

Patient praises value of STARS lottery after trip in 'chopper saves her life

BY LEA STORRY, CALGARY HERALD JANUARY 14, 2011



STARS patient Andrea Henry is flanked by helicopter pilots Mike Potter, left, and Steve Curilla at the launch of this year's 2011 STARS lottery. They are in front of one of the prize homes, by Augusta Fine Homes in Crestmont.

Photograph by: Gavin Young, Calgary Herald

CALGARY - Seven years ago during a bike ride in Canmore, Andrea Henry toppled over and landed on her head, breaking her helmet in two.

She had to be rushed to the Canmore Hospital and she credits STARS with saving her life.

"I had brain swelling and could die, so I had to be flown by STARS (air ambulance) to the Foothills (Hospital)," Henry, now 47, explained. "I received a bill from the Canmore ambulance for \$250, but I never received a bill from STARS."

The Calgary woman is now encouraging Albertans to keep STARS in the sky by supporting the 18th annual STARS Lottery.

Tickets are now available, for 3,200 prizes worth more than \$5.1 million.

"I'm always surprised when I talk to people and find out just how many have been affected by STARS," said Henry, who also volunteers with the charity. "They're leaders in North American, if not world leaders, in critical care ambulance service."

