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RELAY FOR LIFE: The Wellington County and Acton chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society held a Relay for Life at Rockmosa Park on Friday. Candles lit the track in memory or honour of those who have lived with cancer. The rain did not dampen spirits as participants took turns walking all night to raise funds and awareness in the fight against cancer. *Photo Rebecca Ring*

Rain doesn't dampen spirits at Rockwood Relay for Life

By Frances Niblock

Young and old. Recovering and recovered. Hopeful and helpful – a small group of bedraggled cancer fighters took turns trudging around the track at Rockmosa in the rain on Friday night, raising approximately \$12,000 for cancer research.

They were taking part in the Wellington County Cancer Society's first annual Relay for Life for the Rockwood, Acton and Erin areas, billed as "Let's Spend the Night Together" because teams took turns walking around the track all night after collecting cash pledges.

Cathy Gerrow, president of the Acton branch of the Wellington Unit said it rained hard and long all night, but a small determined group stuck it out and walked around the track.

"It went really well, despite the rain. We had about 35 cancer survivors in the Survivor's Lap, we had great food and good entertainment all night and people had a good time," Gerrow said on Monday.

The track was ringed with luminary candles – burning candles in paper bags that people had purchased and then covered with messages of hope and remembrance – and Gerrow said they made a beautiful sight when the sun came up on Saturday morning.

"It was a special feeling and made us all feel a little less wet and cold. I want to say thanks to the committee that organized the Relay for Life and to all of the people who made it a success."

Mary Anne Myhill, Wellington County Unit

manager and a cancer survivor, said they have already received \$10,200 in cash and expect approximately \$2,000 more in pledges.

"Despite the rain, people had a real passion for this event – even the luminary candles stayed lit," Myhill said on Monday, adding Relays for Life usually draw more than the eight to 10 teams that signed up for the Rockmosa event which had a lot of individuals.

Myhill said the 35 cancer survivors who were asked to make the first lap around the track in the Survivor's Lap included a four-year-old and numerous senior citizens.

"Some were very healthy and some were very ill. Some had to be taken around in a golf cart and some were walking and running and singing and dancing," Myhill said, adding the Acton Cancer Society volunteers

rose to the occasion despite the rain.

Myhill thanked Guelph-Eramosa Township for allowing the Cancer Society to use Rockmosa for the event for free and thanked the entertainment that also donated its talent and time.

Guelph-Eramosa Township Mayor Clint Martin said offering the use of Rockmosa was the "least we could do" to help the Cancer Society raise money.



Just before the deluge

Cadets...

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half boys who attend a weekly parade at the Legion.

Commanding Officer Captain Richard Chapman said this year their numbers are "critically low" and they need more Cadets to ensure they do not go into a probationary state.

Chapman said they hope to do some recruiting in local schools and new cadets are welcome to register any Tuesday evening at the Legion.

For more information call 905-873-7100.



Braving the deluge