

# A SPRING IN OUR STEPS

*From the Chair*



As the winter melts away around us our charity springs into action as we gear up for our annual Steps for Life walk initiatives. Local committees are working hard all across the country to get their local walks organized, signing up sponsors and organizing teams to challenge each other to reach fundraising targets. Above and beyond the importance of the

event for fundraising, the outreach and awareness it raises for our cause is extremely important.

CannAmm and Levitt-Safety have joined our walk as national sponsors. Our Executive Director, Shirley Hickman, will be the keynote speaker at the company's first safety conference day in April. On top of their support for the walk, CannAmm will donate a portion of its conference fees to Threads of Life.

Our staff are working on several other fundraising initiatives under the leadership of John McCabe. One of our new programs, the Corporate Challenger program, is set to launch. The idea is to motivate employees to work together for a good cause – helping families of workplace tragedy, while building unity and camaraderie towards a common goal. John explains the details of the program in this issue.

These corporate sponsorships are important to the ongoing financial support of the organization. Equally important are the dozens of small but significant ways people can contribute to Threads of Life. In this issue there is a story about Charles Malysh who participated in a hockey shootout in Edmonton. He lost his son Josh to a workplace fatality

and named Threads of Life as his charity of choice to receive his prize winnings. Thank you Charles.

As the weather warms up some of us will be taking to the golf courses. Threads of Life will benefit from the proceeds of golf tournaments this summer. Look for the details inside.

Our newsletter features two stories from our family members, people whose lives have been forever changed by a workplace fatality. Sadly the statistics remain as grim reminders of the work to be done to make this an unacceptable consequence of making a living.

In this edition, we share a story about a widow who lost her husband, Craig Payne, while working as a logging truck driver in B.C. Second, a young woman candidly writes about her journey to live with the loss of a beloved older brother, who died while working in a separator shaft in Alberta, reminding us that the circle of grief is wide and deep.

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# A Forestry Logging Tragedy Claims the Life of Family Man Craig Payne

*Subsequent Changes Make the Roads Safer For Others*

*Shannon Payne*

What can I say about my first love? No one believes you when you say your husband was perfect, but to me he was. I have heard that a good marriage takes a lot of hard work but being married to Craig wasn't hard at all; it was the most natural thing in the world to me. The only fault I can think of is he used to wear these ugly black socks with shoes and shorts in the summer!

We grew up together and had always been buddies. We dated others in high school but really started going out together when I was 20 and he was 22. I can remember feeling so safe, protected and good. He had this smile and twinkle in his blue eyes, and that infectious laugh! He was such a positive person. When you asked him how he was doing he would say "100 percent!"

We were married on August 26, 1989. We were so excited when our first son, Clayton, was born on January 2, 1990, later followed by our second, Clint, on March 12, 1992. Our family was complete.

Craig was a veteran log hauler and worked long hours in the truck. He would leave around 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. and wouldn't get home until 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., yet somehow he was never in a bad mood, and I respected him so much for that. Sundays, no matter how busy he was, he was ours.

I never worried about Craig at work because I knew he was a safe and conscientious driver, but on February 8, 2003, everything changed forever. Craig was hauling logs when he met another log truck at the bottom of a hill on a blind corner. Both trucks were loaded and the impact of the crash sent the logs through his cab, killing him instantly. He was just 37 years old.

My son Clint and I were sitting at the kitchen table when I got a call from my nephew saying "Aunt Shan, is Uncle Craig home?" I said no he's working, but he only had to pull one load and would be home around 10:30 a.m. I asked him why



*Craig and Shannon*

*A few days after Craig died, Clint said to me, "Mom I made a wish on that star and my wish was that we would all be safe and happy forever." He said "Why did Dad die?" What was I supposed to say to him? How do you explain that to your kids when you can't even explain it to yourself?*

and he told me that he had heard there was a truck accident. I said "Don't worry Matt, Uncle Craig is hauling off highway so it can't be him." Little did I know at that time he had already died.

My brother then called and said that he thought Craig had been in a collision but didn't know for sure. Then I started to panic; I tried to call Craig's cell phone while the kids tried their dad on the radio phone. But we couldn't get him. I called the hospital to try and find something out. They told me that there had been a collision and there was one fatality, but wouldn't say anything else. I knew something was wrong but I was still

hoping. My brother Steven came to the house and said, "Shan I have to go up there and see. I'll call you as soon as I know something." About 30 minutes later I got the call, and I remember asking, "Steven is he ok?" and he said "No, Shan, he's not." I can remember falling on the floor and looking over at my kids and being lifted up by some other force and going to them. I can remember Clayton running out of the house down the driveway in his stocking feet. I didn't know what to do. From then on my life was like a fog that I can't describe.

