

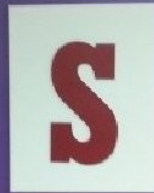
July 2025



EPILEPSY AND SEIZURE ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA

# EPILEPSY EDUCATOR

## News from



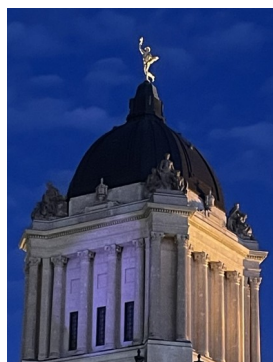
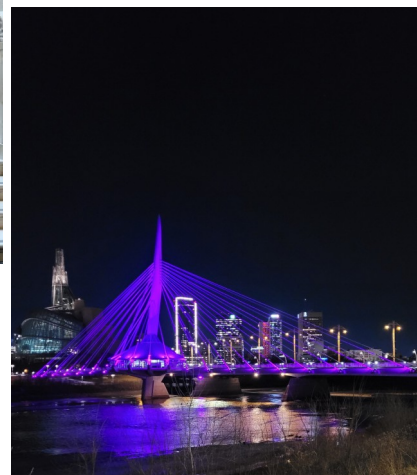
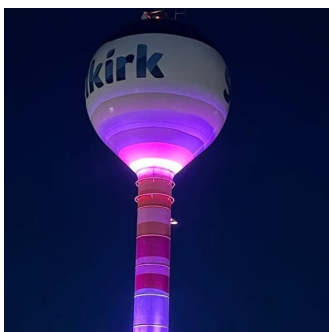
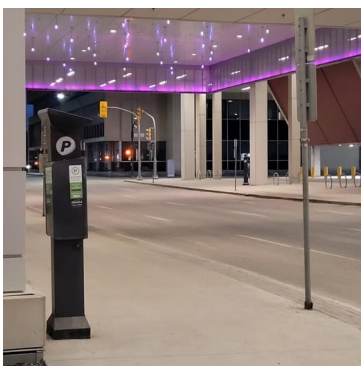
We're a wee bit late with this newsletter, but we've been very busy so we hope that you'll forgive us.

We have so many people to thank, so much to be grateful for that it feels like this newsletter should be the Thanksgiving edition!

Read on for news about Purple Day 2025 events and pictures, as well as the Maurice Dumontier Memorial.



## Purple Day 2025



Alloway Hall, RBC Convention Centre, Laura and Sara at RBC Convention Centre, City of Winnipeg sign at The Forks, City of Selkirk Water Tower, Purple Day Picture with the NDP Caucus at the Legislative Building, across the bottom, from the left: Billie Cross, MLA Seine River, Honourable Uzoma Asagwara, Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care, Sara Bettess, Executive Director, ESAM, Pat Trottier, President, Board of Directors, ESAM.

Esplanade Riel Bridge, Close of up the Golden Boy at the MB Legislative Building with purple Rotunda light, Manitoba Legislative Building, Dauphin City Hall.

# Purple Day 2025

**Health Sciences Centre Foundation** Mar 26 · 🌐

Today is Epilepsy Awareness Day 💜

At HSC Winnipeg, patients living with epilepsy now have better access to specialized treatment and monitoring thanks to the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) and a donor-funded four-bed recovery space, called the B5B unit. Together, these spaces are supporting patients undergoing epilepsy monitoring and assessment, as well as those recovering from neurosurgery.

Thank you to the many generous donors who made the B5B unit possible, including those connected to the [Epilepsy and Seizure Association of Manitoba](#).

Learn more: <https://www.hscfoundation.mb.ca/stories/hsc-foundation-donors-help-improve-epilepsy-and-neurosurgery-care-at-hsc-through-unit-b5b-campaign/>



**Rural Municipality of Headingley** Mar 26 · 🌐

Today is Purple Day - Epilepsy Awareness! 💜

Epilepsy is a neurological condition that affects the brain and causes recurring seizures. It impacts people of all ages and backgrounds, and every person's experience with epilepsy is unique. Despite being one of the most common neurological disorders in the world, many still don't understand the full impact it has on daily life. Seizures can vary in intensity and frequency, and for some, they can be life-altering.

