

Hinze, Dora

Born in Toronto, her family moved to Brighton when she was nine.

She attended East Northumberland Secondary School but dropped out at 16 to take a housekeeping job at the Hastings Manor. Three years later, she moved to Port Coquitlam, B.C. to visit her dad.

She ended up working at her father's small variety store for six months before deciding to return to the Quinte area.

Hinze worked for the former Bay Wind's fishing camp in Consecon and a Foxboro restaurant (now Town's End). She married her husband, Cecil, in 1979 and went to work for Bell Shirt in Belleville.

Less than two years later, she decided to stay home and babysit other children. She started her own family in 1981 and raised sons Corey and Mark before returning to the workforce in the mid-1990s.

She kept working even after being diagnosed as a diabetic and suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome.

A year later, her health worsened.

She was on holidays in July, 1998 when she suffered a massive heart attack.

"I was on a Greyhound bus with my sister in the middle of nowhere north of Thunder Bay on the way to Calgary when I felt shortness of breath and sharp pains," she recalled.

As luck would have it, an ambulance was parked on the side of the road nearby and rushed Hinze to hospital.

"I was told that if it had been another half hour, I wouldn't be here today...I was saved by luck or by chance," she said.

She spent a week in a Thunder Bay hospital before being airlifted to Belleville and then transferred to Kingston hospital.

Hinze recovered but suffered about 10 per cent damage done to her heart. She's also had three angioplasty procedures done since the incident.

Hinze returned to work at the McDonald's restaurant at Wal-Mart in October 1998.

There was even more bad news to come her way.

Doctors found a spot on her lungs. A biopsy was performed this past February and, in March, was told she had cancer in both lungs.

"I was devastated," said Hinze, who has never smoked in her life. "I was scared. I didn't know what I would do. I found it hard to take because I never thought it would happen to me."

Hinze told people around her to remain positive.

"I didn't want anybody around me crying all the time...I have had a lot of support from family and friends."

She's already undergone six sessions of chemotherapy since May with some success.

"But doctors have told me I have two spots that are terminal. I'm determined to fight this."

Hinze is now waiting a Nov. 1 medical appointment for doctors to determine their

next course of action.

"Right now, it's a wait and see game," Hinze acknowledged.

So she continues to do a lot of praying.

"I pray that the Lord will help me with the sickness if it's in his will. And, if not, I will deal with it. I will accept what God has in store for me. I'm going on with my life the best way I can."

Hinze takes great solace in the support she's received from the 1st Thurlow Cubs who, shaved their heads earlier this year to help boost her spirits after she started losing her hair from chemotherapy.

"I think that was an awesome gesture on their part. It makes me feel very special...I just want to be around for a long time to see them grow up."