

Groups walk to end cancer

Ending Women's Cancers from page 1

The year 2011 is when more than 11,000 women aged between 50 and 69 years old will be eligible for mammography. But the closest services are located more than 30 minutes away.

"[The Weekend to End Women's Cancers] is about women in the community, and getting them involved in fundraising for something that will ultimately benefit them," said Bell. The teams in the area, which are the Country Boobkins, Kemptville Yoginis, KDH Auxiliary Breast Cancer Walkers and the KDH Bust Buddies have been holding garage sales, bake sales and various other fundraisers to help raise money for the cause. Heggie said Bodhi Tree Yoga has also been holding jewelry sales and selling yoga items to raise money for her team. "We want to do that little bit extra to find a cure." Heggie said. "When we train we persevere through the sore backs, the blisters and the cramped feet, but that's nothing compared to what people go through in their journey with cancer."

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5

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Ending women's cancers one step at a time

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In grade 6, Katie Heggie and Jaimie Anderson were the best of friends.

Heggie fondly remembers how they used to canoe back and forth across the river to visit each other. While they went their separate ways after high school, the two girls remained friends.

But tragedy struck in January this year when Anderson, who was 23 years old, died from a form of cervical cancer.

"It was very hard. It was a big loss for everyone," said Heggie. "Jaimie fought so hard and was young and healthy. But cancer takes over and there's nothing you can do."

That's why Heggie got involved in the Weekend to End Women's Cancers, which is a 60-kilometre walkathon organized by Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation that will be taking place in Ottawa on June 5 and 6.

"I always thought about doing something like this, but there was never that push, and this sort of brought it all home for me," said Heggie.



K. Wallace/Advance staff

Katie Heggie of Bodhi Tree Yoga's team, the Yoginis, will be participating in the Weekend to End Women's Cancers on June 5 and 6. Bodhi Tree Yoga has had a number of fundraisers and are also selling jewelry and yoga gear to raise money for their team.

Linda Bell of the Kemptville District Hospital said that 75 per cent of the funds raised by local teams will go to equip the hospital's new mammography suite.

fundraising overall.

Bell said the response from the entire community has been great, with participants holding successful garage sales and

that women and men in community are stepping up."

According to the Kemptville District Hospital Foundation,