

Uxbridge's Olive Barton

Senior wins battle against cancer

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Staff Reporter

Olive Barton's participation in the recent Terry Fox Run is as inspiring a story as that of the courageous one-legged Marathon of Hope runner himself.

The 66-year-old Uxbridge woman has come a long way since that dark time in early 1985 when she was diagnosed to have cancer of the oesophagus. This devastating news followed just five months after the death of her husband, John Barton, and was compounded by the loss of a sister.

But Mrs. Barton summoned up all her courage and determination to wage a successful battle against the disease and the deep depression that often accompanies such a life-threatening situation.

In delicate surgery at Toronto

General Hospital, the cancer patient's oesophagus was removed and her stomach connected directly to the throat.

Today, she's feeling much better and is again an integral part of the close-knit community in which she has lived her entire life.

One of Mrs. Barton's most satisfying post-surgery accomplishments began early on the sunny morning of Sept. 14 when she joined more than 100 Uxbridge walkers, runners and cyclists — and thousands more at sites across Canada — to raise money for cancer research.

"I never felt so much about wanting to do something as I did about that run," she said of the annual memorial trek. "I think it meant a lot to me to think that I could finish, knowing that just a year and a half ago I had that big

surgery."

The engaging senior citizen is encouraged by a recent medical check-up that revealed no further sign of cancer. The news was greeted with great joy and relief by Mrs. Barton, her family and a legion of concerned friends.

Now, her main advice to other cancer patients is never give up hope.

"It's such a shock to be told that you have cancer, but I just made up my mind that I was going to get better," Mrs. Barton said. "It's very easy to get down and depressed with the shock of the news. But never give up, have faith and hope. Just never give up!"

Though her activities are still somewhat limited, the Church Street resident keeps herself busy and enjoys a brisk walk nearly ev-

ery day.

She also cherishes her long-running association with St. Andrews-Chalmers Presbyterian Church, which has remained a source of spiritual support throughout her ordeal.

An avid doll collector and quilter, she still finds time to work part-time and speak words of inspiration at local women's group meetings.

But on Sept. 14, Mrs. Barton's actions spoke louder than any words. She began Uxbridge's challenging 10-kilometre Terry Fox course at 9:05 a.m. and reached the finish line just an hour and 25 minutes later.

"I came in the gate at 10:30 a.m. and was in church by 11 a.m.," noted Mrs. Barton, who received plaques as top over 40 finisher and oldest participant.



OLIVE BARTON
Fights cancer

She entered the same event two years ago but claimed the 1986 version has "taken on more meaning for me."

Coloured by _____

Child

**Cross at the crosswalk.
Stop, lock and point.**

M.S. topic of meeting

Home renovations and adaptations will be the topic of a local multiple sclerosis group's annual meeting.

The York East Multiple Sclerosis Chapter meeting takes place Tuesday, Sept. 30 from 7

to 9 p.m. at St. Patrick Catholic School.

Coffee and desserts will be served and a new board of directors will be elected. The school is fully accessible to wheelchairs, including the washrooms.

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