

2014 MUNICIPAL AND
SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

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Cancer journey takes Snow to U.S.

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"My first walk was actually quite emotional. You come together as one that weekend and it's just so powerful," she said. "You get that amazing feeling inside that you're doing something good. I walked to save another person's life, to save somebody else from this awful disease."

Unbeknownst to her, Snow may have also been walking to save herself. During her subsequent participation in a clinical trial at Princess Margaret that investigated a woman's ability to conceive after chemotherapy, it was discovered that she had a cyst on her right ovary.

While her doctor monitored the cyst for a year through ultrasounds, Snow pushed to have it removed.

"The cyst was not cancerous, but there were other parts of pathology that were cancerous," she explained. "I ended up needing a complete hysterectomy."

Wanting to get the surgery done as quickly as possible, she went to the Juravinski Cancer Centre in Hamilton as the doctors there were able to accommodate her within a week. This time the surgery revealed that she had primary peritoneal cancer, which affects the tissue that wraps around the ab-

dominal organs.

After six rounds of chemotherapy, the cancer went into remission for nine months. But last January, she was diagnosed once again with the same rare cancer.

"This time, Juravinski offered me six rounds of chemo, and I thought that's not going to do," she said. "In your life, you need to take control of your health. So I found a doctor in the United States that performs HIPEC surgery."

HIPEC, or Hyperthermic Intraoperative Peritoneal Chemotherapy, delivers heated chemotherapy directly inside the abdomen, which greatly differs from the traditional intravenous method.

Snow received the treatment in Florida and spent three weeks in the hospital recovering. While one may think that a three-time cancer survivor could start to lose hope at this point, Snow said she wasn't sitting around dwelling on the fact she had cancer.

"You just don't make cancer your life. It all has to do with your attitude; staying positive is such a huge thing in your recovery," she said. "The thought of cancer taking my life very rarely entered my thoughts for any of the cancers I've had. It's a waste of thought."

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