

# Canadian Cancer Society annual fund drive starts

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald

"If you knew that the survival rate of childhood cancer has increased by 60 per cent, would that make you give?"

That's a question almost 400 volunteer canvassers for the Canadian Cancer Society will be asking in April during their annual drive for funds.

The question is being used on this year's Cancer Society poster and it's true that through the generous support of Canadians, the society has made remarkable progress in the last 20 years.

Thanks to funds, there is now a hopeful side to cancer.

The Canadian Cancer Society has published a pamphlet called "The Hopeful Side of Cancer" which states each year, thousands of Canadians who once had cancer and received prompt treatment are now considered cured.

More and more frequently, the pamphlet went on to say, the prognosis for cancer patients is good, not simply for an invalid's existence, but for an active and productive life, free from disabling symptoms.

Much of the progress has been made thanks to the time and energy many community members put into organizing the April drive for funds along with other Cancer Society activities.

Cathy McGillivray, communications chairperson for publicity for Acton's Cancer Unit, established 12 years ago, explained just how the Cancer Society operates and what it offers.

The society structure begins with small communities called sections, of which there are 458 in Ontario. Next, there are branches (186 in Ontario) and Units, which is what the Halton Hills and Acton groups are termed. Units make up districts of which there are 17 in Ontario and this level is supervised by the Ontario level of the society, which, in turn, reports to the Canadian



Spring daffodils will soon be ready for sale by Cancer Society members who got an early bunch Friday to brighten up this picture. Young Michael Gerrow, son of Acton Cancer Society daffodil fund-

raiser Cathy Gerrow, got to pose on Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller's lap. Jean King (back) is the Georgetown Cancer Society daffodil campaign chairman. (Herald photo)

Cancer Society, a national organization.

Belonging to a unit takes time. There are standing committees within the unit and the organization suggests a two-year term of office with monthly meetings and training sessions.

The committees include: education, patient services, fund-raising, communications, commemoration funds and planning and development.

Janis Fread and Cathy McGillivray belong to the education committee and encourage people to take personal responsibility for cancer control.

"We try to get people to adopt healthy lifestyles that promote prevention, early detection and early treatment of cancer," said Ms. McGillivray.

The Acton unit is currently dealing with such issues as smok-

ing, diet and skin.

One of the most important features of a unit is its patient services.

Susan Keuchler is the chairperson for Acton's services which offers emotional and physical support for the patient by means of transportation to treatment centres, assisting with cost of drugs, equipment, dressings, supplies and also through friendly visits

## Upcoming events

Tuesday, April 2 - All canvassers are invited to attend a chill supper and campaign kick-off at Trinity United Church in Acton before they set out to blitz the town. All canvassers attending will have their names entered in a lucky draw for dinner for two at Jack Tanner's Table donated by the Old Hyde House.

Wednesday, April 3 - Halton Hills Unit will host a fundraising breakfast at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. Breakfast tickets cost \$10 per person and can be purchased at Curwood Packaging or the Halton Hills Cancer Society office on Guelph Street (877-1124).

April 4, 5, 6 - Daffodil campaign. Units will deliver pre-ordered blooms to industries and selling on the street April 6. Blooms are \$3 for a bunch of eight.

Sunday, April 7 - Cancer Society Benefit Brunch. The fifth annual brunch will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with proceeds going to the Acton Unit. Try to create your own omelettes and waffles. Reservations recommended, call 853-3440.

Tuesday, April 9 - Benefit Cut-A-Thon at Glenlea Beauty Salon on Queen Street in Acton, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hairstylists Bev Swartz and Brenda Noseworthy will donate 50 per cent off the day's proceeds to the Acton Unit.

and support groups.

The Cancer Society always welcomes volunteers and if you are interested in becoming a member of the Cancer Society, contact the Acton Cancer Society Unit by calling Cathy Gerrow at 853-2112 or the Halton Hills Unit at 877-1124.

# Polish family chooses Canada to start new life

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

One thing is for certain, it's unlikely anyone would ever confuse life in Halton Hills to that of Wroclaw, Poland. Either today, or three years ago, when the Georgetown Maczau family left that city to journey to Canada.

Janusc Maczau, 27, his wife

Iwona, 28, and the couple's five-year-old son, Filip, arrived in Georgetown four weeks ago after escaping the then Polish communist regime, three years previously.

Between the time they left Wroclaw in 1988 and arrived here, a popular uprising in Poland toppled the General W.

Jaruzelski regime and replaced it with a democratically-elected government.

Before emigrating to Canada, the couple first travelled to Berlin, Germany, where they applied for refugee status. It was more than 20 months later when the Canadian government permitted them to come to Canada as Landed Immigrants.

Mr. Maczau said during an interview last Friday, he and his wife had to leave their home because they were unable to support their son. They live with Mr. Maczau's cousin, Zeyta Daykin, in Georgetown.

When Mr. Maczau and his family left Poland, the Polish people lived a life where buying a piece of meat was an all-day event. There was a 25-year wait for an apartment and a 20-year wait for a telephone, according to Mr. Maczau.

"Medical care was very poor and beds in hospital hallways was a common sight," Mr. Maczau said in his broken English.

"It was a very hard decision to leave but we had the responsibility of our son," he added.

While many Canadians are dissatisfied with their wages, Mr. Maczau describes how his parents together earn \$140 per month. "A well-paying job is \$200 a month," said Mr. Maczau.

Asked if Poland is a better place to live now compared to three years ago, Mr. Maczau gives a yes-no answer. It's better because there is freedom but it's just as hard to put food on the table, he said.

Mr. Maczau explained that under the communist regime people had no money and no food. Today there is food but people can't afford it. Polish food prices are similar to those in Canada but people earn, on average, a quarter of what Canadians do, he said.

He predicts it will be another 25

years before salaries catch up to those in Canada, he said.

Meanwhile, Polish people have hope for the future, he said.

Mr. Maczau is someone who can speak with authority about the hope that a democratic system can provide. This is a man who at 18 was imprisoned for asking his fellow students to hold a minute of silence in recognition of those that died or were injured protesting the government's declaration of martial law at the time.

Mr. and Ms. Maczau are currently searching for jobs but like a lot of people, are finding it difficult because of the slow economy. Mr. Maczau is a trained purchasing manager while his wife is a photographer. Their son currently attends Joseph Gibbons Public School in Georgetown.

The couple are studying English as a second language but

Georgetown District High School during the evenings.

Mr. Maczau says the biggest difference between Poles and Canadians is that Canadians have more free time.

Mr. Maczau said the local residents he has met have been very kind. Although he has trouble with English, Mr. Maczau said people are willing to take the time to talk with him.

Ms. Daykin confirms the generosity of local residents saying she has received an outpouring of support from her friends. "All have come and asked what they can do to help," she added.

Because the Maczau family has Landed Immigrant status, Ms. Daykin is financially responsible for the family during the next year.

Under Canadian law, the family cannot claim any social benefits for a year.



The Maczau family, (left to right), Janusc, Filip and Iwona, arrived in Georgetown four weeks ago. The family left their Polish homeland regime three years ago and just recently attained Canadian Landed Immigrant status. When they left their homeland, a communist government headed the country but it has since been toppled and been replaced with an elected democratic government. (Herald photo)

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