Pattison, Edith

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Pounding the pavement



Intelligencer photo by Bill Hunt

Edith Pattison laces up the shoes she'll wear in this year's walkathon.

By Bill Hunt

The Intelligencer

Edith Pattison is out pounding the pavement these days in an effort to make walking easier for other people.

Pattison, 70, is collecting pledges for her participation in the Hip Hip Hooray Walkathon in Kingston June 9 in which people with orthopedic problems and supporters walk 1.6 km in MacDonald Park. Proceeds go to the Canadian Orthopedic Foundation.

Despite her own health problems — an on-going battle with skin cancer and a bout with breast cancer, an artificial knee, steel plates in her right thigh and an operation on her left foot in late January — Pattison is again participating in the walkathon. It is her fourth year in the national event. Last year she raised \$2,002 and hopes to top that by \$500 this year.

"Every year I get another \$500," she says of previous efforts. She has already collected \$1,100 this year.

But the walkathon isn't the hard part of it. Pattison walked 59 km last year while collecting her pledges. She's been using a car to get around this year because of her foot operation, but is now ready to don her walking shoes while collecting the remainder of her pledges.

Along with the walkathon, Pattison has been a volunteer with Meals on Wheels for the last 15 years.

Semple's Your Independent Grocery will hold a barbecue May 5 with half the proceeds going to the walkathon. IGA is also holding one but a date has yet to be set.

Last year the national Hip Hip Hooray walkathon campaign raised \$1,093,272 with 46 communities participating.

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