On this important day, we raise awareness and support for the millions of people living with epilepsy worldwide. Let's work together to break the stigma, spread understanding, and empower those affected by epilepsy. ✨

Whether it's through learning more, sharing stories, or simply offering kindness, every action helps create a more inclusive and supportive community. 💜

[#EpilepsyAwareness](#) [#EpilepsyDay](#)

**Town of Teulon, Manitoba** Mar 18 · 🌐

Wear Purple on March 26th for epilepsy and seizure awareness!

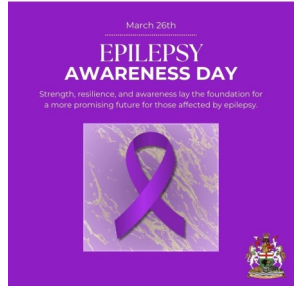
In Manitoba, 23,000 people have epilepsy and seizure disorders.  
**GO PURPLE!**  
Let's shine a light on epilepsy together!



March 26th is Purple Day in Manitoba  
Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders Awareness Day  
[www.manitobaepilepsy.org](http://www.manitobaepilepsy.org)

**The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba/Assemblée législative du Manitoba** Mar 26 · 🌐

💜 March 26 is Epilepsy Awareness Day – Purple Day! 💜 ... See more



3 shares

Like Comment Send Share

**Town of Virden** Mar 26 · 🌐

March 26 is Purple Day Manitoba, in support of epilepsy awareness.

Visit <https://www.manitobaepilepsy.org/purple-day> for more information.

**Virden Royal Purple Lodge 220**  
Town of Virden - Parks & Recreation

In Manitoba, 23,000 people are affected by epilepsy and seizure disorders. On March 26th, GO PURPLE! to show your support!

**PURPLE DAY MANITOBA**



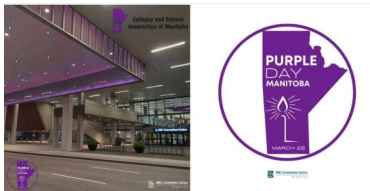
**RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg** Mar 26 · 🌐

Today on March 26, we shine Purple to show support for those living with Epilepsy, on [#WorldPurpleDay!](#) 💜

Originally started in 2008 when Cassidy Megan, a young Canadian girl, initiated the idea to increase awareness about [#Epilepsy](#), by sharing her personal journey.

In Manitoba, over 23,000 people are affected by epilepsy and seizure disorders. [#PurpleDayMB](#) [#GoPurple](#) Epilepsy and Seizure Association of Manitoba

<https://www.purpleday.org/>



**Posts** About Photos More ▾

The team at the Seizure Clinic consists of four physicians, three nurse clinicians, and is supported by the EEG lab and the newly expanded four-bed Epilepsy Monitoring Unit for electrodiagnostic testing.

"Our clinic is the place in Manitoba for patients to receive the specialized treatment they need, and we are truly fortunate to have such a committed team that strives to empower our patients to overcome the challenges of epilepsy and lead fulfilling lives."

Visit <https://ow.ly/gbRZ50VoxiK> to learn more.

[#PurpleDayForEpilepsy](#) [#PurpleDay](#)  
[#PurpleDay2025](#) [#Manitoba](#) [#Healthcare](#)  
**PURPLE DAY for EPILEPSY**



**Town of Swan River** Mar 24 · 🌐

This year, the Purple Day Manitoba campaign invites everyone to GO PURPLE!... See more



As part of Purple Day, ESAM contacted every City, Town, RM, and District we could find an email address for. We were so pleased to see support for Purple Day on social media pages!



# Purple Day 2025

## City of Brandon PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** Purple Day is celebrated on March 26 annually, during Epilepsy Awareness Month, to increase the knowledge and understanding of epilepsy that will improve the quality of life of people living with epilepsy; and

**WHEREAS** Purple Day was founded in 2008 by Cassidy Megan, a nine-year-old girl from Nova Scotia, who wanted people living with epilepsy to know that they were not alone; and

**WHEREAS** People in communities around the world are encouraged to wear purple and host events in support of epilepsy awareness on Purple Day

**WHEREAS** There are over 20,000 people in Manitoba, over 380,000 people in Canada, and over 65 million people worldwide living with epilepsy; and

**WHEREAS** The onset of epilepsy can occur at any age and any stage of life and does not discriminate against age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, geographic location, or sexual orientation; and

**WHEREAS** Purple Day is a health promotion effort that encourages people to raise awareness of epilepsy to create a society that embraces the beauty of difference and understands how we can all come together to make the world a better place;

Now, therefore, I, Jeff Fawcett, Mayor of the City of Brandon, the Province of Manitoba, DO HEREBY proclaim the week of March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to be

**"Purple Day"**

in the City of Brandon.

