

# More than 1,300 Do It For Dad

Participants in fundraiser for men's cancers raise record \$354K

TRACEY TONG  
tracey.tong@metronews.ca



For all their fathers and the men in their lives have done for them, Ottawa residents said "Thanks Dad" at a Father's Day Institution in the capital yesterday.

More than 1,300 people raised a record \$354,672 — up \$75,000 from last year — for the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation through the Do It For Dad event at Carleton University yesterday.

The fight against prostate cancer was newly expanded to help fight all men's cancers. The money goes towards research, educational programs, reducing wait times for diagnosis and treatment, bringing care closer to home and to improve the quality of life for patients.

Participants have embraced the change, said foundation president and CEO Linda Eagen.

"There are other types of cancers affecting men in our community that require research and aware-



Runners take off at the start of the 10-kilometre race at the Do It For Dad fundraiser to benefit the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation at Anniversary Park yesterday. The event raised a record \$354,672.

ness building," Eagen said.

Cancer survivor Brian Kilrea said he was "blessed with the research we've done."

The general manager of the Ottawa 67s and Celebrity VIP Team member was first diagnosed with a melanoma on his back 15 years ago.

"It's a good opportunity for us to raise some money

for a very important cause," said participant Mary Ellen Kelly.

Last December, Doni White lost her husband, Andrew, after an 18-month battle with cancer.

"This is our first round at doing something positive," she said. "Next year, we hope to do even more."

NHL draft pick and the

VIP team's honorary captain Erik Gudbranson wanted to raise awareness among young people. Gudbranson said most young people don't think about cancer until they are in their 30s or 40s.

"I think it's important for people to understand that it can possibly happen to you before then," he said.