

# Women bare all for charity

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

A dozen York Region women posed for the camera wearing nothing but their smiles in a quest to raise \$100,000 for a cancer centre.

Calling themselves The Ladybugs, the 12 women are featured in a recently published calendar designed to raise money for a \$65-million cancer centre, scheduled for completion in 2008 at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket.

The 2006 calendar is dedicated to the memory of Gail Lesley Boston. The 33-year-old Aurora woman lost her battle with leukemia in 2002. Her mother, Mavis Eastwood of Gormley, initiated the fundraiser in her daughter's memory.

Mrs. Boston is dearly missed. "Throughout her courageous battle with cancer, Gail demonstrated tremendous determination and was an inspiration to everyone around her," Mrs. Eastwood said.

After viewing the movie The Calendar Girls, Mrs. Eastwood and her husband, Rod, convinced 11 of their friends to take off their clothes and pose for the

**'A cancer centre closer to home would have been so much easier for Gail and her three young children.'**

Mavis Eastwood  
cancer victim's mother

camera.

"Our friends knew my daughter spent 10 months of her devastating illness either hospitalized or travelling for frequent trips to Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto from her Aurora home," Mrs. Eastwood said. "A cancer centre closer to home would have been so much easier for Gail and her three young children."

More than 6,000 copies of the calendar are on sale at \$20 each. Every penny raised will go to the new cancer centre.

Calendars are available at Cassidy Flowers, The Rose Pros and the Maid's Cottage in Newmarket, at Betz Pools, Stouffville Flower Shop and Curves in Stouffville, at Salon Secrets, Wellington House and

RoCoCo Ladies Design Wear in Aurora, at the TD Bank and Crawford Wells in King City, at Delux Cleaners in Richmond Hill, at Oak Ridges Outfitters in Oak Ridges and Dearborn Baby Express in Thornhill. As well, they're at doctor offices across the region.

Thornhill photographer David Amois helped produce the calendar.

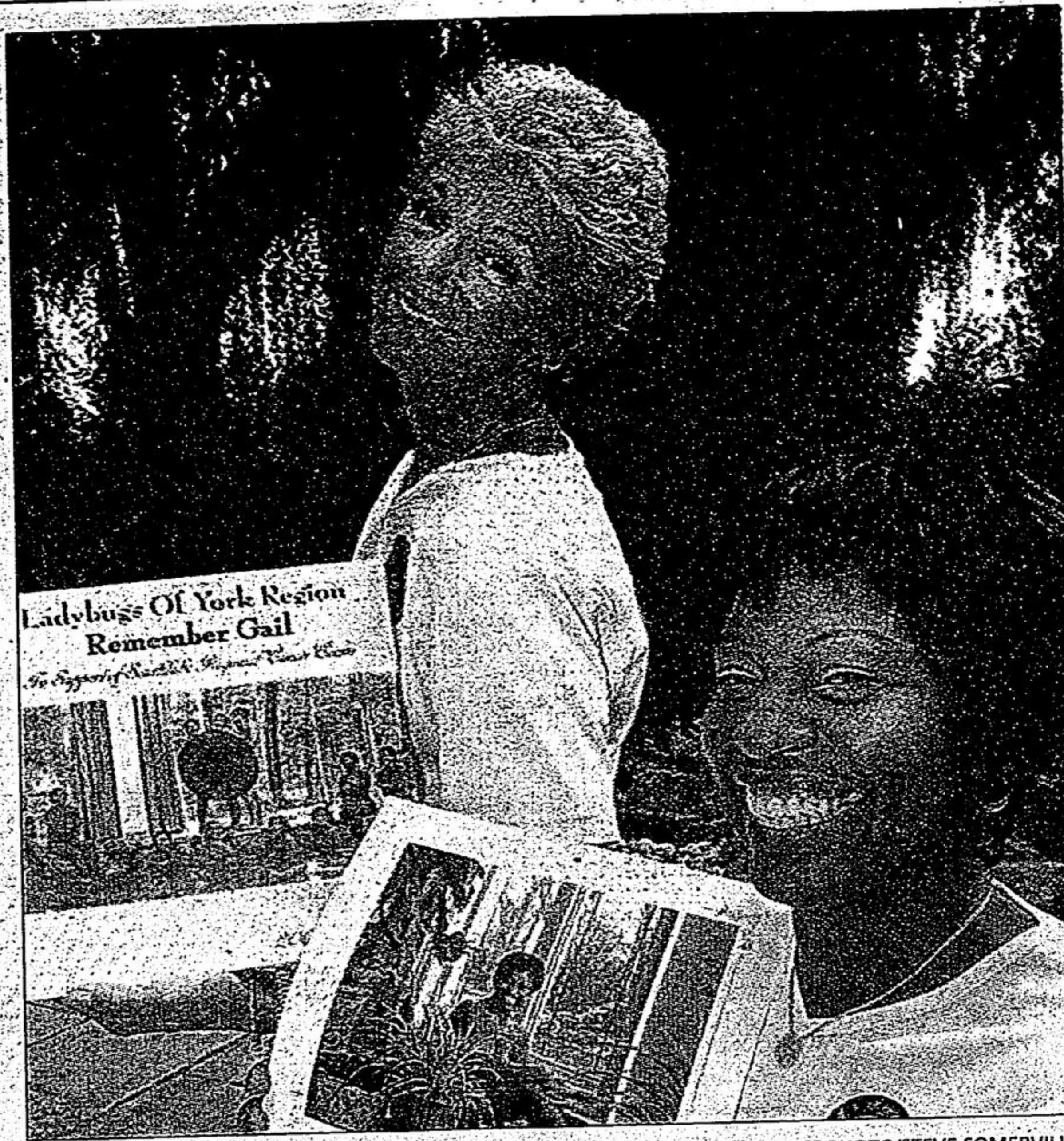
"I first met Gail when she signed her oldest son, Tyler, to my Kidspic program," Mr. Amois said.

A cancer centre will be welcomed by residents across the region, Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation spokesperson Correna Jones said.

The Ladybugs are dear to Mrs. Eastwood's heart. While visiting her daughter in hospital, the pair spotted a ladybug crawling on a window.

"Gail called it a lucky ladybug," Mrs. Eastwood said.

For more information, e-mail mavrod@rodgers.com or call 905-888-0640.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Mavis Eastwood (co-ordinator) and Carrol Strachan show off their form in this 'Ladybugs of York Region Remember Gail' calendar, a fundraising project for cancer research and cures.

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