

Popular fundraiser may continue after the loss of organizer Colleen Ens

By: Vivien Fleisher

The 10th annual Good Brothers concert on May 13 this year was a success as always. The brain-child of Colleen Ens and her mother, Rockwood Lioness Doris Ens, it's in support of Princess Margaret Hospital's 'One Walk to Conquer Cancer', and it was Doris's long-time affiliation with the eight-time Juno-winning band that helped turn it into such a fabulous sold-out event every year at Rockmosa. But two weeks later, without warning, Colleen died of a brain aneurysm.

Colleen, Doris's best friend, was the picture of health who "did everything right" and walked every year for someone else, died of cancer at age 38.

Doris said Colleen did a lot to keep that walk going.

She described her daughter, one of five children, as a real go-getter who was full of kindness, generosity and charm and whose career was varied and accomplished. She was the second-youngest stewardess ever at Quebec's Nordair; taught grade school after receiving her teacher's certificate in Australia; earned a B.A. in business; studied languages and obtained interpretive papers after a stint in Newfoundland; and was always involved in charity work and local councils. Doris said she was "an instigator", never hesitating to talk to any and everybody. She had an outgoing, adventurous personality that charmed everybody—especially Doris.

Despite the sorrow, there is pure joy on her face

as she talks about Colleen. She misses the daily phone call at supper time the most. Both loved to read, sometimes recommending the same book to each other. Fittingly, Colleen signed her organ donor card. This small but powerful act resulted in five people receiving life-saving organs, in addition to several more life-enhancing donations.

It's a bewildering thing, what happened this year. But amid the pain and loss are the best memories anyone could hope for, especially the legacy of Colleen's fundraising efforts. Doris has not ruled out keeping the concert going at Rockmosa, mulling over where to direct the funds locally—just another reminder that in Colleen, the apple did not fall far from the tree.

Inattentive drivers causing more collisions than impaired and speeding drivers combined

Inattentive driving is linked to more collisions on Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)-patrolled roads so far this year than speeding and alcohol/drug-related collisions combined.

Since January 1, 2017, driver distraction has been reported as the primary cause in 6,360 road collisions. In contrast, speed was the primary cause in 4,700 crashes, while 1,158 of the incidents involved a driver who consumed alcohol or drugs.

A total of 47 people have died so far this year because of an inattentive driver, up from 39 such deaths this time last year.

With children and other students taking to the streets and being bused to school beginning next week, the need for motorists to pay full attention to driving—and for others to take a firm stand against drivers who are not—has never been greater.

"Our collision data is compelling evidence that drivers who text, talk on their cell phone or are distracted in some other way, take a tremendous toll on the safety of those who share the road with them," said J.V.N. (Vince) Hawkes, OPP Commissioner. "Public complacency about inatten-

tive driving can be just as dangerous as the behaviour itself. Until drivers, passengers and the general public take a firm stand against this road safety issue, these tragedies are expected to continue in large numbers on our roads."

How you can help:

- As a driver, keep your cell phone out of sight, out of hand and out of mind. If you need to use it, pull over at a safe location.
- As a passenger, speak up and voice your concerns about your safety when travelling with a distracted driver. By ignoring the problem, you are contributing to the problem.
- Spread the word at your school or workplace about the dangers of distracted driving.
- Highlight the dangers of distracted driving on social media.
- Be a voice in your community.

"The inattentive driver not only risks their own life, they risk others. Our goal in Wellington County is, and will continue to be, reminding drivers of their obligations to focus all of their attention on driving and nothing else. By doing that, all of us on the road will be safer," said Inspector Scott Lawson Wellington

County OPP Detachment Commander

With the exception of 2012, inattentive drivers have taken more lives on OPP-patrolled roads than speeding and alcohol-impaired drivers since Ontario distracted driving laws took effect in 2009.



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FREE ADMISSION • FREE SNACKS AND BEVERAGES

Exhibitor booths 1:00pm-3:00pm

Demonstrations including: Pickleball, Shuffleboard, and Healthy Eating

Seminars including: Aging safely in the New Millennium 11:30am, Protect your Money 12:30pm, and Fire Safety for Seniors 1:30pm

For more details www.get.on.ca, or 519-856-9596 x139.

This event is sponsored jointly by the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario and the Ministry of Seniors Affairs.

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