**Town of Teulon**

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

Town of Teulon

March 11, 2025

**MOVED BY :** Kiri Ansell  
**SECONDED BY :** Michael Hopple

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-055

**WHEREAS** March 26 is Purple Day; a global effort dedicated to promoting epilepsy awareness in countries around the world;

**AND WHEREAS** epilepsy is a physical condition characterized by sudden, brief changes in how the brain works;

**AND WHEREAS** epilepsy is a neurological condition involving the brain that makes people more susceptible to having recurrent seizures;

**AND WHEREAS** Purple Day will be celebrated on March 26th annually to increase understanding, reduce stigma, and improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Town of Teulon hereby proclaim March 26, 2025, as Purple Day in the Town of Teulon.

Carried

This is a true and certified copy of a resolution passed by the Town of Teulon Council.

*Chris Yuen*  
Chris Yuen, CAO



## In Honour of Our Epileptologists At The Manitoba Health Sciences Centre

March is Epilepsy Awareness Month in Canada. Our family would like to acknowledge the important work our Epileptologists do in Manitoba for their patients living daily with the constant challenges of Epilepsy. A special thank you to our Epileptologists for specializing in epilepsy diagnosis, treatment and research.

Life came our way when our son was referred to the Seizure Clinic in 2016. Tom was suffering from constant pain in his left side and visits to Emergency couldn't identify his problem. After our first appointment at the Seizure Clinic, Tom was placed in the old adult Epilepsy Monitoring Unit and they discovered he was starting to develop fatty liver disease. After ten days in the EMU being hooked up to special equipment his Epileptologist safely took Tom off "Nasproic acid" and placed him on a new seizure medication. Within a year Tom started to develop severe pain in his groin and had constant urinary tract infections. This was his second serious anti-seizure medication side effect. The old EMU was closed and so Tom had to be looked after at home as best they could. In consultation with a Urologist and his Epileptologist Tom was taken off "Nasproic acid" and he stopped having painful urinary tract infections.

In 2018 his Epileptologist recommended Tom have a VNS device implanted into his left chest to help lower his seizures. Tom had uncontrolled seizures since infancy and none of his medications had totally stopped them. His VNS device lowered his seizure frequency and his date of his maximum level. In 2023 Tom started to feel and have continuous seizures. He needed an immediate trip to Emergency and stayed in hospital for a couple of days after his seizures stopped. With the old EMU still closed his Epileptologist was able to carefully wean Tom off of "Carbamazepine" while he lived each day as best he could. This was his third serious and seizure medication side effect.

Last February 2024, his Epileptologist started Tom on a small dose of "Keppra (levetiracetam)" and increased it over time. Tom was actually seizure free for several months with this new anti-seizure medication; seizure free for the first time in his 30 years. This past April Tom's Epileptologist was able to alert Tom for 12 days into the new adult EMU. The Epileptologists found out that when Tom's VNS device started to work it wasn't always from a seizure. Sometimes his VNS machine turned on because Tom was feeling anxious. This was very important information and we are on a learning curve now to recognize when Tom is having a seizure and when he is demonstrating behavior similar to a seizure due to his anxiety.

In January and February 2025 Tom's Epileptologists entered Tom into a Sleep Study to see if a new sleep aid medication improved his sleep at night thereby decreasing his seizures. Tom graduated from the study in April 2025 and is a proud of his work and experience in the Study. We hope to hear the results soon.

Tom's Epileptologists from the Seizure Clinic have made many improvements in Tom's quality of life by lowering seizure frequency over the last ten years. They have been actively involved in trying new medications, procedures and research. This is why we are so in debt to them. We hope to hear the results soon.

Thank you to our Wonderful Epileptologists!!!

Pat Trottier  
Board President  
Epilepsy and Seizure Association of Manitoba (ESAM)



## Marking Epilepsy Awareness Month

*The Voice* Thursday, April 3, 2025 13

By Lorne Steinbach

Purple was the colour of the day last Wednesday for the annual epilepsy awareness campaign.

