You can sign up for Stouffville's first cancer relay

Bring nine of your closest friends, co-workers or sports teammates to sign up for Stouffville's first Relay for Life.

Registration for the fundraiser for cancer research and support programs kicks off at Willow Springs Farms and Winery Monday between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.

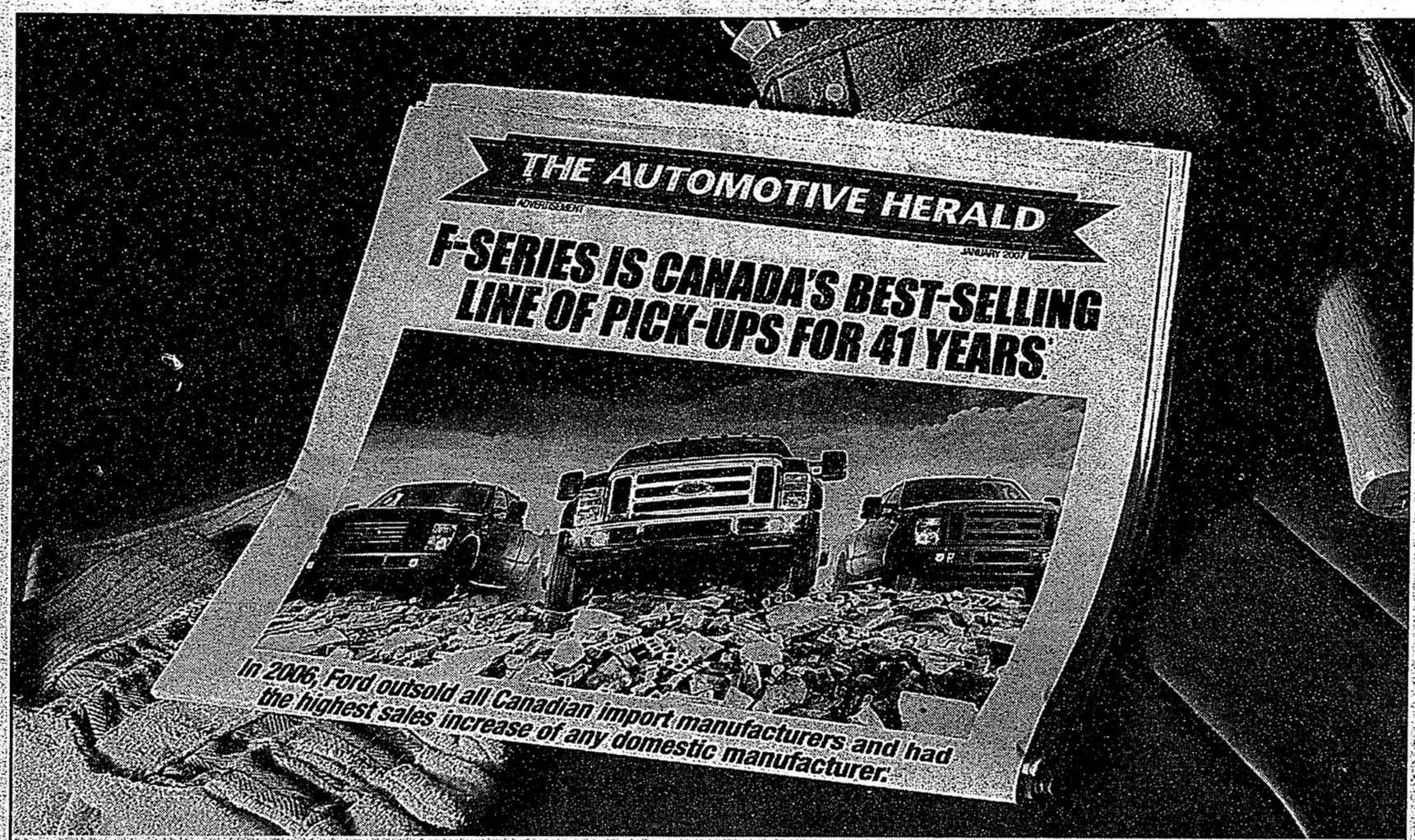
Honorary co-chairpeople are Toronto Maple Leafs assistant coach Keith Acton and former mayor Sue Sherban.

