

Firefighters help walkers fight breast cancer

Every footstep Stouffville resident Margaret MacLaren takes during the 60 km Weekend to End Breast Cancer walk gives cancer patients at Princess Margaret Hospital a better chance of fighting the disease.

Mrs. MacLaren will join two friends, Chris Fowler from Pickering and Donna Reid Varley from Scarborough and about 5,000 others on the two-day trek. The third annual walk is from Sept. 9 to 11 in Toronto.

Half the \$2,000 minimum pledges each woman had to raise, came through fundraising events held by Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services staff.

Firefighter Mark Büsse spearheaded the fundraiser.

Local firefighters and emergency services staff raised over \$3,000 by holding a car wash June

Our Town

with Hannelore Volpe

11 at the downtown Stouffville fire station and from donations from drivers on Stouffville's Main Street.

They were able to give each of the three women a \$1,059 donation.

Mrs. MacLaren's daughter, Heather who is 28, will also join the walk.

Mrs. MacLaren, her husband, Robert, and grand daughter, Hayley, were among those volunteering at the car wash.

The family has lived in Whitchurch-Stouffville for 22 years.

"There is not a day that goes by that one of our customers, family, neighbours and friends have not been diagnosed with cancer or died with cancer," she said.

She believes that individuals can make a difference, citing the influence Terry Fox still has 25 years after his cross-Canada marathon to raise money for cancer research.

Last year, over 4,500 walkers took part in the Weekend to End Breast Cancer, raising close to \$15 million.

More than 150,000 donors

contributed to the walkers.

To raise funds for herself and her daughter, Mrs. MacLaren has held garage sales and sold tickets for a giveaway through her Merry Maids home cleaning business in Uxbridge.

Patrons had a chance to win free housecleaning for three months and a spa and dinner day.

To train for the event, Mrs. MacLaren walks regularly and tries to jog 20 km on weekends.

Mrs. MacLaren has participated in the annual Relay for Life to support the Canadian Cancer Society and organized the first Relay for Life in North Durham last year.

MUSICAL TALENT NEEDED

Bands, singers and instrumentalists are invited to perform at Music in the Park Aug. 7 in

Stouffville.

Hosted by local songwriter Don Quarles, the event is a chance to highlight and celebrate music made by Whitchurch-Stouffville residents.

Music in the Park will be in the Lions picnic shelter in Memorial Park.

"We are trying to get a real mix of different groups," Mr. Quarles said.

The concert is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is a family-oriented event.

Performers range from professional level to music students. There will be refreshments available to purchase. Some openings are still available.

Anyone who is interested is being in the concert can e-mail dquarles@istar.ca

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