

## GRAND ROUNDS

### Local marathoner nears the finish line of her fundraising target

When Colleen Berry commits to anything, she always completes the task.

In fact, her personal motto is inspired by a quote from an unknown author: “Go the distance. When you accept the task, finish it.”

By living by this simple guiding principle, the Admaston Township resident has completed an impressive five Boston Marathons and will run her tenth Ottawa marathon this year.

Hard work and daily dedication pays off—the 50-year-old finished the race in 19th place in her age category. Her most recent Boston marathon run was more than just a personal achievement; it was a mission to promote awareness and support oncology services at RVH.

It was also a tribute to a very strong community member who recently lost her own battle with cancer. Berry says that her run was dedicated to Janet Robertson, the main organizer of the successful Celebration of Life events in Renfrew.

Although the two did not know each other well, Berry says, “We always appreciated each other’s ambitions.”

In 2012, Berry raised \$4,220 in the Boston 4 Bust campaign, directing her efforts to support the new RVH digital mammography unit.

This time around, she challenged herself to raise \$5,000 in the Road to Boston for oncology programs at RVH, especially in light of the new unit that is planned.

“It’s a good cause. So many people dealing with cancer will benefit and I want to do my

part to help maintain the high quality of care at this hospital.”

By race day, just 50 days after she began collecting pledges, she was only \$500 shy of her goal.

She appreciates all of the support so far—including the Bonnechere Bakery for hosting a fundraising event before the run, Gourley’s Variety and Gas Bar for collecting

pledges and the Renfrew Lion’s Club for its \$1,000 donation to her campaign.

Donations will be accepted until the end of May. Online donations can be made by visiting [www.rvhfoundation.com](http://www.rvhfoundation.com) (click the Donate Now button and direct your contribution by specifying Road to Boston). Or call the RVH Foundation office at 613 432-4851 ext. 263 to make your pledge.



**Colleen Berry dedicates her final Boston Marathon to raise funds for the RVH Oncology program.**