My sons grew up close to their cousins. When all this happened, Clayton and Clint were 13 and 10, and their cousins Matt and Brady were nine and eight.

The day before the fatality we had been downhill skiing and had one of the best days. On the way home we saw a shooting star and I told everyone to make a wish. A few days after Craig died Clint said to me, "Mom I made a wish on that star and my wish was that we would all be safe and happy forever." He said, "Why did Dad die?" What was I supposed to say to him? How do you explain that to your kids when you can't even explain it to yourself?

The days following were consumed with trying to make myself believe everything would be ok. The boys and I slept in the same bed and a mattress on my floor for months. They would take turns sleeping with me. I can remember the

second night trying to read them a story trying to pretend that everything was ok. The boys went back to school, in a couple of weeks but I would have to go get one of them almost every day because they were having a bad day. I didn't leave the house. I don't know what I did all day, but the days just seemed to go by. The paperwork that you're expected to do is overwhelming, and you really don't care if it ever gets completed, but you know it needs to be done. Everyone seems to need a copy of that death certificate.

My family and I would regularly go up to the fatality site to clean it up. We would pick paramedic gloves off of the road, pieces of glass, buttons off of Craig's shirt, his glasses. People don't realize that these things weren't garbage; they were part of Craig and his truck. We went up there for about a year almost daily picking things up that showed up through the snow.

Subsequently, Work Safe B.C. stated that one of the causes of the crash was the unsafe practice of hauling logs in both directions on an extremely narrow road that had never been designed to accommodate two loaded logging trucks in both directions.

Since Craig's death the road has been changed into a one-way haul road. This is a good thing but hard to accept because you have to wonder why was it not done before?

On the first anniversary of Craig's death, friends and family gathered together to release helium balloons filled with messages into the sky:

"I remember when we went fishing out at Babine Lake, and Dad took off all of his clothes except his underwear and he jumped into the lake. It was so cold he almost had a heart attack. He was making funny noises when he came up. I love you Dad, Clint."

"I remember when you, me and Clint went moose hunting and we called one in; we were so noisy that we couldn't believe it came in. It is something I will never forget Dad. I miss you every day. Love, Clay."

"I remember when I used to eat hamburgers and french fries at Uncle Craig's and he would tease me and say, 'Ketchup is expensive you know,' and tell me he was going to send me a bill. Love, Brady."



*Craig and his logging truck*

"We remember your sense of humour, rolling your beer can across the floor signaling Shannon it was time for another. Your laugh because we heard it so often when we were together. What a wonderful dad you were to your kids and the perfect husband for Shannon and the best friend that anyone could have been lucky enough to have. Love, Gaetano, Tammi and Jadyn."

"It's been a year now since you've been gone and the aching and longing still goes on. You're with us, son, in many ways, through every hour of every day. We feel your presence, your touch upon our hearts. Love, Mom and Dad."

I wanted to share a few of these memories because I wanted everyone to know not only the impact that a tragedy like this has on a family, but also their friends and community. We are so lucky that we still have every one of these people in our lives; if we didn't, I don't think we could make it.

As time goes by it is easier to look at the pictures; the memories aren't as painful and we can begin to laugh again at some of the crazy and fun things we did.

It will be the ninth anniversary of Craig's death on February 8, 2012. My life has changed a lot in that time.

*We would regularly go up to the fatality site to clean it up. We would pick paramedic gloves off of the road, pieces of glass, buttons off of Craig's shirt, his glasses. People don't realize that these things weren't garbage; they were part of Craig and his truck. We went up there for about a year almost daily picking things up that showed up through the snow.*

My kids are doing great. They have both graduated and have good jobs. They both work in the woods, and I worry about them every day, but I guess it's in their blood. I fell in love and married for a second time to Chris on October 23, 2009. I thought my life was going to be good again, and it was for a while,

but on August 6, 2011, Chris was killed in a car collision. So I guess my journey of grief continues.

Threads of Life has given me a focus. Although Chris didn't die in a work-related fatality I'm still feeling the pain of loss. Clayton and I went to the Threads of Life Family Forum in Edmonton in October, and we met some amazing people. Clayton opened up more than I had ever seen him and I think it was a positive thing for him. Even men need to cry!

I'm not sure what I am going to do from here, just try to get better. I know it's possible because I did it once before; but more importantly, I learned that we aren't alone.

*Editor's note: Shannon joined the Speakers Bureau in February.*

# Go West Young Man

## The Call of the West Ends in Tragedy

Allyson Audit

My brother, Jonathan Alexander Audit, was born on April 4, 1983. He was the first born to my very proud parents, Jon and Arlene, and the first born grandchild, so he set a very high bar for the 11 grandchildren that would follow. As a little boy, Jonathan loved anything with wheels. His early passions for Tonka trucks and hot wheels inspired his passions later in life for Ski-Doos, motorcycles, and his first serious car relationship with his Cavalier Z24.

