

Local musicians unite in support of the Weekend to End Women's Cancers



THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

Mother/daughter duo, Cynthia Sherrer and Therese Lessard from Dunkin have, for a fourth year formed a team to take part in the PharmaprixMD Weekend to End Women's Cancers benefiting the Segal Cancer Centre at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal. The event will take place the weekend of August 23 and 24.

The two plan to partake in the two-day, 60km distance for maximum impact and this means that they each must raise \$2,000.

"In 2004 my Mom suggested this event as a mother/daughter bonding experience," explained Cynthia. "We ended up forming a team that raised \$16,000 that year."

To date, the duo has already received donations from family

and friends in support of their efforts but their major fundraising will begin with this upcoming event.

On Saturday, June 7, local Eastern Townships musicians will unite in support of this cause at the Pub Mocador located at 17 Main Street in Sutton. The day will begin with a volleyball tournament at 10 a.m. (to sign up a team, contact Cynthia at c_sherrer@hotmail.com), the tournament will be followed by live music starting at 1 p.m.

Beginning with a "folk" music portion that will progress throughout the day and night from folk, blues, and country through to rock; the event will bring some of the Eastern Townships finest musicians together in one location.

According to Cynthia, the following artists have agreed to donate their time in performing for this cause: Guillaume, Danny Brown, A.M. Acoustic, Robyn Cheyenne, Katy Hughes, BluesBette, Moon Jam, Alain Codere, Dave and the Blues Shadow, Santosha, Amos Joanides, 5th Wheel and other surprise guests. Throughout the night alternating between the various acts will be performances by Mark Gibson and Ian Aiken.

"It is free admission to come



COURTESY PHOTO

Pub owner, Ron Gilker and Cynthia Sherrer pose outside the Mocador in Sutton where the musical fundraising event will be held.

and enjoy the music," explained Cynthia. "A portion of the bar and food profits will benefit the cause and we are hoping that people will give a donation that will all go toward our fundrais-

ing efforts," she added.

Cynthia told me that participating in a huge event like the weekend to end women's cancers is one that fills the partici-

pants with pride and accomplishment. Where cancer can leave people feeling overwhelmed and defeated, this event reminds everyone that they can make a difference.

"I am extremely touched and grateful to the musicians who have come forward to offer their support and talent," said Cynthia. "I am also very lucky to have the help of Mocador owner, Ron Gilker who has been behind us with this event."

Cynthia is from the small town of Dunkin but has worked for the last seven years in the Sutton area. She describes Sutton as a town full of generous people who enjoy music.

"It's the perfect place for an event like this," she said. "We're going to have a good time while raising funds for a great cause."

Posters will be going up in the next week with all the details. Anyone who wants more information can contact Cynthia at the email address listed above in this article. The music portion of the day will happen rain or shine. The volleyball tournament will depend on the weather. If it is raining, it will likely be cancelled.

A Walk in the Park for animals

SHERBROOKE

The Estrie Humane Society (SPA) is hoping for a large turn-out on June 8 for its popular walking fundraiser La Randonnée des belles gueules. The popular gathering of animal lovers has radio host Valerie Sirois, as its spokesperson.

The eleventh edition of this fundraising event features a host of innovations. La Randonnée will be held at noon, June 8 at Mont-Bellevue park in Sherbrooke and participants will depart from the Antonio Pinard pavilion to walk three kilometres largely on Galt Street West.

Another novelty this year is the 'canicross,' an activity increasingly popular in Quebec. Practitioners of this sport and their canine companions will be able to roam for a distance of five kilometres the Mont Bellevue trails.

For those who wish to further familiarize themselves with canicross, an introductory workshop is available, as well as various other workshops on a variety of dog-related subjects.



COURTESY

Radio host Valerie Sirois and Sawyer.

The new formula for La Randonnée attracted event spokesperson, Valerie Sirois, "It is with great pleasure that I accept this role and I look forward to participating with my dog Sawyer," she says.

"I invite Eastern Townshipers to join me and support their SPA in large numbers.

Whether walking, trotting or running, the important thing is to participate to help animals in need," she said. The event hopes to raise \$25,000 for the animal rescue organization.

shelter, feed, and care for them before finding them a new family in which they can find better days. The funds raised at La Randonnée des belles gueules allow us to change the lives of animals in need."

For example, a \$30 dona-

tion can immunize two dogs; \$100 can vaccinate, sterilize, de-worm, and feed a dog for two weeks. \$300 ensures emergency first aid to a wounded animal.

"For over 35 years, the SPA de l'Estrie has helped thousands of people and animals, without any government subsidies," said Sirois. "Thanks to the generosity of the public, we can help animals to break a deadlock, to recover their health, and experience a new beginning. The SPA de l'Estrie offers a reassuring presence for both citizens and animals in our area and it falls to the Eastern Townships community to support the efforts of this vital organization. Participate in teams, family, or alone and help raise donations to help animals while having fun. On June 8, Sawyer and I walk and support our SPA."

To participate in La Randonnée des belles gueules, register by contacting the SPA de l'Estrie at 819-821-4727, ext. 112 or by filling out the registration form available at the SPA shelter and on its website www.spaestrie.qc.ca.

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