March was Epilepsy Awareness Month, and March 26 was Purple Day as a means to help make more people aware that epilepsy impacts 23,000 people in Manitoba alone.

"We're just trying to promote understanding as much as possible," said Chris Kullman, who not only lives with epilepsy but is also vice-president of the Epilepsy and Seizure Association of Manitoba.

"Epilepsy is a significant condition that people have, and it's important to understand it. There can be a big stigma around it," he suggested. "It's important that people understand what it is, how you get it ... there's still a lot of myths out there about it."

Epilepsy is a brain condition that causes recurring seizures. In some people the cause can be identified, but for others it's unknown.

Seizure symptoms can also vary widely. Some people may lose awareness during a seizure, while others don't. Some people stare blankly for a few seconds during a seizure, while others may repeatedly twitch their arms or legs as convulsions.

Having a single seizure doesn't mean you have epilepsy, which is diagnosed if you've had at least two unprovoked seizures at least 24 hours apart.

Treatment with medicines or sometimes surgery can control seizures for most people with epilepsy. Some require lifelong treatment, while for others, seizures go away. Some children with epilepsy may outgrow the condition.

The prevalence rate is about 1 in 100 Canadians—roughly 300,000 people.

Of those, 42,000 are children and youth. An estimated 54 new cases are diagnosed every day—about 20,000 Canadians.

"Awareness is the most important thing," said Kullman, who noted it is estimated three or four per cent of people have epilepsy, while about one in ten will have a seizure sometime in their life.

"So multiply that by population and you've got a lot of people ... but it's not talked about very much, so that is what Purple Day can do, just increase the awareness."

"It's a worldwide recognition of epilepsy and promoting epilepsy awareness," he continued. "It's quite interesting because it was initiated by a young girl in 2008, and she just tried starting to do this on her own, and it actually just grew and grew and now it's worldwide, which is pretty great."

There is also an International Epilepsy Day on Feb. 10, but Purple Day has started to get good uptake in Manitoba, with many places lighting up purple such as the Dauphin city hall and Selkirk water tower.

"We have quite a few places in the province engage with us," Kullman noted. "The Legislative building will light up purple on the central tower after dark. The Winnipeg sign at The Forks was going to light up purple."

And Kullman feels there is much progress being made with Manitobans living with epilepsy now being able to access better treatment through a new epilepsy monitoring unit and an adjacent neurological recovery unit at the Health Sciences Centre.

"I have had epilepsy myself ... when I was a kid, there was just nothing out there ... and there was a stigma about it," he said. "Of course, with social media now, it makes it so much easier to get the word out there."



Manitoba landmarks lit up for Purple Day last week in honour of Epilepsy Awareness Month.  
SUPPLIED PHOTO



## Thank you NAPA Auto Parts

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For the second year in a row, NAPA Auto Parts promoted Purple Day. Staff wore NAPA Auto Parts Supports Epilepsy Awareness hoodies, had epilepsy information available at the store, and collected donations in support of ESAM.

NAPA Auto Parts raised \$245.00 in support of Epilepsy and Seizure Association of Manitoba. Thank you, Mitch, and NAPA Auto Parts, for helping to promote epilepsy awareness, and for supporting ESAM.

## Thank you MW Apparel

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Thank you Meagan from MW Apparel for all of your support of Purple Day and ESAM!

Meagan, founder and owner of MW Apparel, designed amazing epilepsy awareness hoodies, T-shirts, decals, and pens. She donated a portion of the proceeds of all epilepsy items sold toward ESAM.

MW Apparel raised \$455.00 from the sale of epilepsy merchandise! Thank you Meagan and MW Apparel! Thank you to everyone who supported the fundraiser by purchasing through MW Apparel!

# Maurice Dumontier Memorial Golf Tournament

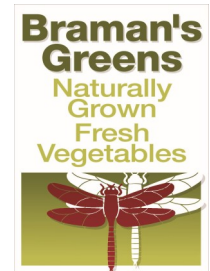
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THE SECURITY EXPERTS



**BRIDGEPORT**  
OFFICE SOLUTIONS



We would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank all of the hole sponsors from the 2025 Maurice Dumontier Memorial Golf Tournament.

