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Acton cancer survivor knows value of Canadian Cancer Society campaign

By Liz Bailey

Believe it or not, spring is around the corner and so are April, daffodils and the Canadian Cancer Society's annual residential campaign. April has been the C.C.S.'s big fundraising month since the 1950's but lately another independent group has been canvassing in April, too. It's important that you know where your money is going to so that you can make an informed decision when someone knocks on your door.

You might be asking yourself why I would be taking the time to write this article. Many of you will recognize me as being a member of the Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society but more importantly, as of August 17, 2007 I have been on a journey that now allows me to call myself a cancer survivor. Who knew that, after 18 years of chairing the residential campaign, I would now be the recipient of the life saving research, treatment and patient services that many volunteers and canvassers gave you the opportunity to donate to? My family and I are so thankful.

When my surgeon gave me the news that yes, indeed my biopsy showed that little lump in my breast was malignant; she had in her hand numerous booklets and information sheets to help me understand what was happening to me and what lay ahead. Guess where they came from? Yes – the Canadian Cancer Society.

Let me tell you – those little booklets are well worn from constant use. They are written simply in layman's terms and are very reassuring. If I had more questions, the phone number was right there and I used it. When you are facing an uncertain future your brain functions very differently. I found it very hard to focus and retain information so it was nice to be able to refer to those very user friendly resources when I needed clarity and up to date information. I was very fortunate in that my husband and I are retired and our children are adults so we didn't need to use any of the other support services the CCS



Liz Bailey

has to offer.

Research! I have to be honest and say that I really didn't think much about it before. I know that is was very important and very expensive but much too complicated for me to read a lot about. Let me tell you – I have now become a walking encyclopaedia about it as I know that the results of research are the only reason I am sitting here today.

My cancer was a very aggressive one, – a grade 3. I found it myself and quickly did something about it – in other words it was caught early. I cannot begin to express to you my thanks and appreciation for my surgeon, my oncologist, my family doctor and all of the technicians and scientists who have worked on treatments and discoveries over the years.

Chemotherapy was the pits but the alternative was unthinkable. If you have watched any of the programs on TV about

research you will understand why it is such a long and expensive process. Years and years of work and millions of dollars go into finding better treatments. There are over a hundred different kinds of cancer and each one needs a different treatment. Many more of us are living longer because of it.

I called the Guelph office to find just where your money goes to when it is donated to the Canadian Cancer Society – here is some of what I found out...

- In 2009, Acton volunteer drivers took 31 Acton clients to their cancer treatments making over 200 trips and driving 35,000 kilometres.

- In 2008, 52 volunteer drivers across Wellington County took nearly 300 clients to their cancer treatments making over 2,936 trips and driving over 240,000 kilometres.

- In 2008, Wellington County Unit, of which Ac-

ton is a branch, raised almost \$1,000,000 for research and services in your community.

- Every week, 3,200 Canadians are diagnosed with cancer.

- Two in five Canadians will develop some form of cancer in his/her lifetime.

- In 2008-2009, the Canadian Cancer Society is funding more than \$49 million towards the most promising research projects spanning prevention, early detection, new treatment options and improved support. Today, 62 percent of Canadians survive cancer, up from 33 percent in the 1960s.

- A cancer research project can cost up to \$130,000 per year which supports technicians, trainees and provides necessary supplies.

- Every year, 75 percent of high scoring research applications go unfunded because there is not enough money.

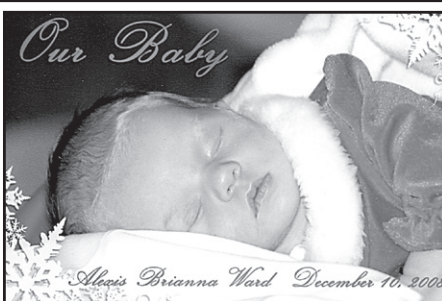
- The Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario Division management and expense ration remains below 4%. The Society's biggest asset is its thousands of enthusiastic dedicated volunteers.

Hopefully this has given you some information about the role the Canadian Cancer Society plays in a patient's life. Now when someone comes to your door you can donate to the group you wish to – both have a place in our community – one covers a broader base of treatment and support and will allow thousands to live longer.

I am getting on with my life – three little grandsons keep my husband and I very busy – but niggling at the back of my mind is the thought that the cancer may rear its ugly head again. It happened once before, why not again?

I am living a much simpler life and am much more aware of what I put into my body, but, it is the thought of those scientists and researchers working hard to find new treatments that keeps me, my husband, my children and my grandchildren thinking positively.

Remember the daffodil – the symbol of hope.



Richard and Wendy Ward of Rockwood, along with very proud big sister Vanessa, are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of Alexis Brianna. Born December 10, 2008 weighing 6lbs 5oz. Loving Grandparents are Larry and Margaret Barnstaple of R.R.#2 Acton, Jean and John Ward of R.R.#3 Fergus. Aunties Andria and Lynda Uncles Bill, Mike and Mark. Excited cousins Emma, Aidan, Hayley and Amy. Many thanks to Drs Fraser & Perron, Nurse Eileen & the wonderful staff at Guelph General Hospital.



KING

Melissa (McNabb) & Dwaine are pleased to announce the arrival of

Megan Gladys,

weighing 7lb., 15ozs.
on February 20, 2009
at Milton Hospital.

She is welcomed by
grandparents

John & Sherry McNabb of
Acton & Albert & Gladys of
Newfoundland.

Many thanks to Dr. Hunter
and the nursing Staff.