

Hospital Heelers win leadership award

BY JILL HUDSON
WINCHESTER

EMC News - A team of heroes has raised a lot of money to fight cancer, of any kind. On May 18, The Winchester Hospital Heelers were awarded with the first Jack Prior community leadership award at a recent ceremony in Ottawa. The team has raised over \$270,000 through their participation in the Weekend to End Breast Cancer.

The money raised goes towards a mammography machine in Winchester that they helped purchase. Women can get serviced closer to home, with their family and friends. Providing this can mean catching cancer in its early stages.

Each Heeler is expected to raise \$2,000 to participate in the walk. In 2009, the Winchester Hospital Heelers were the top fundraising team, collecting more than \$154,000 for the 60-kilometre walk for a merry known as the Weekend to End Breast Cancer.

The Winchester Heelers team keeps growing. Right now there are 50 women who participate. Team captain Christina Enright from Winchester is a survivor. She did a lot of her treatment in Winchester. She was asked by a friend to be part of the Heelers.

"I sort of didn't want to be front and centre but the group is such a phenomenal group of women that before long I was hooked and I have been really involved for the last four years," she said. "I was captain last year and we have six co-captains because the team has grown so much. We have almost 50 people on the team and everyone does their part and it is amazing what people do to get out there and fundraise. And our community is behind us. People call us and ask us what they can do to help out. Someone said, 'I can't walk but I can bake something for your bake sale. Then before you know it, everyone is supporting us. So it's really great.'"

Mrs. Enright said that

the Winchester Heelers put money together for a mammography machine. Money that has been raised previously and from now on goes towards that machine. It's really important for two reasons. It means that anybody who would have mammography done locally have the same caliber of imaging that you would have if you go to the city. The second reason is a lot of women may have foregone a mammogram in the past because it was too inconvenient to go to the city for it.



JILL HUDSON

The Winchester Hospital Heelers group was awarded with the Jack Prior Community Leadership award on Tuesday May 18, at the Hampton Inn and Conference Centre in Ottawa. The team has raised over \$270,000 through their participation in the Weekend to End Breast Cancer. Here are three of the Heelers with the Jack Prior award, from left to right, Sue Keeler, Marlene Pyper, Christina Enright

Women will be able to have early detection because of the efforts of these courageous women.

Marlene Pyper is in her second year with the Heelers. She said she is honoured to receive the award.

She joined for two reasons, she explained. Her best friend died of cancer and her mother is a breast cancer survivor of two years. "I joined because if there

is anything that I can do to help anybody suffering from cancer, that is what I want to do," she said. "These's not anything I can imagine what they are going through. So if I can do anything by walking and raising funds I will continue to do that as long as I am able to."

Sue Keeler is the top fundraiser of the Winchester Heelers. "I am a two time cancer

survivor," she said. "The first time I joined was for my mother, she died of cancer. In 2004 I was diagnosed with my first cancer; 2007 was my second cancer. It hasn't been a fun journey but I am very glad for the people I have met throughout this journey."

Elaine Sarazin had inflammatory breast cancer in 2008. She had such excellent care during her treatment

that she said she wanted to give back to the community. She joined the Winchester Heelers, raised \$ 4,500 and walked the event seven months into remission.

"For me that was my victory walk," she said. "It's a great team to be a part of. A wonderful group of women that stand out, a whole bunch of generations, and basically giving back to the community what I was able to receive, and hope that others can receive as well for care and nurturing that goes with something like that."

The award was named after Jack Prior who had given money to support the foundation and regional cancer programs. He was a mentor to his children, his peers and friends. He placed value on fairness, on honesty and hard work and supported smaller communities in outlying areas. The Weekend Heelers have walked on weekends over the last few years.

In 2008 they were the top fund-raising team, raising \$152,000. To date they have raised over \$270,000. The Heelers team keeps growing. At present, the group holds the number-one fundraising spot in the 2010 Weekend to End Women's Cancers, with over \$92,000 collected to date.

Manotick/Winchester

EMC

MAY 27, 2010

www.EMCManotickWinchester.ca



JILL HUDSON

The Winchester Hospital Heelers received an award for the commitment to the community recently, during a presentation in Ottawa. The team has raised over \$270,000 through their participation in the Weekend to End Breast Cancer. For the full story, please see page 4.