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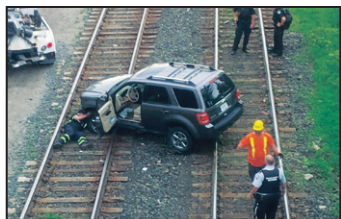
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Will you
Rock the
Hills?

Three-time cancer survivor remains positive with a desire to give back

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
Special to the IFP

Those who've met Georgetown mother Tammy Snow would describe her as a woman who's cheerful and full of life.

The vibrant 44-year-old is the picture of health—the last person one would imagine surviving cancer not once, not twice, but three times.

While it may sound unbelievable, that's just what Snow has done over the past eight years, all the while holding onto her famous positive attitude.

"It's almost like she's the poster child for surviving cancer," said best friend Karen Evely, who's teaming up with Snow to take part in the Weekend to End Women's Cancers this fall.

"Her whole attitude towards life and being a survivor three times is amazing. She teaches you that it doesn't matter what happens in your life—you are living."

Dodging the proverbial bullet three times can seem even a bit surreal to Snow herself, who could've never imagined the journey she was embarking on after discovering a lump in her breast in 2007.

"My breast was itchy, and when I touched it I could feel a little bump," she recalled. "At the time, I didn't think anything else of it."

A couple weeks later while on vacation, she discovered that the bump had

grown to the size of a pea. When she returned home her doctor sent for an ultrasound and mammogram, followed by a biopsy.

On June 6, 2007, she received the results that would change her life forever.

"The doctor said, 'You have breast cancer,' and I just went numb," she said. "I had a 12-year-old son. I was single. I had a lot to live for. I was going to live for him, and I was going to live for me."

She said it was several weeks before she was able to tell her son the news as she wanted to summon the strength to have a positive attitude.

"I wanted to make sure when I spoke to him I was comfortable with it," she said. "I looked at him and said, 'Listen son, I'm going to be here to nag you for the rest of your life.'"

Snow made her way to the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, where she underwent eight rounds of chemotherapy, had a lobectomy - where they remove a portion of the breast - and 30 rounds of radiation to clear her body of the fast-growing, aggressive cancer. The treatments were a success.



TAMMY SNOW

Photo by Melanie Hennessey

Proudly wearing the invisible badge of a cancer survivor, Snow said she wanted to give back to the hospital that had given her another chance at life.

It was then that she signed up for her first Shoppers Drug Mart Weekend to End Women's Cancers, a two-day, 60-kilometre fundraiser walk through the streets of Toronto that benefits the Campbell Family Cancer Research Institute at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre.

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