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Dementia Awareness Gives Police Tools to Provide Compassionate Care to Seniors

Those who work directly with or care for someone who has dementia understands the special care required in dealing with this difficult condition. However, dementia awareness is something that benefits the entire community.

Recently, Bob, a client of the Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton had an altercation at a local business that required police assistance. This wasn't the first time, as his form of dementia, known as Pick's Disease, causes dis-inhibition, obsessive behaviors, interactions with strangers, and a loss of social boundaries.

Fortunately, the responding officers had received training from the Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton and knew about Pick's Disease and how to respond. Listening to Bob's spouse, Betty, for directions on how to approach her husband, the officers were able to keep him calm.

Betty was pleased with how the officers handled the situation and that they were well trained to assist her, her husband, and the place of business. She feels gratitude towards training programs such as those that the Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton provide that have helped educate the community about dementia.

The Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton provides dementia awareness training covering such topics as, forms of dementia, caregiver tips, and environment and safety.

Other programs and services offered by the Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton include: Caregiver Support & Respite, First Link, Mobility Monitors loaner program, Wandering Registry, as well as other training and education programs.

**Names of individuals have been changed in the interest of privacy*