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Community Page

Local teams fundraise for breast cancer walk

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

They're local heroes who come from all walks of life. Some are fresh-faced teens whose lives are just starting, while others are older women who know a little too much about the realities of life. Some have bravely survived sickness and disease, while others are praying they'll never have to.

Whatever their differences, what these women — and some men — have in common trumps everything else.

They've all been touched in some way by cancer. And they've all decided to rise up and fight this common foe by doing something they do every day — walking.

From September 9 to 11, about 50 Miltonians will be joining thousands of other dedicated men and women to take part in the third annual Weekend to End Breast Cancer in Toronto.

They'll walk 60 kilometres in two days to raise funds and awareness for Princess Margaret Hospital's breast cancer programs.

"With one in nine Canadian women diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime, the participants of The Weekend to End Breast Cancer have the opportunity to make a personal difference in the fight against breast cancer and, collectively, will have an enormous impact on breast cancer research and funding," said a spokesperson for the event.

In order to participate, each walker must train for the walk and commit to raising a minimum of \$2,000.

The often humorous team names — from 'Keeping the Headlites Brite' to 'Boobs or Bust' — point to the team spirit that accompanies the event.

The reasons for participating are as varied as the walkers themselves.

Miltonian Karen Sinden is walking for the second year because of a dream she has of helping eradicate breast cancer.

"When my grandchildren ask me 'Grandma, when you were little was there really a disease called breast cancer?' I want to be able to answer, 'Yes, dear, but there isn't anymore.'"

An initial hesitation about such a huge undertaking seems to be a feeling many of the participants battled.

Local resident Sarah Parker said feelings of self-doubt came flooding in and fear took over.

"I was frightened of walking 60 kilometres. What if I couldn't do it? I was frightened of raising money — \$2,000 is a large amount. What if I let my team and myself down? Mostly, I was just frightened of such a large commitment," she said.

Then a "ray of reality" hit.



Photo by PETER C. McCUSKER

From left, Willi Goodfellow, Marianne Davidson, Karen Sinden, Jill Brown and Kim Morris prepare to walk in the third annual Weekend to End Breast Cancer in Toronto.

"What a lucky and blessed person I am to have these fears," she said. "People who are fighting this disease do not have the luxury of such petty fears."

Kimberly Morris said it's her friend Mary-Ann Cheung who's to thank for her participation.

"She actually talked me into it, as I have to admit I was very intimidated about the whole thing," Ms Morris said.

As a creative way to fundraise, Ms Morris, a teacher in Mississauga, helped put on a 'Change for Change' drive at her school.

"We raised \$9,010 by collecting loose change. It's amazing how fast pennies and nickels can add up," she said.

Willi Goodfellow, another Milton participant, is walking in the event for the first time this year. She too said she was intimidated by the thought

of raising \$2,000, but quickly overcame that when she considered the bigger picture.

"Every time I hear of someone being diagnosed with breast cancer, I feel guilty for the relief I feel (at being healthy) and sorrow for the grief another family suffers."

Marianne Davidson will be walking for the first time with her sister-in-law and her two daughters. Her motivation is, quite simply, all the people in her life who have been struck with breast cancer.

"My one aunt succumbed to breast cancer over 20 years ago. But two other aunts of mine are in remission and are doing well," Ms Davidson said, adding, "We also have a wonderful lady at work that is also in remission. She is a great gal and has such a positive outlook on life."

She said she's been gradually increasing her

walking distance as she trains, and will soon attempt a 23-kilometre walk with her husband.

"As for fundraising, that's always a challenge, but I am sure I'll reach my goal," Ms Davidson said.

The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation is a leader in the fight against cancer and the largest institution in Canada exclusively devoted to cancer treatment, research and education.

Funds will be primarily directed to research, with some also going to support a new survivorship clinic and program at the hospital.

For more information on the event, to participate in next year's walk or to make an on-line donation to any of the walkers, visit www.end-cancer.ca.

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Programming Schedule — Tuesday, August 2- Monday, August 8, 2005

Tuesday, August 2	Wednesday, August 3	Thursday, August 4	Friday, August 5	Saturday, August 6	Sunday, August 7	Monday, August 8
Midnight - 5:00am Plugged In! EXTRA	Midnight - 5:00am Plugged In! EXTRA	Midnight - 5:00am Plugged In! EXTRA	Midnight - 5:00am Plugged In! EXTRA	Midnight - 5:00am Plugged In! EXTRA	Midnight - 5:00am Plugged In! EXTRA	Midnight - 5:00am Plugged In! EXTRA
5:00am - 8:00am TVCogeco Billboard & Weather Radio	5:00am - 8:00am TVCogeco Billboard & Weather Radio	5:00am - 8:00am TVCogeco Billboard & Weather Radio	5:00am - 8:00am TVCogeco Billboard & Weather Radio	5:00am - 8:00am TVCogeco Billboard & Weather Radio	5:00am - 8:00am TVCogeco Billboard & Weather Radio	5:00am - 8:00am TVCogeco Billboard & Weather Radio
8:00am - 5:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 1:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 4:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 10:30pm Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 5:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA
5:00pm - 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	1:00pm - 4:00pm Halton Hills Council Jul 11 2005	1:00pm - 4:00pm Milton Council Jul 18 2005	1:00pm - 4:00pm Halton Region Council Jul 13 2005	4:00pm TVCogeco Sports: Burlington International Games	10:30am TVCogeco Sports: Burlington International Games	5:00pm - 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA
11:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	4:00pm - 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	4:00pm - 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	4:00pm - 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	6:30pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	1:00pm - 5:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	9:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA
	8:00pm Milton Council Jul 18 2005	8:00pm Halton Region Council Jul 13 2005	6:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA		5:00pm - 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	
	10:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	11:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA			8:00pm - Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	