The 12-hour relay goes June 15 at Willowgrove education centre. Stouffville and Markham previously shared an event.

Teams of 10 are encouraged "to come in and sign up on line," event chairperson Terry Neprily said. Willow Springs is at 5572 Bethesda Rd., between Ninth Line and Hwy. 48

Each team is encouraged to raise a minimum of $1,000.

To make a pledge, register a team, volunteer or buy luminary candles, you can also call 905-642-2612 or contact the Canadian Cancer Society by logging on to secureccs.ca



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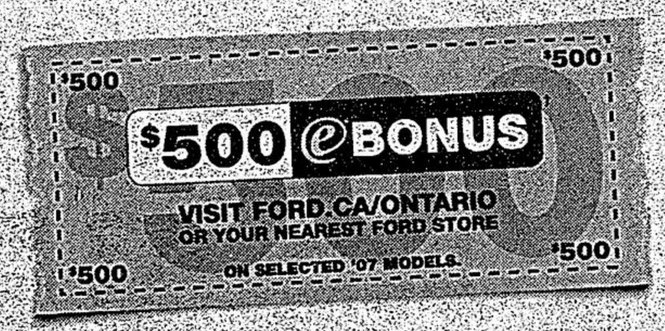

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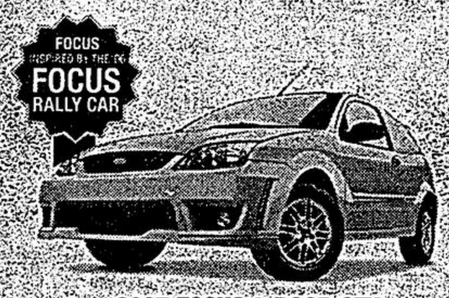

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Kinsmen out to help more 'Dans'

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Former Stouffville resident Dan Pfaff is a cystic fibrosis success story.

On March 22, he'll celebrate five years since he underwent a double lung transplant that saved his life.

The Stouffville Kinsmen Club wants to see more success stories such as Dan's. That's why the club is holding its annual fundraiser for cystic fibrosis, a Valentine's dinner dance at the Stouffville Royal Canadian Legion Feb. 17.

The club has held numerous fundraisers for CF since 1991, bringing in more than $38,000, Gary Gornick, district CF service director for the local club said. The Stouffville Kinsmen provided some financial support to the family during the time of Dan's transplant procedure.

Kinsmen and Kinettes across Canada have raised more than $33 million for cystic fibrosis research and support since 1964.

The lung transplant made "quite a dramatic difference," Dan's mom, Tanis Hargrave said. "Without it, he wouldn't be alive."

Dan is now the assistant manager at a sports store in Aurora, where he has worked for two years. Before the surgery, Dan, the nephew of Councillor Rob Hargrave, became so weak he could barely walk.

This type of organ transplantation is still a fairly new frontier, Ms Hargrave said, but great strides have been made in the past five years alone.

"A lot of kids aren't as fortunate as Dan.," she said. "They might be on the list and organs never come."

More and more of these transplants can be done because people with the disease are healthier, thanks to advances in research.

In the 1960s, people with cystic fibrosis often didn't live past the age of four. Now, many are living to their 30s and beyond.

The disease affects mainly the digestive system and the lungs. People with cystic fibrosis have to take large quantities of enzymes to help them absorb sufficient nutrition and undergo daily therapy to loosen mucus from the lungs.

A cystic fibrosis carrier does not have cystic fibrosis and can never get the disease. However, two people who both have cystic fibrosis genes have a one in four chance of having a child with the disease.

The Stouffville Kinsmen Valentine's Dance takes place from 7 p.m. to 1 p.m. with a roast beef dinner and a live band.

During the evening, the Stouffville YMCA Employment Resource Centre is holding a silent auction to raise money for their local projects.

Tickets are $50 per couple and are available by calling 905-642-9823.

For more information on CF ,go to the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's website at cysticfibrosis.ca

SYMPTOMS OF CF

- constant cough with thick mucous
- excessive appetite, combined with weight loss
- bowel disturbances
- salty-tasting skin
- bouts of pneumonia