



LET THEM EAT BREAD: Miss Sorger's grade 5/6 class and Miss Crowe's grade 4/5 class completed their Medieval studies with a feast for classmates and parents at St. Joseph's school on Thursday. King Mirko Tonkovich (center) is joined by his royal classmates, jesters, knights and peasants for food and merriment. - Angela Tyler photo

Cancer canvassers needed

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

Officials with the Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society have set an ambitious goal for April's annual fundraising drive. Last year the Acton door-to-door campaign raised just over \$25,000 and they hope to top that next month.

"Acton is a very giving community and has always been very supportive of the door-to-door campaign and of the fund raising events that we have so I'm confident the campaign will do well," campaign chair Liz Bailey explained recently.

"The Cancer Society is very close to a lot of people's hearts because many of them know someone who has or had cancer and they want to help. We have a very high per capita donation rate of about \$7 per person which puts us right near the top of per capita giving in all of Ontario," Bailey said.

Bailey has been campaign chair in Acton for nine years since the death of her neighbour and friend, Rowsell Colbeck who had chaired the campaign.

"I used to help Rowsell and when she passed away I had a working knowledge of how the campaign operated so I agreed to help out and here I am."

Bailey, who also canvasses for the United Way, said that they are looking for new canvassers willing to give up a couple of hours of their time during April.

"Our canvassers are getting a little more elderly and we need more. We need approximately eight to ten new people for the Kingham (Road) area and for rural routes," Colbeck said.

Acton Branch president Cathy Gerrow said although Acton residents are committed to donating to the cancer society, there is more competition for donated dollars.

"I would think that the most important thing that we do is raise money," Gerrow explained recently. "Without the money that we raise with our door-to-door campaign and other fund raising events that we have throughout the year, there wouldn't be as much money for research or to provide the other services that we offer."

Of all of the programs offered in Acton by the Cancer Society, Gerrow said one of the busiest is transportation services, with 10 volunteers taking local cancer patients to the hospital for treatment or to their doctor last year.

Programs offered by the Acton branch include Reach for Recovery, a program for breast cancer patients, and

Cancer Connection which twins survivors with patients battling the same kind of cancer. Gerrow said Acton has a very dedicated group of volunteers.

"When you take into account all the drivers, canvassers, people who sell dafodils, the people on the Board and those who run the annual fund raising events like the Paul Murr golf tournament, it's a big group."

Both Bailey and Gerrow are heartened by the latest cancer survivor statistics. When the Canadian Cancer Society was formed 60 years ago one in five people treated for cancer recovered successfully. Now, in large part due to the research funded by the Canadian Cancer Society, that figure is one in two.

Bailey still, however, does have some concerns.

"It's the lung cancer, especially in women, that is on the rise. Younger women tend to be smokers and they seem to be ignoring the statistics and the facts and choosing to smoke," Bailey said, adding that three types of cancer account for more than half of the new cases each year. Among women these are breast, colorectal and lung cancers and among men these are prostate, lung and colorectal cancer.

To help with fund raising, call Bailey at 853-0585.

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