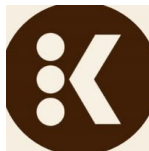


We would like to give a special shout out to Concord Projects for sponsoring the hot dog hole, for the second year in a row, and providing hot dogs for all the golfers in the tournament, and to Dal's for providing pizza for hole 17 to feed the hungry golfers!





## Thank You To Our Donors

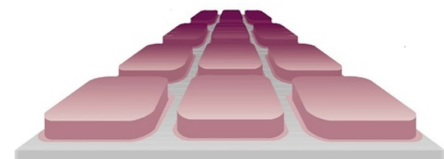


Thank You  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT



We depend, heavily, on the generosity of the community, for donations towards the silent auction, golfer bags, and prizes for the golf contests at the Maurice Dumontier Memorial. A special shout out to Arctic Beverages for the generous donation of the chips, jerky and pop for all of the golfer bags!

We would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated towards the event, we couldn't do this without your support!



**National Industrial  
Communications Inc.**

## Thank You To Our Donors

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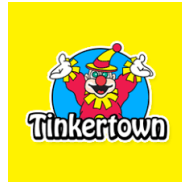




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## Thank You To Our Donors

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**THANK YOU**  
*volunteers*

The golf tournament wouldn't happen without the tireless work of our volunteers.

Diane, Wes, Tom, for decades of volunteering with the Moe, we thank you.

Pat and Paul, our tireless hot dog hole volunteers, spending all day out on the course and making sure our golfers are fed. Stacey, for helping with the silent auction, and the putting contest. Lucille and Carole, for helping with the silent auction. Stephanie and Sharon, handing out pizza on 17, thank you! And to Jess and Krys helping out on 14 this year, we thank you.

While Laura may not be a volunteer, we also want to thank Laura for all of her hard work, the hours spent on the details for the hole sponsor signs, the auction items, and the list goes on.....we can't thank you enough for everything you do!

To everyone who registered, thank you for supporting the tournament! We hope you had fun and we'll see you all next year!

# Amirhossein Ghassemi Memorial Scholarship

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## THE AMIRHOSSEIN GHASSEMI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

### Background Information

In memory of Amirhossein ('Amir') Ghassemi, family, friends, and colleagues have established an endowment fund with an initial gift of \$28,000 in 2020. The purpose of the fund is to reward the academic achievements of graduate students in the Biomedical Engineering (BME) Graduate Program in the Price Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba.

Amir was an M.D. from Iran who had moved from the University of British Columbia to Winnipeg in 2018 to study and work in Dr. Ng's Dreamspike Research Laboratory on epilepsy, sleep, and electroencephalography (EEG) research in collaboration with the University of Manitoba BME group.

Amir's dream was to become a neurologist. He wanted to be just like his dad, also a prominent neurologist in Iran. His warmth, charisma, and laughter are sorely missed. His mirth reflected his kind-hearted nature. With his passing, Amir left behind a grieving fiancée, brother, parents, and friends.

### Application Criteria

Each year, the available annual income from the fund will be used to offer one or more scholarships to graduate students who:

- Are enrolled full-time in the Faculty of Graduate Studies in the Master's or Doctoral Biomedical Engineering (BME) Graduate Program offered by the Price Faculty of Engineering; **AND**
- Have achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.5 based on the last 60 credit hours (or equivalent) of study; **AND**
- Have demonstrated outstanding interest in, or commitment to, research in Epilepsy.

Preference will be given to students whose research involves an emphasis on the sleep EEG.

In order to demonstrate how they meet criterion (3), applicants will be required to submit an application that includes:

- A description (maximum 500 words) of their research.
- A supporting letter from their supervisor confirming that the applicant has an outstanding interest in, or commitment to, research in Epilepsy.

The selection committee will have the discretion to determine the number and value of the scholarships each year, based on the available income from the fund, as outlined in the criteria above.

### Application Materials to Submit

- ↳ Current curriculum-vitae.
- ↳ Current official transcript.
- ↳ Description of research.
- ↳ Letter of support.

**Please submit all documents to [dreamspike@umanitoba.ca](mailto:dreamspike@umanitoba.ca) by September 30.**  
*Please note that scholarship(s) will be awarded no more than once per calendar year.*

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