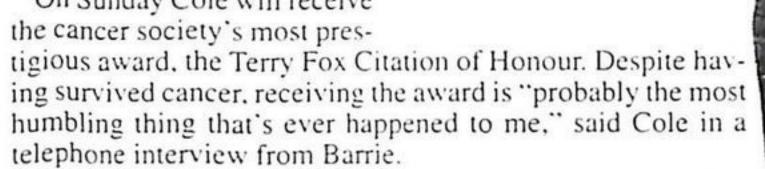
A survivor sells her heart

By Ann Marie McQueen STAFF WRITER

WOODSTOCK - A breast cancer survivor who has been awarded the Canadian Cancer Society's top honour will speak here next week.

Carol Ann Cole has raised \$700,000 for the society through sales of the Comfort Heart. The small pewter ornament that brings comfort to cancer patients also raises money for cancer research.

On Sunday Cole will receive



Carol Ann Cole

The Halifax resident will tell her story Thursday night during the Oxford County cancer society unit's 50th anniversary celebration at Goff Hall..

In 1992 both Cole and her mother were diagnosed with breast cancer. The pair took radiation treatments together, but while Cole beat the disease, her mother died 11 months later.

Cole said much of her work for the cancer society is done in her mother's memory. And despite the loss, she tries to use humour to stress the positive when she tells her story.

"There is life after cancer," she said.

Cole seems to strike a chord with women, who often approach her after her speaking engagements.

"They line up to share a story with me," she said. "They seem to be anxious to share a little bit of themselves, given that I've been so open."

In 1994 Cole decided to retire from her position as a vicepresident at Bell Canada and become a full-time volunteer for the cancer cause. She negotiated an agreement to manufacture a pewter "worry heart" - that she had found to be a source of comfort - as a fundraiser for the cancer society. Since then about 100,000 of the hearts have sold.

Just rubbing the smooth surface of the heart can give cancer patients comfort, but they also serve as a constant reminder that they aren't alone, said Cole.

Sixty per cent of every \$10 heart goes to cancer research. Many of the people who buy the hearts for themselves, family or friends write Cole to tell their stories. She has saved dozens of those letters and plans to use them in a book on her experiences.

Cole's appearance in Woodstock Thursday is sponsored by the Zonta Club of Woodstock and will feature a display and resources by the Oxford County Board of Health and the Ontario Breast Screening Program. Tickets for the evening. which begins at 7:30 p.m., are \$5 per person.





SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE **DU CANCER**

OXFORD COUNTY UNIT

50 YEARS (1948-1998) "WE ARE SURVIVORS"

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1998 7:30 P.M. GOFF HALL, WOODSTOCK DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMPLEX 381 FINKLE STREET

> GUEST SPEAKER: CAROL ANN COLE BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR

> > PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS

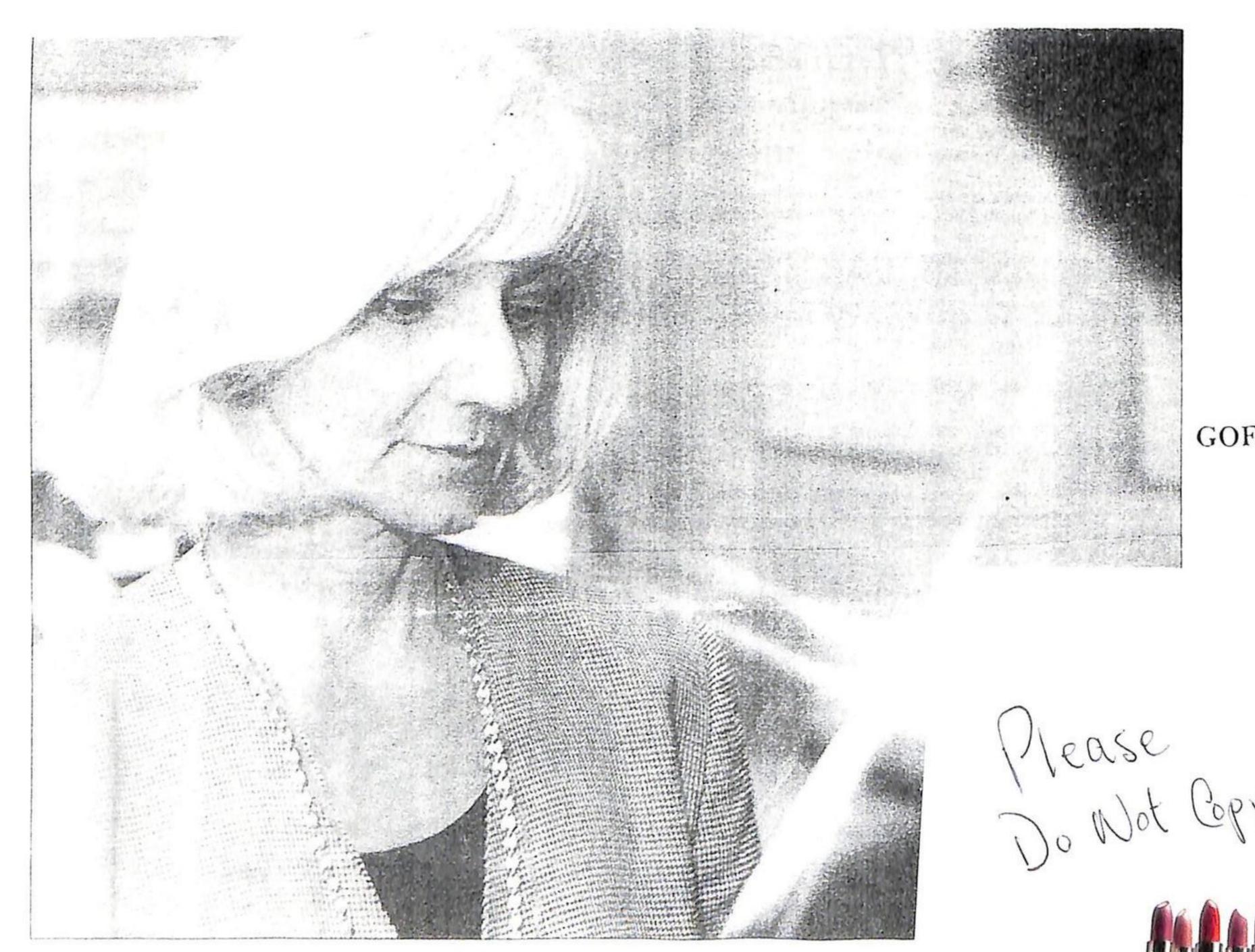
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

DISPLAY AND RESOURCES BY OXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AND OBSP (ONTARIO BREAST SCREENING PROGRAM) (OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH)

ENT SPONSORED BY THE ZONTA CLUB OF WOODSTOCK

SUPPORTERS: WOODSTOCK/OXFORD ROTARY CLUB WOODSTOCK ROTARY CLUB TILLSONBURG ROTARY CLUB OXFORD DISTRICT WOMENS' INSTITUTE

TICKETS \$5.00 PER PERSON AVAILABLE FROM THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY 519-537-5592 OR BRANCH VOLUNTEERS



A special moment

Carol Ann Cole, a cancer survivor and organizer of 'The Comfort Heart Fundraising Initiative,' lights h hope ceremony yesterday at the 50th anniversary of the Oxford County Unit Canadian Cancer Society Hall at the Woodstock District Community Complex, was called 'We Are Survivors.' Cole was also g fight against cancer and the history of the Comfort Heart Initiative.

"For Safe a Healthy Communities" - INE helps sponsor Cancer Awareness

Programs