

Gambo Relay for Life raises \$16,000

Cancer survivor calls event a ‘phenomenal’ show of support

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- BY ADAM RANDELL



With Gambo’s Relay for Life theme embracing the ‘70s, Eleanor Reid, got far out with the Gambo Lions Hippies.

People fighting against and working to prevent cancer received a sizeable donation as a result of the Gambo Relay for Life team.

The 11th annual walk, held June 2 at the town’s Lions Club, raised just over \$16,000.

The money was raised by five teams – made up of approximately 55 walkers. Eleanor Reid, treasurer for group’s steering committee, called it “absolutely wonderful”. And according to Reid, the funds are used to offer assistance locally.

“A lot of people think it’s going into a big pot for Canada, but most of the funds we raise go directly to Daffodil Place,” she said.

Daffodil Place is a 24-room facility operated by the Canadian Cancer Society in St. John’s for people with cancer and their caregivers who must travel for cancer care/treatments.

The Society’s website indicates, Daffodil Place offers affordable accommodations, three hot meals plus snacks daily, transportation to and from appointments, entertainment in the evening, along with emotional and practical support.

Every \$100-donation received provides a night’s stay for someone facing cancer. Show of support

For a small community to raise so much for such services, cancer survivor Linda Burry called it a “phenomenal” show of support.

Without such fundraising events, the Gambo resident doesn't think she would be here today.

In 2010 Burry was diagnosed with a germ cell tumor. She is now eight years in remission. "At 32 years old diagnosed, who would have ever thought it would have happened to me," she said. Along with battling cancer, Burry said the financial stress can also but quite overwhelming.

"Each treatment cost approximately \$2,700 plus needles and medication," she said. "I never had funds in place for sickness, who would at such a young age, but there were a lot of support groups, the cancer society, workers, nurses who helped in any way they can. "It just helps you deal with things a little easier, and it's nice to know there is support there to help."