

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Kaija Hutteri 800-998-7398 Ext. 130

khutteri@huntingtonsociety.ca

**Local Peterborough man honoured for his efforts
to raise funds and awareness for Huntington disease
*Celebrating National Volunteer Week: April 12-18, 2015***

(KITCHENER, ON) April 17, 2015 – To celebrate National Volunteer Week (April 12-18), the Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) is honouring Rob Laycock. His volunteer work in the Peterborough area makes a significant impact in the Huntington’s community. Volunteers are at the heart of HSC. Our volunteers tell a powerful story of caring people who pull together to improve the quality of life for Canadians impacted by Huntington disease (HD).

Rob Laycock’s licence plate reads CURE4HD — followed, he points out, by Ontario’s motto “yours to discover.”

This volunteer is certainly doing his part. Rob helps to organize his local Walk for HD, which shuts down Peterborough’s main street each year. To his own amazement, he has also raised hundreds of dollars selling Amaryllis. “I’m not a big salesman,” he confesses. “What I started to do was use email. This year I think I sold seven cases.” HSC’s national Amaryllis Campaign raises awareness for Huntington disease across Canada every year.

A self-described “human guinea pig,” Rob has also participated in several studies. So will we actually cure HD? “I have every hope,” he says.

“Volunteer dedication and support enable us to grow, achieve impactful results and reach our goals,” says Bev Heim-Myers, Chief Executive Officer of the Huntington Society of Canada. “Our inspiration comes from the thousands of volunteers that stand beside us as part of the fabric of the Society and make us the best that we can be.”

The Huntington Society of Canada would like to thank each and every one of our over 10,000 volunteers across the country. Their hard work and dedication is deeply appreciated by the Society.

Now in its 74th year, National Volunteer Week is all about recognizing the hardworking volunteers that make a difference in Canada. It has grown to be the largest celebration of civic participation in Canada. Help us celebrate National Volunteer Week in Canada. Volunteers are part of the ripple effect.

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Huntington disease (HD) is a debilitating brain disorder that is fatal and incurable. About one in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk of developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD whether as a caregiver, a family member, or a friend. HD causes cells in specific parts of the brain to die. As the disease progresses, a person with Huntington’s become less able to manage movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. The disease leads to incapacitation and, eventually, death.

The **Huntington Society of Canada (HSC)** is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to end Huntington disease. HSC is the only Canadian health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families dealing with Huntington disease across Canada.

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Communications Coordinator

Huntington Society of Canada

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