

## COMMUNITY

### Going the distance

Miltonians Amanda Pizarro (left) and Kim Langan near the finish line during the recent 12th annual Shoppers Drug Mart Weekend to End Women's Cancers in Toronto. They collectively raised more than \$5,500 for Princess Margaret Hospital and completed the two-day, 60-km walk throughout the streets of Toronto.

It was the first year each of the women participated in the walk. Langan took part to honour her father, who died of lung cancer, her mom, who's a lung cancer survivor and two friends who are both breast cancer survivors. Fortunately not touched by cancer, Pizarro walked in honour and memory for all who have survived cancer and died from it.

*Photo courtesy of the Weekend to End Women's Cancers*



ADVERTORIAL

## New program provides emergency mortgage loans to homeowners

On November 1, 2013, Expert Mortgage launched the "85-Alive" program in Ontario. The concept was simple: as long as you had a pulse, Expert Mortgage would provide you with a home equity loan, up to 85 per cent of the value of your property. No job required. Bad credit, OK.

The reason why Expert Mortgage could offer a "no questions asked" lending program, while the major banks could not, is that they represent over 200 private lenders who lend strictly on property value. These sub-prime lenders specialize in mortgage clients who have had some bad luck, and need a helping hand until they get back on their feet.

The program has been so successful that Expert Mortgage can barely keep up with the volume of calls. To help fund this unexpectedly large number of borrowers, it has partnered up with dozens more private lenders.

Licensed Mortgage Agent Lisa Pulcini, Expert Mortgage's "85-Alive" representative for Milton, says, "We're seeing mostly homeowners behind on mortgage and property taxes. The banks are refusing to restructure their loans. Many of these people have lost jobs due to the bad economy... or they're self-employed. Unless you are a perfect applicant, the bank doesn't want to talk to you."

But not everyone condones Expert Mortgage's easy lending criteria. A local real estate agent with 25 years of experience, who has asked to remain anonymous, says, "When this market turns down, it's going to get ugly! It's utter financial suicide for Expert Mortgage to be giving money away so easily to clients without the ability to make payments. I'd be surprised if they're still in business five years from now."

Nonetheless, homeowners like Anita P. don't see a

problem with the program. When questioned on how she plans on making payments on her mortgage when she has no income, Anita responds, "We were four months behind on our mortgage and they saved our house. My husband has been unemployed for nine months. He won't be unemployed forever. We used the 85-Alive loan to pay off all our debt. We also had \$25,000 left over that we put in the bank for emergencies. And to make life easy, they worked it out so we have no mortgage payments for 12 months."

For more details on the "85-Alive" program, contact Lisa, [AccessMyEquity.com](http://AccessMyEquity.com), 1-800-762-5191.



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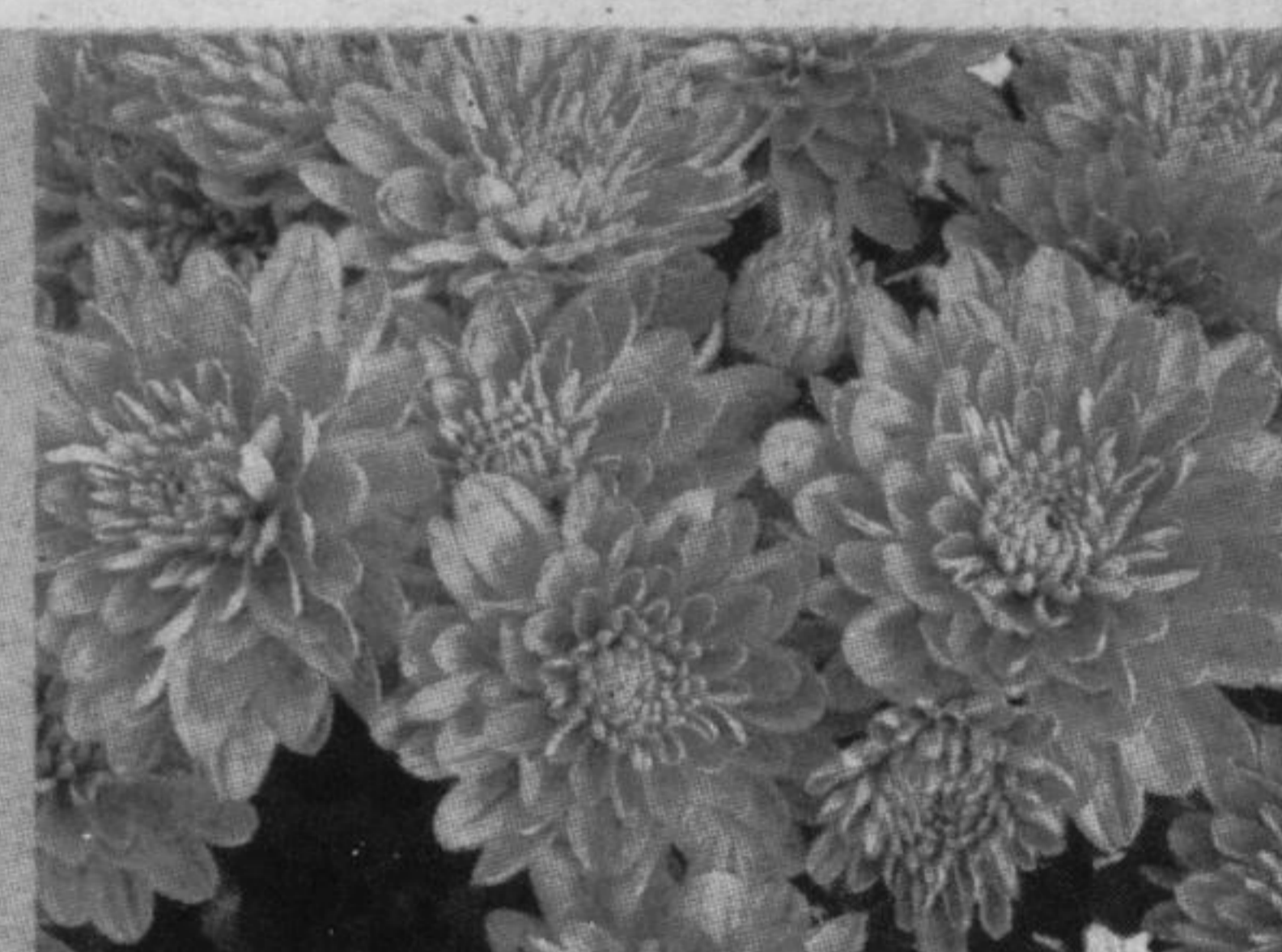
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