

Steven Wald Emergency Department Memorial Dedication



L-R: The Honorable Lieutenant Governor Lynda Haverstock and Donna Fiset in front of the Steven Wald Emergency Department Memorial Plaque.

On Tuesday, September 25 the South Country Health Foundation hosted the Steven Wald Memorial Dedication and Tea to formally commemorate the Assiniboia Union Hospital Emergency Department in memory of Steven K. Wald at the Assiniboia Union Hospital, with tea following at St. George's Parish. The Wald Memorial Project was launched in February of this year to recognize the late Steven Wald who played such a vital role in enhancing the quality of emergency medical services offered in our region. Foundation Chairperson Paul Topola reinforces that "Steven's contributions to the provision of health were numerous, and these will be acknowledged in perpetuity via the commemoration of the Assiniboia Union Hospital Emergency Department and the installation of a Memorial Plaque."

Present for the dedication and unveiling of the memorial plaque, was Lt. Governor Linda Haverstock, a representative from Saskatchewan Health EMS program, Bob Orban-for South Country Health Care Foundation, Pastor Greg Dermody-Alliance Church Minister, Mayor Renaud Bissonnette, members of Assiniboia

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...Steven Wald Memorial Dedication

EMS and Assiniboia Volunteer Fire Department and the Wald family-Steven's parents Irwin and Alice Wald, his sister-Donna Fiset and her husband Darcy Fiset and their children, Sonny and Malachi, along with the gathered crowd, consisting of Doctors, Nurses, Health Care Workers, Town Administration, SCDH board members, Yogi Huyghebaert-MLA for Wood River constituency, friends of the family and community members.

Bob Orban welcomed all those in attendance on behalf of South Country Health Care Foundation. "Most of you are familiar with Steve's contribution to this community, to this region and to health care in Saskatchewan. Those of you who were not personally acquainted with Steve, missed the presence of a genuine, kind and gentle personality. His soul was so attuned to easing the suffering of others that he gave it his whole life."

Steven was born and grew up in Kincaid Saskatchewan and even at an early age had a

keen interest in fire engines and ambulances. Upon graduating from high school, he went to work immediately for Ross Funeral and Ambulance Services in Assiniboia. Steven's tremendous compassion was such an asset in his chosen career and it quickly became apparent that he had a God given gift for positively impacting the lives of others.

Steven began the legacy of Wald Ambulance in Assiniboia when he was only twenty-one years old. He immediately saw the need for updated and enhanced equipment and training-and began to fundraise in order to purchase much needed cardiac monitors. He went on shortly thereafter to be one of the first 16 students to attend Saskatchewan's Paramedic Program. He graduated at the top of his class and Wald Ambulance became the first rural based ambulance service in Saskatchewan to offer advanced life support.

Steven received numerous awards over the years due to his selfless service to those in the regional community of south central Saskatchewan.

However, as much as he accomplished in his short life on this earth-and all the awards he received and knowledge that he gained-it was the lives that he touched through his compassion for the human spirit that meant so much to so many.

Her Honorable Lieutenant Governor Lynda Haverstock, brought greetings from the Queen.

"I'm so very pleased to be invited to participate in this very special occasion," said Haverstock. "These are uncertain and fearful times in our world. The recent acts of two weeks ago today in New York and Pennsylvania have caused many, many people to lose faith in the human race. And it is at times such as this that we can all benefit from being reminded that we are in fact surrounded by goodness. By loving, caring, compassionate individuals who dedicate themselves to improving the lives of others, who choose to use their talents and their abilities to make a positive difference. People just like Steven."

"The plaque that will be unveiled today will serve as a

lasting reminder of Steve's great love of life, his outstanding contributions, his sense of fairness and justice and his commitment to enhancing the lives of other people. So I am very honored to bring official greetings on behalf of her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the II, our Queen of Canada and of all people of Saskatchewan."

Pastor Greg Dermody was then called upon for the dedication and unveiling of the memorial plaque. "This act of dedication holds several layers of meaning. It recognizes that this area of health care, the emergency department, is crucial and requires a special place and special people. The act of dedication recognizes Steve Wald's contribution to Emergency Medical care and to our community in general. The act of dedication also includes your own personal witness. You have a part to play in this dedication. We should also recognize that this dedication arose from his dedication to his Lord Jesus Christ. Today let us not only

be witnesses in this dedication, but let us also rise to the opportunity to participate, to dedicate and rededicate our lives to helping out others in some fashion."

Her Honorable Lieutenant Governor Linda Haverstock and Steven's sister, Donna Fiset, then unveiled the memorable plaque commemorating Stevens contributions to South Country Health and our community. "May we continue to remember, honor and follow his example," said Dermody. The names of over eighty individuals and organizations who contributed to the memorial are written under Steven's Memorial plaque.

The people were then invited to attend the reception and tea where the Honorable Lieutenant Governor Linda Haverstock and the Wald family received the many guests.

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