

## **Dedicated volunteer helped raise \$114,000 for charity**

*Federal government employee has devoted 25 years to helping her community*

*By Mandy Hutchinson*

**Sept. 7, 2006 - Charlottetown, PEI** - Some of the most valuable lessons a mother can teach her children are to appreciate good fortune and give to those in need. That message has not been lost on Lena Webster. Following her mother's example, she has volunteered for more than 25 years in her community.

"I was raised to value the blessings in my life," said Ms. Webster. "I know that I am very fortunate. I have a good job, good health, and wonderful friends and family. It's because of these blessings that I feel it's my responsibility to help those who aren't so fortunate."

Ms. Webster joined the Prince Edward Island division of the Canadian Cancer Society after her mother died of cancer when Ms. Webster was 21. She went on to volunteer for a number of other not-for-profit groups, including the PEI Ballet Association, the Association for Community Living, the Special Olympics, Girl Guides, the Kidney Foundation, the Canadian Paraplegic Association, and the National Employment Equity Committee.

Ms. Webster has also incorporated volunteer activities into her job as an events and exhibits officer at Veterans Affairs Canada in Charlottetown. For the last 10 years, she has chaired her department's annual Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC), the largest workplace charitable project in Canada. In 2005, she and her colleagues raised \$114,000 through a number of activities, including serving pancakes to over 800 Veterans Affairs employees.

Ms. Webster 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 GCWCC. 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.

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