

'MoSista' turning heads with her furry upper lip

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

When walking the streets of our nation's capital this month, local resident Rebecca Pyrah undoubtedly elicits some double takes from passersby.

The second-year Carleton University history student has been sporting a mustache wherever she goes to support the Movember movement and has become well-known in her third year as a 'MoSista.'

Pyrah serves as chair of Movember Carleton, is a member of the Ottawa Movember Committee and has earned celebrity status for having appeared in a promotional video for the month-long movement to raise awareness about men's health issues such as prostate and testicular cancer.

She also wears a variety of mustaches—approximately 60-70 in her collection—for various occasions and gets a lot of feedback while working as a hostess at a Lone Star Texas Grill in Ottawa.

"The first year I wore the mustache it was horrible because it was so itchy," she said.

"I've been able to get other ones that are more comfortable, but it's still hair on your face and when I'm at work, sometimes I need to take a break for a minute to fix it if it gets hot in the restaurant. It's not a big deal if you think about what someone with prostate cancer is going through."

Pyrah became involved with Movember in her Grade 12 year at Bishop Reding in Milton when she and a friend saw another student wearing a fake mustache and thought it would

be fun. Then she read up on the Movember background and while Pyrah hasn't lost anyone close to her to male-exclusive diseases, she was impressed with the message being sent.

"I get a lot of comments at Lone Star and some people just aren't aware of Movember and others are like, 'Why is a woman wearing a mustache when it's a guy thing,'" she added.



REBECCA PYRAH

"Why can't a woman support prostate cancer awareness? Men have such a hard time talking about health issues and going to the doctor and there are so many cases where people have died that were so preventable if they'd had treatment sooner. One of the main reasons I like wearing it is that I can make a bigger statement than if a guy has one. It sparks conversation and raises awareness about Movember."

Pyrah is also featured in a three-minute YouTube video called 'Lady Barber not what she seems,' <http://www.buzzfeed.com/crm/greatest-barber-shop-in-the-world-gjvp> in which she shaves men in a classic-style barber shop called Old Mo's Club, which is actually an establishment named House of Barons in Ottawa.

At a fundraising launch party earlier this month, Pyrah was speaking with organizers of the event, who had planned to produce a video to promote

"The video turned out better than I could have imagined," said Pyrah, whose mother, Nancy Surette, is an executive assistant for Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

"I didn't really shave anybody. The razor I used didn't have a blade in it or else I probably would have cut someone's chin open," she joked.

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