

An Inspirational Letter from a Polio Survivor

October 8, 2014

Hello President Colin Thacker,

Thank you for reaching out to me. Let me tell you about myself, and my journey with having Polio.

I contacted Polio in 1954 at the age of 6. I was hospitalized in Timmins. I was one of the lucky ones not having to endure the braces and iron lung. My family worked as a team and with the help of daily visits to my home after hospital release from our family doctor and the structured form used by the infamous Sister Kenny who used moist heated towels to keep the muscle working, my only residual was a life lived with limited muscle control, weak left leg and constant fatigue. I went on to have a productive life, raised 2 wonderful children and had an amazing corporate career. Now I am fighting the effects of Post Polio Syndrome and not allowing it to win.

I have been the Chairperson for the North Bay Polio group for the past 3years. We have a membership of only 8 and we meet every last Friday of the month for a afternoon of fellowship. We are also quite fortunate to have the President of Polio Canada who lives in Markstay as one of our members.

I want to thank you for the generous offer to attend your luncheon [End Polio Now lunch at the Davedi Club on October 24, 2014] and I do hope to attend the fundraiser, however if you do not object, I would prefer if you would consider extending the free ticket to one of our members who has been less fortunate than I and has been one of our chapters longest standing members, close to 30 years – Mr. George Livingston or Mr. Joseph Brown.

We as Polio Survivors, thank the Rotary Club for everything they are doing towards helping ensure no generation ever goes thru what we survivors have and still are going thru!

YES WE ARE STILL HERE!

Best Regards,

*Sharyn Emond
Chairperson
North Bay Polio Chapter*