

# Hospice Memory Walk brings out emotions

BY DANIEL SCHWAB

**HARROW** – The Hospice of Windsor Essex County Memory Walk drew 50 supporters Oct. 1 and helped bring the organization \$8,200 closer to reaching its annual fundraising goal.

The second annual event was organized by the Harrow Rotary Club and raised \$1,000 more than last year's event. Harrow Rotary Club President Jill Marontate said for a lot of walkers, the event was the first time they were able to honour the memory of a lost loved one publicly.

"Sometimes it does get emotional," Marontate said.

Carol Derbyshire, executive director of Hospice of Windsor-Essex, said the event is a "tremendous boost for the organization."

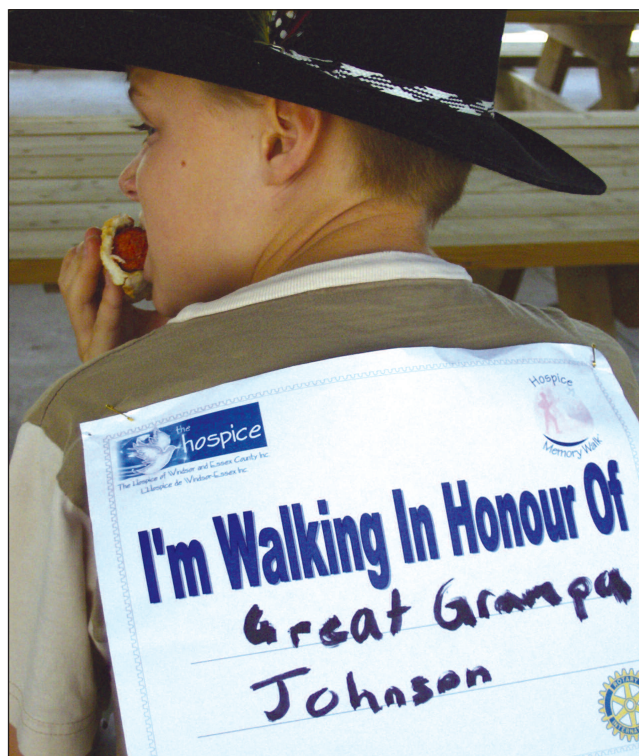
"We have to raise \$800,000 a year just to oper-

ate," Derbyshire said. "All our services to patients and families are free of charge and events like this really help us out so that we can get the work done."

Derbyshire said the "tremendous" show of support for events such as the Memory Walk is what helps make the local charity the envy of other hospice organizations across the province.

"Other hospices don't get this kind of support," she said. "From day one 28 years ago, this whole community embraced the concept and have been supporting us all along. Today was a perfect example of that."

Hospice of Windsor-Essex County is a team of physicians, nurses, social workers and volunteers who support patients and families who are facing a life-threatening illness.



Drew Kelly, 12, takes a rest after participating in the second annual Hospice Memory Walk in Harrow Sunday. Nearly 50 people came out to walk in support of Hospice of Windsor-Essex County.

Many of the patients in Windsor and Essex County are fighting cancers, AIDS and Lou Gehrig's disease, Derbyshire said. The organization is currently building the Hospice Village, a 20,000-square-foot facility that houses staff and provides therapy rooms for patients and families. A week ago, the charity also broke ground for two patient homes that will be built on the hospice site in east Windsor. The facility includes eight beds that will provide care for patients

who are being treated out of the hospital.

"Hopefully it will offset an admittance to hospital," Derbyshire said.

The organization is also renovating another donated home where children can stay while visiting a parent or sibling undergoing treatment for a terminal illness.

"It will all be geared to children – a fun place for them," Derbyshire said. "And we'll also have staff to provide support for them during this difficult time in their lives."

Last year, Derbyshire said there were about 35 to 40 walkers who participated in the walk.

"So this year we're up a little in attendance and quite a bit in proceeds," she said. "It gets a little emotional towards the end, but it's also a day for people to celebrate the lives of people they love. I think we all worry that our loved ones might be forgotten so this is a day, whether mom or dad died 10 years ago, that people can still come out to walk and remember."

One walker, Vince Deschamps says if he's able, he'll volunteer for the walk for the next "20 years."

"We've had family members affected by illnesses where Hospice has helped out," Deschamps said. "It's good to have that support

system. They all have that common knowledge of what you're going through ... they know how to help."

The walkers started at Colio Estate Winery and were escorted by the Essex Police Service to the Walker Road entrance of the ChryslerCanada Greenway. Each had a choice of walking one kilometre or a four-kilometre loop back to the winery. Walkers were also encouraged to raise pledges for the event.

After the walk, cancer survivor Lisa Deneau performed songs for the group gathered back at Colio Estate Winery. Deneau also sold her CDs with all proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society. John Jenner raised \$1,000 in pledges, the most of any participant this year.

## EDHS News

BY KYLE WALKER

SPECIAL TO THE FREE PRESS

After finishing the fourth week of the new school year, Essex District High School already has big plans for the future.

Kicking off the new game season, the senior football team has a record of 1-1-0. The team won 34-8 against Assumption Sept. 28.

The volleyball team is also starting the new season strong with a 3-2-0 record. The junior boys have a game against St. Anne's High School Friday in Tecumseh. The cross-country team has their first race Oct. 2.

The school had its annual blood drive Sept. 29. Students were eligible to give blood if they met the age and weight requirements and did not have tattoos or piercings done within the last six months. Sept. 29 was also the school's first "hat day" of the year. The last Friday of every month students are allowed to wear hats in class.

On Saturday, Oct. 14 the

school is holding a huge yard sale to help raise money for the Red Raider athletic program.

The schools' junior and senior girls' basketball seasons are well underway. Both teams will be involved in regular season and tournament action this month, including one in Strathroy on October 20 and 21.

The EDHS University Info Day will be Oct. 5 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Information is available for students about university and community college courses and classes.

The EDHS concert band is preparing for the honour's banquet as well as a concert in December.

The Red Raider Raffle is back! There are over \$47,000 in cash prizes to be won, including weekly draws of \$500, monthly draws of \$2,000, and grand prizes of \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$20,000. Tickets are \$60 each and are eligible for all 16 draws. Contact EDHS at 776-7344 to get your ticket.

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