

CAROLE'S STORY

In July 2007, I noticed that I was dropping things held with my left hand. In November 2007, my left hand was now remarkably crooked and smaller since my muscles were wasting away. All along, the family doctor was telling me I was aging with arthritis. Fortunately an ER doctor pushed matters along and after 16 months of medical tests both here and at the Mayo clinic, it was confirmed on March 19th 2009 that I had ALS, a rapidly progressive and fatal neuromuscular disease. To say that Bernard's and my world changed forever the day we found out I had this devastating disease would be an understatement!

Bernard and I are very fortunate to be surrounded by excellent healthcare professionals including the MND/ALS team from the Deer Lodge centre, Diana Rasmussen and her team at the ALS Society of Manitoba, OT Carol Scott and Home Care Case Coordinator Sue Erickson. They have provided us with equipment, accessories and helpful hints to assist us in making our lives more manageable. At this point in time, the left side of my body is completely affected and my leg requires wearing 2 braces just so that I am able to stand-up out of my wheelchair to move around a bit, my neck muscles are getting weaker requiring me to wear a neck brace full time to lift my head up and keep my chin off my chest and my speech is getting more slurred. At my last visit to the Mayo Clinic in January 2010, evidence showed up in the EMG test that the disease was moving to my right arm and leg and, since July my right hand is starting to get numb like the left one was back in 2007/2008. As time goes by, we will rely more and more on the support services of the ALS Society.

"Hope, faith, love and a strong will to live offer no promise of immortality, only proof of our uniqueness as human beings and the chance to experience full growth, even under the grimmest of circumstances. The clock provides only a technical measure of how long we live. Far more real than the ticking of time, is the way we open up the minutes and invest them with meaning."

It is Bernard and my wish that all the proceeds from this dinner go to the ALS Society of Manitoba to allow them to continue to be a support service for families and caregivers and provide the equipment and appliances that are so vitally important to those afflicted with this terrible disease. We both hope that you will help us in our goal and attend this fundraiser dinner.

Thank you,

Carole