Coming from an avid hockey playing family, he was introduced to the game at an early age. He developed a hardworking, determined attitude, and he would stop at nothing to become the very best. He soon became known around the region for his intense slap shot, and despite a heavy Montreal Canadien influence, he worshipped the Vancouver Canucks.

On December 2, 1990, Jonathan became a big brother. My arrival was a difficult transition for him – as it would have been for any seven year old – but he soon accepted the role of a “big brother” graciously, and he lived up to that title consistently for the rest of his life.

In the spring of 2001, he graduated from Dalhousie Regional High School in Dalhousie, New Brunswick. He’d been employed at the local gas station in our small village for a few years. His role as a gas station attendant – or, as he so willingly referred to it, a “petroleum distribution technician” – became a vital part of the community in which we were born and raised. Everyone looked forward to seeing him, and they were always greeted with his large, unforgettable grin.

His job at the gas station brings back a lot of memories for me. At precisely 9:15 p.m. almost every evening, I could count on hearing the sound of his car whipping into the driveway. He would come in the door, and within seconds, it was easy to gauge whether or not he had a good shift. The faint smell of gasoline followed behind his every step, and he never hesitated to head straight for the phone. He loved to chat; it was hard trying to squeeze in my own phone calls around his!

When he turned 20, Jonathan decided he was destined for something more than our small village could offer. After hearing numerous stories from close, personal friends about the opportunities on the other side of the country, he made it a goal



Jonathan and Allyson were very close.

to find his way out there. After working even harder and saving all of his coins, he hitched a cross-country ride with a distant cousin.

When he landed in Alberta, he began working at a linen factory with our uncle; however, he quickly decided to join his friends in Grand Prairie. He immediately found work as a well tester with a company called Lonkar, and he often referred to it as “his calling.”

It didn’t take long for him to form friendships with his bosses and co-workers. He was charming with a sense of humour like no other. He had the power to put a smile on anyone’s face, and his peculiar personality became one that his new found Lonkar family appreciated.

Jonathan was only in Alberta for a year and half when tragedy struck. He was killed on the job on January 13, 2005. I can remember the day the news came like it was yesterday; although it still comes to me like it had been a dream, or nightmare, but the details are vivid.

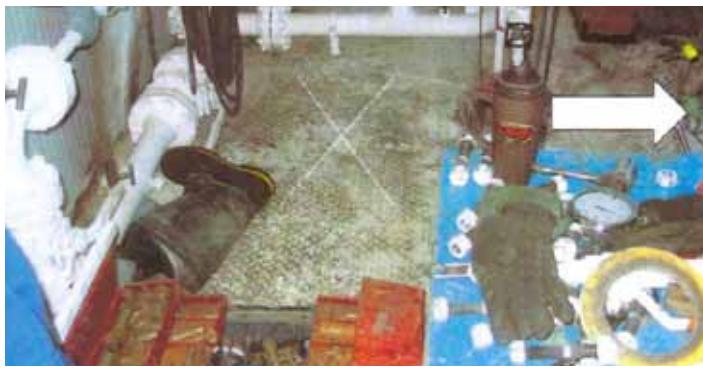
I awoke to the sound of rustling in the kitchen beneath my bedroom. The bold, red letters on my alarm clock read 5:18 am. It was not uncommon to hear such a sound that early in the day as my father was usually preparing for work at that time. I tried to roll over and fall back to sleep, but a sickening feeling came over me. Following my instinct, I decided to head downstairs to see if anything was wrong. At the sound of my footsteps, my mother met me at the top of the stairs. Her face was sickeningly pale, and her eyes were empty. At this moment, I knew my intuition was correct; however, I never could have been prepared for what she was about to tell me. “Your brother is dead.”

My role model, inspiration, closest friend and only sibling was taken from this world after only 21 short years of life.

During the first week after his death, little was known about what had really happened, and it would be a long, difficult path to finding the answers. In Alberta, there is a two-year period following a fatality where charges can be laid on a company. Two years minus

one day after my brother’s death, charges were laid. A year and a half later, the trial began. At the beginning of the trial, three companies were being charged with 11 counts. In no time at all it was weaned down to only one company being charged with one count. The company he worked for, Lonkar was charged

*When they found him, he was in the separator shaft where they had left him a few hours before. They hauled my brother's limp body out of the separator shaft and began CPR while waiting for the ambulance to arrive ... it took the paramedics nearly an hour to arrive.*



The "X" marks the spot where Jonathan was found.

with a first count of “failure to ensure the health and safety of its employee”. They were fined \$300,000 dollars in a creative sentencing decision. Lonkar soon appealed the verdict in a different city with a different judge. Lonkar won the appeal in August of 2009.

