

TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

# FORUM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011

## Thank you Tony Proudfoot

To The Editor:

The ALS Society of New Brunswick would like to thank Tony Proudfoot and his family.

Tony Proudfoot recently lost his battle with ALS, which is also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He and his family bravely came forward to put a face to this devastating neuromuscular disease.

The ALS Society of New

Brunswick services approximately 60 clients each year with ALS. It is not easy at any age to be told you have a terminal condition and many, like Tony, are 'in their prime' when they receive this diagnosis . . . ALS is always fatal, typically from respiratory failure, within two to five years of diagnosis. There is no known cause, prevention, or cure.

ALS destroys the motor neurons, making it impossible for the brain to send messages to the different parts of the body. One by one, the muscles become paralyzed.

The cost to a family living with ALS is high, both emotionally and financially. Most families will need to spend \$140,000 on medical equipment within the first year of diagnosis. ALS provincial societies help clients to access this equipment. Our ability to raise funds has been greatly improved by the awareness that Tony and his family have brought to the disease.

His series of written articles, which appeared in the Montreal Gazette and online, shone a light on what it means to live with ALS. He was an amazing recruiter to what he called 'his team', and his team has raised more than \$500,000 for research through the Tony Proudfoot Fund for ALS Research at the national level.

At the ALS Society of New Brunswick, we celebrate the SPIRIT of those living with ALS. Our clients show an amazing capacity for hope, love, and generosity. They are on the front lines raising money for client services and research. They are willing to share their story with the public and with one another in a peer support network. When a clinical trial becomes available they raise their hand and say 'pick me.' Tony exemplified this SPIRIT. Tony Proudfoot was a hero on the field and off . . . and we will miss him.

*Carol Cottrill,  
Executive Director,  
ALS Society of N.B.,  
Moncton*