

After close encounter with cancer

Coles changing the lives of others

By **TED BROWN**
Staff Writer

Like so many others, a close encounter with cancer changed the life of Carol Ann Coles forever.

And, in making that change, Carol Ann has quite possibly changed the lives of many others as a result.

Coles, a retired executive from Bell Canada, was the guest speaker at the annual Campaign Celebration Luncheon, for the Georgetown branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, April 23 at North Halton Golf and Country Club.

In 1991, Coles discovered a lump in her breast, at the very same time her mother was undergoing treatment for advanced breast cancer. Coles underwent a simple lumpectomy, and has been clear for five years.

As a result of her ordeal, Coles decided cancer patients needed tangible support. While visiting her native Nova Scotia, she came across a basket of pewter hearts, called 'worry hearts,' sold at the Ocean Art Pewter store, near Peggy's Cove.

"At first I bought four, then returned to the store to buy 10," she told the group, "And I gave them to patients who needed some moral support, while undergoing treatment. I started to call them 'holders of the hearts.'"

After some time, Coles decided

the hearts could work as a fund-raising tool, and approached the people at Ocean Art, to see if they would like to redesign the heart to her specifications, and rename it the Comfort Heart.

They were quite receptive, and as a result, the national Comfort Heart program has raised more than \$350,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society through



CAROL ANN COLES

sales of the \$10 hearts.

Comfort Hearts are available from the society, and Coles says they have become very popular, with many people having them engraved, and adding them to a silver chain, or a key ring. But more importantly, Comfort Hearts are now bringing together a group of people, giving moral support and making their ordeal a little less traumatic.

Through her own experience, Coles has no doubt make a change for many cancer patients. And in the process, she has turned her ordeal into a positive one, raising much needed funds for the Cancer Society.



Branch 120 of the Royal Canadian Legion recently donated a wheelchair to Georgetown Seniors' Centre. On hand for the presentation were, (from left) Georgetown Seniors second VP Helen McNeil, seniors secretary and public relations director Roland Lobb, Legion seniors chair Harry Bottoms, seniors coordinator Adriana Lawless, seniors president Flo Carswell, Legion president Marc Lafleur, Legion executive member Denny Wright, seniors facility chair Dorothy Hazelden and seniors treasurer Bill Breckenridge. Photo by Ted Brown

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