From the trial, we learned that Jonathan and one of his co-workers were asked to remove 12 of 24 bolts from a meter run – which houses the gases on a well where the readings are kept – that had broken down the night before in a separator shaft. Lonkar had made arrangements for a different company to fix the meter run, but they were only able to come on January 19. Since the temperature that day was -40 °C below, causing the equipment to freeze, Jonathan’s supervisor

thought he should start the prep work. Meanwhile, the supervisor left the work site to go into the nearest town to get a necessary part. Upon his return nearly two hours later, the supervisor asked the consultant (who was responsible for knowing the whereabouts of every worker on site) where Jonathan was, but he had been under the impression that Jonathan had gone into town with his supervisor. They began a wild search for my brother. When they found him, he was in the separator shaft where they had left him a few hours before. He was lying on the floor, and he was unconscious. They hauled my brother’s limp body out of the separator shaft and began CPR while waiting for the ambulance to arrive. Because of the remote location of the work site, it took the paramedics nearly an hour to arrive. My brother was pronounced dead at the scene.

The autopsy report referenced the EOG Resources Canada summary which noted the concentration of oxygen in the module due to the displacement of normal air by hydrocarbon would have fallen to 13–18% and could have fallen to 10–15% if the methanol heater oxygen consumption was factored in. They noted this “is well below the 19.5–23% oxygen that Alberta Occupational Health and Safety codes states must be present in a work environment.”

Was Jonathan informed of the specific dangers or hazards of the well gases that could seep out of the meter module when more bolts were removed? Did the supervisor do a hazard assessment of the area and provide my brother with the proper equipment

to detect hazardous gases? I know this tragedy was preventable.

From the moment I was told my brother had been killed, my life changed. At 14, I had suffered a tragic loss that I wouldn’t wish upon my worst enemy. Shortly after his death, I returned to my grade nine classes, and I resumed all of my usual activities. I avoided conversations and questions revolving around his life or death; my way of grieving was to pretend that everything was normal, to pretend that my brother was still in Alberta, and to pretend that I had not buried my best friend. I didn’t want to be identified as the “girl whose brother died.”

As I got older, it became harder to hide from my reality. I graduated from high school in 2008. My brother wasn’t there and I felt an incredible void throughout the entire ceremony. I had been accepted to university, and I declined the acceptance. I started working dead-end jobs, and I distanced myself from my closest friends and family.

In November 2009, I jumped on a plane and headed to New Haven, Connecticut, where I became a live-in nanny, and I pursued that for about two years. The time spent away from my comfort zone allowed me to focus on myself, and to learn a lot about who I am. I finally allowed myself to identify with what had happened in my life several years before, and although the grieving process happened a little later than usual, it was a rewarding healing process.

After returning to Canada in August of last year, I have been thriving, and I finally feel that I am living up to my potential. I discovered that I had the power to make the best of a bad situation and I intend to do what I could to prevent other families from experiencing what had severely altered mine.

My mother had introduced me to Threads of Life shortly after my high school graduation and I was hesitant. At my first family forum, I was flooded with emotion after meeting countless others who were similarly affected by workplace tragedies. Some had lost loved ones, like me, but others had suffered different types of losses through workplace injuries and diseases. Although we had all walked different paths, they had walked in my shoes, and we were all coming together to educate and inform others of their rights and responsibilities to prevent tragedies like those we had suffered.

Since my return, I have given several presentations to college students about my brother’s life and death, and the dangers of safety ignorance in the workplace. If just one out of those countless students thinks twice about accepting unsafe work after hearing my story, then I have made a difference.

Suffering a loss of any kind leaves an irreparable hole in anyone’s heart. It requires you to be strong and realize the world hasn’t stopped moving when you feel you have no other option. Although the journey to healing can be a terrible one, there is always a light at the end of a dark tunnel.

# COMMUNITY ACTION

# STEPS FOR LIFE

## walks on Sunday, May 6, 2012\*

Fundraising Goal \$400,000!

Steps for Life events in 2011 raised more than \$330,000 from more than 4,300 walkers and sponsors. Our goal this year is to raise a minimum of \$400,000. Given our passionate and energetic volunteers and walk participants, we think this goal is certainly achievable – with your help! Come and join our Corporate Challengers, sponsors and students walking alongside those family members personally affected by a workplace tragedy.

Steps for Life is a fun walk to raise awareness about the importance of workplace safety, while raising funds to support families living with the devastating effects of a workplace fatality, life-altering injury or occupational disease. Every walk features a memory lane where family members affected by a workplace tragedy are remembered.

