

Recap of Brain Injury Awareness Week

By Amy Mauer, Edmonton BIAWeek Coordinator

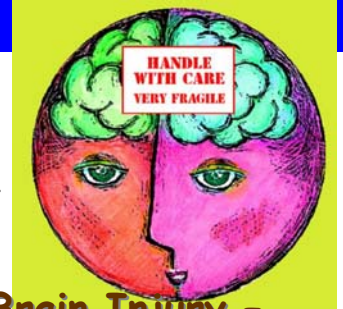
Well BIAW is over for the year, and what a fantastic week it was. The Kick-off Breakfast was a great way to start the week, with several in attendance brought to laughter by Ed Hervey's informative talk. Grand Rounds that same afternoon at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital had those in the audience gaining insight regarding different causes of brain injuries and the effects on survivors and their family members.

Education Day was held at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, with communities from across the province connecting via telehealth to the event. The day began and ended with drama productions. Starting the morning off was the Networks Drama Group with a theatrical production entitled "Our Stories." A film entitled "The Dogwalker," portraying the life of survivor Michael Borowski, was the perfect ending for those in attendance. In between, we had speakers who shared their expertise and experiences around brain injury, education and employment supports and the importance of attitude during recovery. It was an in-

formative day, full of inspiring and uplifting content that was meant to get people thinking about their quality of life.

This year, the committee also linked with Virginia Park Elementary School and held a coloring contest with grade 2 and 3 students. The art was amazing! Community organizations at large responded overwhelmingly with donated items for prizes; in fact, every child walked away with a goody bag of items to promote brain injury prevention and safety.

And so, another successful BIAWeek has come to an end. A quote that seemed to sum up the week, read from a poem by a speaker at education day is: "If you can't help me to be what I want to be, then please don't hurt me by trying to make me what you expect me to be." *By survivor, Bud Hadfield.*



**Brain Injury -
Realize the Impact**

Brain Injury Awareness Week in High Prairie

By Jenna Calahasen

My name is **Jenna Calahasen** and I am the High Prairie NABIS Summer Student. I recently graduated from Grade 12 and I'm attending NAIT this coming fall. The career that I have chosen is accounting. I come from a family of six and have lived in High Prairie all my life. I'm moving to Edmonton in August and I'm so excited to make the big move. I love to keep myself busy by playing fastball, spending time with my crazy friends and my wonderful family.

I was the project coordinator for the Brain Injury Awareness Week Coloring Contest which I had a great time doing!

High Prairie's Brain Injury Awareness Week was wonderful; we had 11 entries in our coloring contest



which consisted of two age categories. The lucky winner for the first age category was Chloe Johansson, who is 6 years old; the second age category winner was Jasmine Mitchell, who is 9 years old. With our first coloring contest we were quite surprised with the response when we asked for prizes. We

received donations from **Pops Home Hardware, Park Theatre** and **High Prairie Recreation & District Board**. The donations consisted of 2 bike helmets, 2 movie passes and 10 swim passes. Thanks to our donors! We wouldn't have done this without them. I really liked working for NABIS this summer; it was quite the experience and I enjoyed working with Sandra and Darlene.