

Volunteers get a chance to unwind before drive

by Christine Korbak
True North recording artist, Doug Cameron, says he's happy to be playing at Thursday's "Daffodil Pep Rally" because he'll be supporting the local work of the Canadian Cancer Society.

The Rally, at Budd Watson Gallery on Thursday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m., is an opportunity for all volunteers of the local unit of the Society to enjoy the entertainment and to get set for the annual April campaign for funds.

Sylvia Cameron, Doug's mother and treasurer for the Midland and District Unit, says Doug is always interested in helping out in his hometown. "With touring and recording, Doug's time is limited, but he enjoys coming home and putting something back into the community."

Doug, a native of Midland and graduate of Midland Secondary School, made his recording debut in 1985 with an album entitled "Mona with the Children". He has since been nominated for both Juno and Casby awards, released two music videos, and recently returned from performing in the islands of the Barbados.

Although Doug's presence at the Rally will be an exciting highlight, organizers with the Cancer Society are pleased to have other local talents performing. D.J. Robinson, Fred Hanmore, and the Lion's

Club Steel Band, "Touch of Class", are all scheduled to appear. Bob Bruer and his choir were originally planning to attend, but have since been forced to cancel.

D.J. Robinson is a local entertainer and singer of distinctive songs like "Don't Bury Me". He is a member of the Canadian Academy of Recording Artists and is affiliated with PRO Canada.

Fred Hanmore is well-known for his vocal renditions of robust songs. He has also sung with the St. Paul's United Church choir and now sings with the Vasey United Church choir, often doing solos. He will be accompanied at the Rally by Shirley Whittington on piano.

Touch of Class will be the house band for the evening. The dozen or so teenage musicians are led by Kay Mounter. The drums they use were made by a Trinidadian in Toronto, and were donated to the Midland Lion's Club by Ted Saunders of Downsview.

Although these instruments begin as oil drums, an interesting process has been used for over 40 years to make the ordinary containers musical. The tops are stretched and beaten into a convex shape, the "notes" are marked and "seamed" with a hammer and cold chisel, the "pan" is then burned, and to finish, the pan is oiled and tuned.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Vince Evenden, is a performer in his own right.

The beloved local personality is a real estate agent who entertains audiences with both his musical and comedic talents at many events.

Tom Hawkins, recently retired from his position as an Engineering Technician with Midland Public Utilities Commission, is the organizer of the Rally.

Mr. Hawkins has previously organized shows for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the North Simcoe Development Corporation. When he asked, "How would you like to have a variety show for the Cancer Society?", his friends Paul and Shirley Mills, long-time volunteers with the Socie-

ty, were delighted to pass on his offer to Campaign Chairman Shirley Whittington.

"It's an ideal way to get our fundraising month started," Whittington says. "We hope to have all of our volunteers present - canvassers, drivers, education and patient services volunteers, everyone - so that we can celebrate what we've accomplished and get recharged for the work ahead."

Following the Rally, the Unit's annual Daffodil Day will be on Friday, April 3, and the door-to-door canvass will begin.

The Midland and District Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society hopes to raise \$50,000 this year to provide funds for ongoing cancer research, and to

continue the Unit's work in schools and in the workplace.

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Show headliner

Famed musician Doug Cameron, (right) on Thursday evening. Doug will be performing with a number of other local artists in aid of cancer research. Don't forget April is Cancer Month. Rally slated for the Budd Watson Gallery

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Seeks support

Louise Thomson, spokeswoman, for Preserve the Rights of a Bilingual (PROBE), asked members of Tiny Township council for their support.

PROBE is opposing the French Language Education Council's (FLEC) decision to remove French language instruction from Ecole Secondaire Penetanguishene Secondary School over the next five years.

Thomson, who addressed the council at its Wednesday meeting, has already won the support of Port McNicoll and Penetang councils.

Although the members expressed individual concern about FLEC's initiative, Reeve Morris Darby concurred with the rest of council when he said that it was not in their jurisdiction to vote on educational matters.

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