



## "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Going to Let it Shine"

The Murray Alzheimer Research and Education Program (MAREP), in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Canada, the Alzheimer Society of Ontario, local Alzheimer Society chapters, and the Dementia Advocacy and Support Network International, is hosting *A Changing Melody: A learning and sharing forum for persons with early-stage dementia and their partners in care*. The forum is being held in conjunction with the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Alzheimer's Disease International Conference and for the first time will be an international forum involving participants from around the world coming together to enhance dementia care. The form will be held March 26, 2011 at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

*A Changing Melody* is a unique event designed to bring persons with early-stage dementia, family members, friends, and a range of professionals together in a safe space to learn with and from each other. Designed and implemented by a planning committee made up of persons with dementia, family members and professionals working in true partnership with each other, *A Changing Melody* provides a powerful space of learning, sharing, courage and hope as those experiencing dementia work together to change images and understandings of dementia and identify better ways to support others in continuing to live a meaningful life with dementia.

As part of the exciting program this year, we will be opening the day with a very moving musical tribute using the music and lyrics of the song "This Little Light of Mine". In the true spirit of *A Changing Melody*, we would like to include in this presentation the voices of our partners - those living with dementia, their family partners in care, and professionals working in dementia care and support.

All people have a light to shine on the world – gifts they bring. The fear that surrounds dementia, and the misunderstanding, can block out our light. *A Changing Melody* is about enabling – about recognizing the abilities of all individuals. As such we want to know how you continue to let your life light shine while on this dementia journey. If you are a person with dementia, a family partner in care, or a professional working in dementia care and support, we would like you to finish the sentence below, and send your two question response by email to Lisa Loiselle at [loiselle@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:loiselle@uwaterloo.ca), or fax this sheet to 519-746-6776, as soon as possible and **no later than February 25th**. If you work directly with persons with dementia, we would appreciate you sharing this information with your clients, or facilitate a discussion with them and return their responses to MAREP.

### 1. MY LIGHT SHINES MOST BRIGHTLY WHEN...

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### 2. I AM:

- A person living with dementia
- A family partner in care
- A professional working in dementia care and support