Please check [www.stepsforlife.ca](http://www.stepsforlife.ca) for a local community near you.  
Every step counts!

### Online Registration System

Threads of Life has built in an online registration system into our [www.stepsforlife.ca](http://www.stepsforlife.ca) website. The system is designed for easy access and no hassles. Once you register you can create a personal donation page with a thermometer to easily and instantly send out your walk donation goal amount. Online pledging is the quickest way to meet your fundraising goals!

### SPONSORS



VALE

CANN//AMM

occupational testing services



Welcome to CannAmm Occupational Testing Services and Levitt Safety, our latest national sponsors. They join returning national sponsors PCL Constructors Inc. and Vale Mining. There are many ways local sponsors can also step up to help their local community walk from the donation of lunch items, refreshments, tents, children's games, raffle items and many others. Please contact your local community chair for further information.

#### National sponsor inquiries:

John McCabe at [jmccabe@threadsoflife.ca](mailto:jmccabe@threadsoflife.ca) or call 902-223-4406.

### Walk Locations

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ladysmith Sidney  
Metro Vancouver

#### ALBERTA

Edmonton Medicine Hat  
Fort McMurray Niton Junction  
Lethbridge Red Deer

#### MANITOBA

Winnipeg

#### ONTARIO

Barrie	Orillia
Durham Region	Ottawa
Guelph	Sarnia
Hamilton	Sault Ste. Marie
London	Sudbury
Midland	Timmins
Mississauga/Peel	Toronto
Niagara	Windsor
North Bay	

#### QUEBEC

South Shore (Longueuil, St. Hilaire, Oka)

#### NEW BRUNSWICK

Moncton

#### NOVA SCOTIA

Antigonish	Windsor /
Halifax	West Hants
Sydney	

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Kensington

#### NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Corner Brook St. John's

#### Did you know:

the City of Ottawa will raise the flag to kick off North American Occupational Safety and Health week at the Ottawa Steps for Life walk?

\* in most communities. Check [www.stepsforlife.ca](http://www.stepsforlife.ca) for community-specific details.



**NEW**

## Corporate Challengers: Do You Have the Right Stuff?

How "good" is your company? Are your employees passionate about helping others? Do they care about health and safety?

Do they want to be recognized while helping a worthy cause?

Lots of people talk, but can your team do the walk? Better than anyone else?

You can prove all this and outsmart your competition by signing up as a Corporate Challenger. For the first time 2012 Steps for Life will offer a Corporate Challenger program where company teams will challenge other employees at different site locations, competitors or suppliers in a friendly race to the fundraising finish line. The Corporate Challenger program builds exceptional employee unity for a very worthy cause on an issue important to every Canadian.

### How it works:

- each team will consist of 5 members
- each team member must commit to raising \$100
- each team entry will bring in a minimum of \$500/team
- each team will be posted on their Steps for Life community website page
- the top three teams and one honourable mention will receive a team photo and prizes, media coverage and write-up in our publications and our websites
- ramp up the excitement with twitters and facebook posts; it's up to you!

Come one, come all, but come prepared to face your competition. Earn your bragging rights! Watch the updates online. For more information visit [www.stepsforlife.ca](http://www.stepsforlife.ca).

*"We are excited to partner with a charity that not only does great work in the community, but one that is also aligned with Levitt-Safety's own values – workplace health and safety. Steps for Life is yet another great opportunity to mobilize our staff for a meaningful cause. We hope to have teams in all major locations where we will compete internally in a fun fashion to see who can raise the most money."*

*Alan Noble, Marketing Manager, Levitt Safety*

# FAMILY SUPPORT

## Atlantic Family Forum

June 1–3 — Register now

The Family Forums offer a welcoming place for those who want to meet others who are living in the aftermath of a workplace fatality, injury or occupational disease. Whether your situation occurred recently or many years ago, it can often be a relief to talk to others who “get it.” The Forum offers workshops and sessions that you can use every day: active listening skills, coping skills, understanding family dynamics and other sessions.

This year the Atlantic Canada Family Forum will once again be held at the Atlantica Hotel & Marina Oak Island in Nova Scotia on June 1–3, 2012. Our returning speakers and families know the value of this once-a-year weekend of healing, learning and connecting with others and will

welcome new families with open arms. New session offerings include Forgiveness & Acceptance as well as a first book club session...*Ghost Rider: Travels on the Healing Road* will be discussed.

The Atlantic Canada Family Forum is open to families on the east coast, including Newfoundland and Labrador. A travel subsidy is available if you need to fly or travel more than 500 km. Prior approval is required (please call for more information).

