

□ PEOPLE

Hip Hip Hooray for Edith Pattison

*Despite problems,
Belleville woman
ready for walk*

By Bill Hunt
The Intelligencer

For people with physiological problems, putting one foot in front of the other isn't as easy as it sounds.

But that hasn't stopped Belleville resident Edith Pattison from taking part in Hip Hip Hooray, The Orthopedic Walk Across Canada.

May 28 Pattison will walk 1.6 kilometres in Kingston's City Park to raise money for orthopedic care. The walk is part of a country-wide event to raise money for orthopedic research, education and patient care in Canada. Registration begins at noon that day and the walk starts at 1 p.m.

Pattison has an artificial knee, steel plates in her right thigh, and has undergone a bone graft as part of an operation to replace the first artificial knee with another one after a fall.

Most participants have artificial hips or knees or some related problem. However, supporters are welcome to collect pledges and join in the walk.

Half the funds raised in each walk goes to the Canadian Orthopedic Foundation and the rest goes to the local community. This is the third year of the walk. Since it began, \$2,740,000 has been raised. Last year 10,000 orthopedic patients took part in the



Intelligencer photo by Bill Hunt

Edith Pattison, 69, sits with a collection of photographs from previous walk-a-thons that will be displayed at National Trust in the Loyalist Market. She is readying for this year's Hip Hip Hooray Orthopedic walk in Kingston.

walk.

During her first year, Pattison raised \$883. Last year she raised \$1,402 and as of April 18 this year she had \$500. Pattison expects to top her 1994 amount by the time she goes to Kingston in May.

"I've always liked walking," says the 69-year-old, who walks to many of the houses and businesses where she asks for pledges. Although her right knee is four pounds heavier than her left knee and consequently, throws

off her balance, she doesn't let it slow her down. She has been doing volunteer work with Meals on Wheels for 15 years and is now its convener.

Furthermore, Pattison has cancer. Asked if her illness tires her, she says, "It does, but then again you overcome those things. You can't let them affect you."

Lending a hand this year is National Trust in the Loyalist Market, which is holding a bake sale April 28. The proceeds will be added to Pattison's pledges.