

Mother-and-daughters team ‘Bustin’ Out’ in fight against breast cancer

Federal government employee organizes her hometown to raise funds for cancer research

By John Carta

Sept. 7, 2006 – Sudbury, ON – After losing her sister-in-law to breast cancer seven years ago, Suzanne Beaulieu determined that the remaining women close to her—now numbering three daughters, three granddaughters, and six sisters—would not fall to the disease. With her daughters, the program consultant with the Public Health Agency of Canada’s Ontario/Nunavut regional office raised \$2,000 in memory of her sister-in-law, Rachelle Guennette.

Today, the foursome is behind the hugely successful *Bustin’ Out*. Starting as door-to-door canvassers, Ms. Beaulieu and daughters Monique Hinds, Annette Levac and Céline Beaulieu have since marshalled the 3,500 residents in their hometown of Coniston, near Sudbury, Ontario, in the fight against breast cancer. Barbecues are supported by local businesses, the fire station hosts car washes, and during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, Ms. Beaulieu’s pink-clad volunteers hand out ribbons and collect donations at restaurants. The mother-and-daughters team also takes part in the annual, 60-kilometre *Princess Margaret Weekend to End Breast Cancer Walk* in Toronto.

Last year, the team collected over \$4,100 for breast cancer research. This year, the women have raised \$4,300 and plan to reach their goal of \$8,000 by September 8, the date of the 2006 *Walk* in Toronto.

Her fundraising success aside, Ms. Beaulieu knows she has already chalked up one important victory in her fight against cancer: Her own sister is a cancer survivor.

Ms. Beaulieu is one example of Government of Canada employees making a difference in their communities. Along with their regular volunteering, thousands of public servants participate in the annual Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC), the largest workplace charitable project in Canada. In 2005, federal public servants contributed more than \$29.5 million to GCWCC in 113 communities nation-wide. GCWCC 2006 kicks off on September 7 and will run until November 22.



Suzanne Beaulieu (left) and her daughter, Monique Hinds, participate each year in Toronto’s Princess Margaret Weekend to End Breast Cancer Walk as part of their family’s fight against cancer.

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