The Family Forum always fills to capacity so please indicate your interest early. Watch the website for updates and a downloadable registration form <http://threadsoflife.ca/for-families/family-forums/> or call us. If you are on our data base system a registration package will be sent to you.

## Forget Me Not



On April 28, 2011, Threads of Life launched its first book. *Forget Me Not: Canadian Stories of Workplace Tragedy* tells the little known stories of families whose lives were forever changed when a loved one was traumatically injured at work, diagnosed with an occupational disease or was fatally injured at work.

The Honourable Linda Jeffrey, the Ontario Minister of Labour was recently presented with the book. She says, “I found the personal recollections collected in *Forget Me Not* to be a powerful reminder of what is really at stake in workplace health and safety. *Forget Me Not* is an important tool to raise awareness about the importance of prevention. It gives all Ontarians a unique insight into why we must work tirelessly to prevent such tragedies in the future.”

Since the launch we've had many requests for repeat orders. Here's some initial feedback from companies:

*“We gave them to technicians in the field and it hammers home the issue of WHY they are getting all the safety training in things like fall protection, WHMIS, working around power lines, etc. They just loved it ... we had a safety meeting and the feedback was all great.”*

—Pam Wall, Joint Health & Safety Committee, CableLync, NF

*“We'll be giving the books to all the health and safety reps (of each department) to be used in their safety meetings and training sessions. Our intention is to use it as a regular part of their monthly health and safety day.”*

—Jackie Robinson, Nestlé Canada Inc.

*“Enform's vision is no work related incidents or injuries in the upstream oil and gas industry. It's a goal we share with Threads of Life and we are thus proud to be one of the sponsors for the *Forget Me Not* books. Enform is the oil and gas industry's strongest safety advocate. But we can't do it alone. We believe that the personal stories profiled in this book help raise awareness of safety in the workplace, which is a cause we strongly believe in.”*

—Wally Baer, President and CEO, Enform

Interested in reading what everyone is talking about? You can order *Forget Me Not* by visiting our website or calling to place an order.

**Retail price: \$19.99/book (tax exempt)**  
+ shipping and handling.

## CannAmm Occupational Testing Services

*We are pleased to recognize a close working relationship between CannAmm Occupational Testing Services and Threads of Life.*

Peter Deines, Vice President, Sales & Marketing, CannAmm Occupational Testing Services says, "When CannAmm set out to identify a charitable cause of choice, it was a daunting task because there are so many wonderful philanthropic organizations in Canada. We had participated in the 2011 Steps for Life walks and it became clear that there was tremendous alignment between CannAmm's mission of saving lives in the workplace and Threads of Life's mission to help families heal and promote the elimination of life-altering workplace injuries. Threads of Life and its Steps for Life walk is a cause that everyone in our organization believes in, and we're very proud to be able to contribute our passion and resources to support them."

CannAmm has also signed up as a national sponsor for the walk. It's also hosting a Worksafe Forum for more than 250 clients in Edmonton, Alberta on April 25, 2012. The Worksafe Forum will feature keynote speaker, Shirley Hickman, Executive Director of Threads of Life, as part of its session offerings on workplace safety practices.



### **George Gritziotis appointed Ontario's first Chief Prevention Officer**

George Gritziotis recently received the appointment of Chief Prevention Officer (CPO) for the province of Ontario. The creation of the Chief

Prevention Officer was one of the key recommendations in a December 2010 report from an expert panel mandated to review Ontario's workplace health and safety system.

The CPO provides advice on the prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses, and on any proposed changes for the funding and delivery of prevention services. Gritziotis will have the authority to set standards to enhance health and safety training. He is also responsible for working with Ontario's Health and Safety Associations to establish the effective delivery of prevention programs and services, and to monitor their compliance with standards set by the Ontario Minister of Labour.

Since 2001, George Gritziotis has served as founding executive director of the Construction Sector Council (CSC), a national organization committed to developing a highly skilled workforce that will support the human resource needs of Canada's construction industry. Over the years he has held key industry and government roles at Investment Canada, Prospectus Investment & Trade Partners Inc., the Canadian Labour Force Development Board, Alliance of Sector Councils and Tescult Eduplus Inc. Threads of Life looks forward to working with Mr. Gritziotis to create safer workplaces for the people of Ontario.

## NEWS & EVENTS



### **Stuart MacLean new CEO of the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) of Nova Scotia**

Stuart MacLean has been appointed the new CEO of the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) of Nova Scotia.

"Stuart is a true safety champion with an unwavering passion for preventing workplace injury and helping those who are injured safely return to work," said Chris Power, deputy chair. "Under his leadership, we're confident the WCB will continue its progress towards a safer Nova Scotia."

