"I would like to thank-you for making it possible for me to go to wrestling camp this summer.

It is very much appreciated.

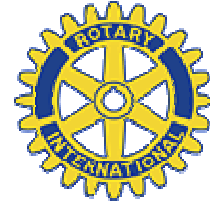
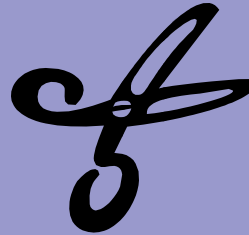
Thanks again."

Cherilyn Wheeler

"Thank you for sponsoring the Gordon Mitchell Memorial Sports Scholarship at Olds High School. I received this scholarship in June and was able to attend Northwest Basketball Camp at Olds College in August. It was a great experience and I am looking forward to putting the new things I learned into practice on the court this year in basketball."

Jenna Emke

RAP 2005—Hairdressing



Rotary - Gordon Mitchell Sports Award

M.O.G.—MEMORY OF GORDON

Each individual expresses grief and honors those that they care about in a different manner. During this past year, some amazing young individuals have openly expressed their thoughts/affection for Gordon in their own personal way. During the annual "street spray painting" [that the graduating class is allowed to do] a theme began to develop that included "sprays" of MOG,

RIP 87-03, and RIP Gordo. Rather than immortalize their own names for the graduating year, several youth decided to honor Gordon's presence with them.

On June 4th, at the Olds graduating ceremony, a former classmate of Gordon's "Celine Denny" shared her personal story by showing a "MOG" tattoo on her ankle.

Fittingly, the "O" was a halo and the tattoo was similar in design to Gordon's arm tattoo that he received on his 16th birthday.

Later in the summer, Gordon's cousin,

Nicholas Melnyk, shared his "MOG" tattoo on his calf—all powerful statements!

"Courage doesn't always roar.

Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, "

I will try again tomorrow."

Mary Ann Radmacher



MOG—Celine Denny



Summer Street Painting



MOG—Nicholas Melnyk

- 2004—
- Sports Awards -
- Karen Jorsvick,
- Basketball
- Ashley Lappage,
- Basketball
- RAP—
- Daniel Zimmerman
- Welding

2005 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Lorraine Berg
 Wendy & Thomas Clark
 Tania & Mike Foster
 Alex & Barb Frank
 Grad Class 2005
 Greg & Karin Kondas
 Linda & Terry Kondas
 Egon Larsen
 Dennis & Bonnie Melnyk
 John & Gwen Melnyk
 Tracey Melnyk (2)
 Jim & Joyanne Mitchell (2)

Kaitlyn Mitchell (2)
 Olds Jr. Sr. High School
 Jean Jardine-O'Neill
 Cathy & Craig Scott

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



Ocean Chapel,

Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico.

"A special place that many of Gordon's friends visited during Spring Break 2005".

GRAD 2005



Graduating Class of 2005



Silent Chair at Grad 2005
In Memory of Gordon

"When a young person dies... we are all losing collectively of his/her contributions in our future."

Elizabeth Pinter,
Cremona

TOONIES FOR "MR. C"



THE "TOONIE TRIBUTE"
MADE A BIG IMPACT

It is a long standing tradition, at Olds Jr. Sr. High School, that the Graduating Class gives a small token to their Principal, Mr. Tom Christensen.

He has received everything from marbles, to puzzle pieces, bubble gum, and golf balls.

This year, each of the graduating class decided to give "Mr. C" a toonie. Their gift was added to the GMMFund.

Their generosity was matched by Olds Jr. Sr. High and by the Mitchell family.

2005 GRADUATING CLASS

- 116 Graduates
- Valedictorian: Ryan Hoeve
- Grand March: Lilac Waltz
- Congratulations!

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

December 29, 2004 marked the first anniversary of Gordon's death.

Knowing that the day would be difficult, we pre-planned a family outing for our daughter, Kaitlyn, and her cousins.

Trying not to get caught up in the grief of the day; we talked about honoring others who have impacted our lives. A new idea was born!

We, in collaboration with my parents and siblings, started the *Melnyk-Bullock Literacy Fund* at Entwistle Elementary School; to honor Senko (Sam) and Paranka (Pearl) Melnyk and George and Pauline Bullock.

During the Province's 100th

anniversary, it seemed fitting to honor Parents/Grandparents who played a role in Alberta's early development... and who played a key role in enabling us to have a more prosperous life.

The Fund has allowed us to continue to express our belief in education and youth. The School purchased additional books for its "Core Virtues" collection on building character and will be able to award the most improved Grade One Student (Reading) with an award. This year's recipient was Brendan Bowers.

Our continued belief in Olds Jr. Sr. High School has never been stronger. Knowing, that

Staff are preparing learners for success is exciting.

This past summer, the Chinook's Edge School Division, in partnership with Olds College, received an additional \$30 million dollars for the new Community Learning Campus (CLC) to develop an integrated learning campus. For more information:
www.communitylearningcampus.ca

We will continue to support education through the many opportunities available to us. We are grateful to express this through Gordon's Fund and we are thankful for the leadership team at Olds Jr. Sr. High School.

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. W. Vandervelden

Rotary - Gordon Mitchell Sports Awards

2 x \$250 annually (June)

Applications available at Olds Jr. Sr. High School



Jim & Joyanne Mitchell