



# in the news



## Relay for Life teams raise nearly \$3,000 to fight cancer

*Leisureworld, Preferred Health Care Services make first appearance at fundraiser*

Wednesday June 30, 2010

By Lisa Bailey

The Leisureworld Legs and Preferred Health Care Services Pacers raised nearly \$3,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Both teams benefited from the support and involvement of staff at Leisureworld and Preferred Health Care Services.

The 16 or so members of the Pacers included front-line staff and client-care specialists. Preferred Health Care Services president Tracy Jones and director of quality and risk management Barb

Van Maris also took part.

Fazal, who captained the Legs, notes Leisureworld staff made significant financial contributions to the team.

Held at Richmond Green Park in Richmond Hill, the fundraising relay attracted hundreds

of participants. Teams of families, friends, co-workers and others took turns walking a route for 12 hours.

It began at 7 p.m. June 18 with cancer survivors completing a victory lap, then continued through the night to wrap up at 7 a.m. June 19.

Sayewich and Fazal agree one of the most moving moments came at 10 p.m., when luminaries honouring loved ones lost to cancer were lit. Some of the candles were grouped on a hill to form the word "Hope."

Sayewich was joined by family members to light luminaries for two young loved ones lost to breast cancer in the past year.

"It was emotional," she says, adding there were lots of tears and

sharing of experiences among participants.

However, there was plenty of fun to be had.

Participants camped at the site, enjoying musical entertainment well into the night, as well as pizza at midnight.

When they weren't walking, team members could do other things too besides rest. Fazal notes they had the option to play pick-up soccer, try watercolour painting, get their faces painted or take part in a silent auction.

Balloons and glow-in-the-dark necklaces were added fun elements for the Pacers.

Sayewich says there was "great team spirit" and the Pacers and Legs "rooted each other on."

Fazal says the best part of the event was "all the enthusiasm in the people that participated."

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It's a great result for a first-time effort, Preferred Health Care Services director of marketing Debra Sayewich says.

Leisureworld communications specialist Attiya Fazal says it was an "amazing night" and well worth the effort.