MacLean has been with the WCB since 1986. He served in a number of leadership roles across the organization, including assessments, prevention and claims management, culminating in his most recent position as vice-president of service delivery. He has been the acting CEO since August 2011.

As CEO, MacLean will guide the continued implementation of the WCB's strategic plan, working together with many valued stakeholders and partners across the province.

Threads of Life is grateful for the continued support we have received from the WCB of Nova Scotia, including its sponsorship of the Atlantic Family Forum and the Department of Labour and Workforce Development Education and Trust Grant, which helps support our Speakers Bureau in Nova Scotia.

## Charity of Choice

### *Charles Malysh Shoots to Score*



*photo courtesy of Darcy Preece*

invaluable wide-spread media attention about our cause. It is through media coverage that many families first hear about Threads of Life and our programs and services. The finals were aired on January 20th. Many thanks to ATB and CTV for this creative and fun initiative that captured the hearts of many Canadians. Our deepest thanks to Charles, his family, and our many supporters in memory of Josh.

Millard Health, a rehabilitation facility in Edmonton, and part of the Worker's Compensation Board in Alberta, selected Threads of Life as its Charity of Choice for its Christmas party. Kevin Drake, Team Lead said, "We assess and treat injured workers and assist them with their road to recovery and return to work. We wanted to contribute to a charity that is relevant to the work we do. We are very excited to fundraise for this cause and I hope we can raise a good amount of money so that you can continue to assist

Charles Malysh was selected among many candidates to participate in the 3rd Annual ATB Charity Shootout on CTV's Rink of Dreams in Edmonton for a chance to win a \$3,750 donation to his charity of choice. Charles' son Josh was 21 years old when he died at work in Edmonton in November of 2010. Charles selected Threads of Life as his charity of choice.

Nine hopefuls took to the ice in Edmonton on Sunday, January 15 for the ATB Charity Shootout on CTV's Rink of Dreams. Charles entered the preliminary round of the shootout against CTV Sports Anchor Darcy Seaton, who was looking to score for The Arthritis Society. Tweets and Facebook posts were rooting Charles on from across the country.

Although Charles did not score on the goalie, he received a \$1,500 donation for Threads of Life and

workers and families to work through some very difficult times. Knowing an organization like you exists provides reassurance to us all that everyone affected by workplace injury and fatality will get invaluable support offered to them." Millard Health raised \$2,832 through this event and its silent auction. Tanya Preece, a family member of Threads of Life, spoke a few words of appreciation during this event.

A big thank you to Millard Health staff, guests and Tanya.

### 2012 Summer Golf Tournaments: OH COW and Levitt-Safety

We are still in the middle of winter, but it's not too early to think about golf. Mark in your calendars:

**Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers Inc.** (OH COW) will host their 5th annual golf tournament on Wednesday, September 12 at the Ambassador Golf Club in Windsor, Ontario. The cost is \$150.00 per golfer with proceeds going to Threads of Life.

Levitt-Safety will host its annual golf tournament at the Lionhead Golf and Country Club in Brampton, Ontario on Friday, August 10. Tickets are \$250.00 per golfer with the proceeds going to Threads of Life.

Please check our website for further updates. We hope you can help support these events through participation, spreading the word, and in other ways.

# VOLUNTEER PROFILE

*Vince Garnier, Provincial Director of Investigations,  
OHS Division of Department of Labour and Advanced Education*

*Kate Kennington*



Threads of Life is extremely fortunate to have hundreds of volunteers who generously donate their enthusiasm, time and expertise. Our volunteers perform many different roles to support the organization with some individuals going above and beyond to take on several roles. Vince P. Garnier is one such exceptional volunteer.

Vince was introduced to Threads of Life in 2008 and has become one of our most passionate supporters, as he strives to see our vision of “creating a culture shift as a result of which, work-related injuries, illnesses and deaths are morally, socially and economically unacceptable” become a reality.

As the Provincial Director of Investigations for the OHS Division for the Department of Labour and Advanced Education in Nova Scotia, Vince understands the need for Threads of Life and the important role we play in prevention. Says Vince, “Before I really started to ‘get it,’ I would talk to employers and employees about the law and tell them to follow it because ‘it is the law.’ I have learned over the years to change how I think and speak. OHS is really about

setting and maintaining priorities: health, family, work. The most important part of everyone’s job is staying healthy and safe. Productivity should never be the first priority of an employer or an employee.”

Vince often makes presentations on occupational health and safety topics at professional conferences, universities and at worksites across Nova Scotia, the perfect venues to mention Threads of Life and our book, *Forget Me Not*.

