

Walk the Block for the Canadian Cancer Society

Lanark Lodge, Lanark County and the Perth Community Care Centre are joining forces with a new event to raise funds and awareness for the Canadian Cancer Society.

"Walk the Block" will take place on Thursday, June 5 from noon to midnight at 115 Christie Lake Rd., Perth. Teams will walk laps around the one-kilometre block behind and between the two long-term care homes and the Lanark County Administration Building.

"Historically Lanark County and Lanark Lodge have had teams for the Relay for Life event that takes place later in June," explained Deborah Pidgeon, Lanark Lodge director. "However, we have shift workers and staff and families in our homes who wanted to be involved, so we looked for a way to do something similar closer to home, and we asked Perth Community Care Centre and Lanark County to join us."

Ms. Pidgeon said the Cancer Society has been very supportive of the event and has helped by developing posters and a website link so that participants can solicit pledges online.

"At the Lodge we have had a number of staff members who have battled cancer, so we wanted to be involved."

The event will feature various bands that have performed at the Lodge in the past, and themes will vary depending on the music being played. There will also be two barbecues: one at lunch and one in the evening. Registrants can eat for free, while others pay a nominal fee. A wishing well will be on hand to collect donations.

Just as with Relay for Life, Walk the Block will feature luminaries to recognize those battling cancer and in memory of those who valiantly lost their battle with cancer, as well as a lighting ceremony. "The luminaries will light our path as we walk," Ms. Pidgeon said.

She added there is flexibility for participants, too. "Sometimes 12 hours is just too much and too hard to do for some people. When collecting pledges they can make it clear their team is working toward the 12 hours, but they might only be doing a one-kilometre lap, for example," she explained.

Having the event will also give staff members from all the buildings the opportunity to participate by doing laps on their breaks, and family members of residents in the homes will be able to be involved and/or bring their loved ones out for a lap, too. The route will be wheelchair accessible.

"It's going to be lots of fun," Ms. Pidgeon said. "We hope lots of people will sign up for activities, create a team or pledge someone already on a team. You can also support us by coming to the barbecues or making a donation."

For more information or to get involved, visit http://convio.cancer.ca/site/TR?fr_id=17494&pg=entry or call Karen Nagle at 613-267-4200 ext. 1199 or Deborah Pidgeon at ext. 7101. To register or collect pledges manually, you can pick up registration and pledge sheets at the reception areas of Lanark Lodge, the Lanark County Administration Building or Perth Community Care Centre.

– 30 –

For more information, contact:
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