

GRAND ROUNDS

Celebrate Life and Dance the Night Away!

Friday, January 24 is going to mark a true evening of celebration and support not only for our community's oncology patients, but also for Janet Robertson and her family.

Robertson is a true inspiration to everyone around her as she has organized the 10th annual Celebration of Life Fundraiser/Dance from her hospital bed. With the assistance of her family, three daughters and Shawn McHale, along with many friends, she is determined to generate a major windfall once again for RVH and Hospice Renfrew.

"It means a lot to me to be able to do this and I never want (the Celebration of Life) to stop. We've been doing it for so long that everybody knows exactly what to do and it comes together so easily now," she says, adding that it feels good to be able to contribute in the face of her own battle with cancer.

She plans on enjoying the event at the Renfrew Armouries and shares that the

Sunshine Coach is already booked. "I don't want to miss it! There are lots of helpers putting it all together and I want to be there to see it."

The cause has been important to Robertson throughout her life as she lost both parents and three of her brothers to cancer. They all had been cared for in Renfrew and her brother Ross was also a long-time member of the RVH maintenance team.

"I choose to give to RVH because I love all of the nurses here, everyone is amazing," she says with a huge smile about her home away from home. The nurses and staff constantly stop by her room to say a friendly hello and ask how she is feeling.

"More than anything I want my kids to grow up knowing they can definitely come here with a problem of any kind and they will help," she states.

Diagnosed with breast cancer more two decades ago, Robertson began supporting RVH as her way of giving back.

From this single event, close to \$80,000 has been raised for RVH, but over the years Janet and her team's cumulative efforts have reached close to \$200,000, which is amazing. Initial support raised money for a specialized chair in the mammography unit, followed by a new machine for detection. Today, the DI suite offers digital mammography supporting the quality care that RVH continually strives for. "This is truly an example of how ongoing support makes a difference," says

Barb Desilets, Director of Development, RVH Foundation. "The fact that Janet turned her diagnosis into action—choosing RVH and engaging the community—has benefited so many, and her mission is inspirational."

In 2008, a second beneficiary was added with the funds going between the hospital and Hospice Renfrew.

Robertson says none of it would be possible without the generosity of numerous businesses and individuals who have donated prizes each year.

10th annual Celebration of Life Fundraiser/Dance

Friday, January 24, 2014.

Doors open at 7 p.m.

Tickets available at the door for \$10

Featuring Ghost Town Cryers, The Riley New Band and Bahoo & The Brat. All proceeds will be directed to the RVH Oncology Unit and Digital Mammography, and Hospice Renfrew.