Many of the orders for the book in Nova Scotia can be traced back to one of his sessions. In March, Vince and Johanna LeRoux, one of our speakers, will be the guest speakers for the official opening of the Safety Services NS conference. Vince has also been an invaluable connection to the public prosecution for creative sentencing decisions when Threads of Life may be considered for fine monies.

Each year at the Atlantic Canada Family Forum, Vince facilitates a session on the OSH Officer’s Role in Workplace Investigations. Family members appreciate his honest and clear explanation of how the system works. They recognize his passion to create safer workplaces. At the annual Halifax Steps for Life event, Vince is the Captain of the Team Hazard Alerts as they walk to raise funds and awareness.

Thank you Vince for all that you do.

## Facing Loss

*David Harkins*

*You can shed tears that she is gone or  
you can smile because she has lived  
You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back  
or you can open your eyes and see all she's left  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her  
or you can be full of the love you shared.  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.*

Published in 1958

Poem adapted from “Remember Me.”

## Need a pair of work boots? Consider Mark's Work Wearhouse.

A portion of your boot purchase will be donated to Threads of Life.



If you’re looking for a pair of antislip footwear, you might want to consider checking out Mark's Work Wearhouse. This large Canadian retailer will donate a portion of proceeds from the sales of the antislip Tarantula line of work boots. Our logo on the boot tag and information on the Tarantula anti-slip packaging has been rolled out to all stores.

Smart  
Clothes.  
Everyday  
Living.

# Mark's



## MEN'S COLUMN

# Gone Fishing



*By Jim  
Sandford*

Since the last Family Forum an idea has been forming from our men's group session. It has become obvious that there are so

many unsaid things that men keep inside, very important things. There have been many firsts since I became involved with Threads, this is another one. We would like men and boys to use this section of the newsletter as an outlet to express themselves anonymously or with a byline regarding the losses we have experienced.

I personally found the men's group session to be a wonderful learning experience. It allowed me to discuss the things that I miss about Jim Jr. (my son) the most, the kind of things that might be regarded as silly or dumb to the women in our lives. Discussing things I would have traditionally kept locked away has helped me lessen the burden I was carrying. It has helped me to understand that one of the reasons young men are so quiet regarding tragedy is that they are trying to protect their parents or other siblings, so they keep it locked inside and suffer needlessly.

"Gone Fishing" is for you to let those thoughts and feelings go, write a poem and share it, release some hidden pain by sharing it with us. I know that this feels like a very difficult thing to do but once you get started the personal rewards will be great. I hope to read some interesting material in the future, or field some questions if you have any; there are no guidelines or rules. Please feel free to share your anger, your sorrows and your joys: all of us will be richer for it.

*This is your space.*

*"Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing it is not fish they are after."*

*—Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862)*

Quelques-uns de nos bulletins sont maintenant offerts en français. Veuillez visiter notre site Web, vous rendre à la page du bulletin Threads of Life ou nous appeler pour obtenir une copie.

## 2012 Upcoming Events

### Steps for Life – Walking for Families of Workplace Tragedy:

May 6\*

\*in most communities

### Volunteer Family Guide Peer Support Training

Please inquire if you are interested in taking the training.

### Atlantic Family Forum:

June 1–3

Atlantica Hotel & Marina Oak Island, NS

### Central Canada Family Forum:

September 28–30

Kempenfelt Conference Centre, ON

### Western Family Forum:

October 26–28

Calgary, AB

Please check the website for updates or give us a call.

## Contributions

Please send your story, poems, photos or drawings to [sbutyn@threadsoflife.ca](mailto:sbutyn@threadsoflife.ca).

Si vous préférez recevoir cette information en français, s'il vous plaît, contactez-nous.

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## Guest Contributors

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Shannon Payne  
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Association for Workplace Tragedy Family Support

Threads of Life is a registered charity dedicated to supporting families along their journey of healing who have suffered from a workplace fatality, life-altering illness or occupational disease. Threads of Life is the **Charity of Choice** for many workplace health and safety events. Charitable organization business #87524 8908 RR0001.

### MISSION

Our mission is to help families heal through a community of support and to promote the elimination of life-altering workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths.

### VISION

Threads of Life will lead and inspire a culture shift, as a result of which work-related injuries, illnesses and deaths are morally, socially and economically unacceptable

### VALUES

We believe that:

**Caring:** Caring helps and heals.

**Listening:** Listening can ease pain and suffering.

**Sharing:** Sharing our personal losses will lead to healing and preventing future devastating work-related losses.

**Respect:** Personal experiences of loss and grief need to be honoured and respected.

**Health:** Health and safety begins in our heads, hearts and hands, in everyday actions.

**Passion:** Passionate individuals can change the world.

### HOW TO REACH US

Toll-free: 1-888-567-9490

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