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Relay For Life is the Canadian Cancer Society's national, signature fundraising event which celebrates cancer survivors, remembers loved ones lost to cancer and commits to fighting all cancers.

**When:** Thursday, November 28, 2013

**Time:** 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm – light refreshments will be served

**Where:** Centennial Community Centre, 8600 McCowan Road, Markham

Join us to find out more or call for information 905-709-4978



SPORTS

# Grey Cup official glad to go unnoticed

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA  
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Don Carmichael had the good fortune of attending his fifth Grey Cup when the Hamilton Tiger-Cats played the host Saskatchewan Roughriders in Regina Sunday.

But the 55-year-old Stouffville resident and Unionville High School physical education head wasn't sitting in the stands to cheer on one of the teams.

Rather, he was on the field of play where he served on the officiating crew as a side judge for the big game.

Having been an official in four prior Grey Cups with his last one being two years ago in Vancouver, Carmichael said each one is no different from the other.

What might have made Sunday's event a little more special though, was having the Saskatchewan Roughriders playing in front of their hometown fans who display a special affinity for their team.

"It was a great experience," Carmichael said. "They're all a lot of fun to do. This one was no exception."

"The event surrounding the Grey Cup was fantastic. The people of Saskatchewan put on a great spectacle."

Working this past season as a back judge and side judge, Carmichael was informed he would be part of the 101st Grey Cup crew shortly after he worked the Western Conference semifinal between the B.C. Lions and Saskatchewan Roughriders.

*'I've officiated in games before when it was just below zero Celsius but never when it was as cold as it was.'*

To be appointed is based on his performance during the entire season, Carmichael pointed out.

"All Grey Cup appointments are based on merit. You get validated through having a good year. It was a privilege to work that game," he said.

About the only fear Carmichael had going into the game was the weather, which in the days leading up to the game and even on the eve of the Grey Cup reached a frigid minus 39



**DON CARMICHAEL:** High school department head has been a CFL official for 19 seasons.

degrees Celsius.

Fortunately at kick-off time, though, he noted Mother Nature co-operated by warming up temperatures to where it was just a few degrees below freezing once the sun went down.

"We (officiating crew) were hoping the weather forecast would be correct in that it would be near or above freezing on game day," he said. "I've officiated in games before when it was just below zero Celsius but never when it was as cold as it was."

While the game was rather one-sided in favour of the Roughriders, who prevailed in front of a majority of onlookers clad in Rider green 45-23, Carmichael felt all went well from an officiating perspective, as any questionable calls were kept at a minimum.

"As an official you want to do the best job that you can and let the players determine the outcome. You want to be unnoticed and we managed to stay clear of any controversy," he said.

Having just completed his 19th season in officiating CFL games, Carmichael hopes he gets another opportunity to work another Grey Cup.

"I haven't made any definite plans on how long I would like to continue. Maybe five more years," he said. "By that time it might be time for other people to move into my role because you can't do it forever."

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