

Acton woman paddles for cancer cure

With a lot of excitement and optimism, Acton's Ruth Kranendonk will set off on a journey of hope this month, paddling in a kayak to help raise money for breast cancer research. She will dedicate her trip to her twin sister, Rosslyn Walker, who succumbed to breast cancer earlier this year.

Kranendonk will join approximately 70 other women - many of them breast cancer survivors - on "Paddle to a Cure," a kayak expedition along the Great Lakes. The goal of the expedition is to raise \$500,000 to help find a cure for breast cancer that

strikes one in nine women. Kranendonk hopes to raise \$2,500 in pledges for her 120-km leg of the journey along Georgian Bay.

After reading about the voyage, Kranendonk called to offer a pledge to a Georgetown woman who is participating in the journey and was told there were several places still open.

"When I said yes, I said yes because I thought what I'm doing is nothing compared to what my sister had to battle through - she was the strongest fighter you could imagine," Kranendonk said.

"This paddle pales in com-



PADDLE POWER: Acton's Ruth Kranendonk holds one of three donated wildlife paintings that she's raffling off to help raise money for breast cancer research. Later this month Kranendonk will take part in Paddle to a Cure, a 120-km kayak trip for the Canadian Breast Cancer foundation. - Frances Niblock photo

parison with what she had to go through, and if it helps and makes a difference for my children and others, it will be worth it."

Kranendonk was worried she wasn't physically fit enough to handle the rigors of a four to seven day paddle, but was assured by the organizers that its not a race, but an experience.

"This is for the purpose of healing and raising money for a good cause," she said, adding she planned to get in better shape by riding her bicycle and rowing a boat back and forth to an island near her cottage.

Kranendonk said knowing she helped raise money for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foun-

ation will be the best part of the trip.

"The experience is going to be a bonus for me, but that fundraising thing will be the best. I'm not very good at asking anybody for money and I'm amazed with the pledges that people have given me so far," she said.

"I'm going to take a journal with me and write a letter to my sister every night and I think sharing with other people is going to be very therapeutic. I'm more excited than apprehensive."

Anyone wishing to sponsor Kranendonk should make his or her cheque payable to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Pledges can be dropped off at Paintin' Friends on Mill Street, which Kranendonk co-owns.

Kranendonk also has tickets for three donated wildlife paintings, on display at Paintin' Friends, that will be raffled to raise money for a cure.

LETTERS

Donates to HHCSI

Dear editor,
Jim's Repair Shop in Rockwood recently donated \$500 worth of home repair supplies for the HHCSI's seniors home maintenance program. This donation was very much appreciated and will make a vast difference to our local seniors who require this program to remain independent within their home community.

Our agency (Halton Hills Community Support and Information) depends on community partners such as Jim's Repair Shop to off set program costs. Without local businesses supporting our program; we would not be able to operate many of our much-needed services for seniors.

Thank-you again to all our committed donors for your very generous support and donations!

Sincerely,
Terri Forbes,
Seniors' Coordinator

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