

Volunteers making a difference – June 2010

Sue Airey Citation of Merit, 2010



Sue Airey has two reasons to be glad she came to the Canadian Cancer Society as a volunteer. Not only has her diligent effort promoted the cause over the last 14 years, but she also met her husband, John, at a Nepean *Relay For Life* event.

Sue is a born organizer. Over the years, she has been Vice-president, President, and Past President of the Ottawa Unit Council. When she chaired the 2000 and 2001 Nepean *Relay For Life*, her steering committee raised \$486,000 and became Canada's most successful *Relay* event.

Although she has canvassed and been personally involved with other Canadian Cancer Society activities, her strength has always been in her vision for the Society that has led her and other volunteers to high achievement. Ottawa is now a mega unit with over 3,800 volunteers. Sue spent much of her time recruiting leadership volunteers; conducting unit wide needs assessment and brainstorming sessions, helping to draft organizational plans and offering guidance and support to volunteers and staff who implement Unit programs. She has trained volunteers, and worked to find the right "fit" for them. She worked with staff to structure a new volunteer development committee, and she also supported staff and volunteers through periods of change in the Society

Throughout, Sue Airey has been a wonderful speaker promoting the work of the Canadian Cancer Society. She acts with both her head and her heart to help the Society achieve their vision - a world where no Canadian fears cancer.

John Airey Citation of Merit, 2010



John Airey first volunteered on *Relay For Life* in 2000, and has held successive positions of responsibility with the *Relay* ever since, serving as Registration and Treasury Committee Chair, Event Co-chair and Executive Committee Treasurer.

Throughout, John's experience has been in the registration and finance/treasury area. His integrity and organizational skills have been very important to the success of *Relay For Life*, and he has tightened reporting systems for better accuracy. He sets up budgets with the Treasurer of each event and acts as an advisor to event chairs. During the period *Relay For Life* has grown from one event to three across the city, and revenues have grown from \$360,000 to \$1,170,000 annually. This success has made John's job grow considerably over the years.

An important achievement involved fostering a relationship with Scotiabank employees who now serve as treasury volunteers at the events. Their involvement improved accuracy, speed, and reliability of data including the end-result data for the awards process. He and other volunteers also secured Scotiabank as major sponsor of the event.

As the Nepean Event co-chair, John twice led his volunteers to raise the highest revenue totals for a single event across Canada: \$765,000 in 2005 and \$719,270 in 2006.

John's wife, Sue, whom he met at *Relay For Life*, is also an extremely active CCS Volunteer. Together they are our "power couple."

Peter J. Thompson Award of Courage 2010



The Award of Courage is given to someone who has had cancer or is living with it, has faced insurmountable challenges and persevered with "strength, determination and a greater compassion for others." How well this describes this year's recipient, Peter Thompson.

On his third round with cancer, Pete has put his business activities on hold and curtailed personal activities to concentrate on his volunteer work with the Canadian Cancer Society. A volunteer since January 2003, Pete has served in many capacities including Convenor Regional Cancer Centre General Campus, and Chair, *Relay For Life*-Nepean. He has also been a volunteer driver, a presentations volunteer and worked on Daffodil Days—sort of an all around Society volunteer.

There have been many high points in this career. The Nepean *Relay* revenue achieved \$10,000 over budget under his watch, and Pete accepted the Revenue Development Award for Nepean in 2009. He has also received the Celebrating Dedication Award. Pete has represented the Canadian Cancer Society at the Regional volunteer conference, two Provincial *Relay For Life* Leadership summits and facilitated a workshop at the *Relay* Summit in 2009. He also attended an advocacy event at Queen's Park in 2008.

Pete mentors other *Relay For Life* event chairs in Ottawa, and sets an example speaking at community events, and promoting Cops for Cancer. Despite bi-weekly trips to Toronto for treatments, he carried on attending Steering Committee meetings and Team Rallies.

Peter Thompson's dedication has inspired both staff and volunteers at the Ottawa Unit.

Fran Seguin, Award of Achievement in Community Services, 2010



Fran Seguin knows about cancer on two levels: from her nursing career and also from personal experience. Rather than give in to the disease, she has chosen to support others. She started volunteering with the Canadian Cancer Society in the chemotherapy unit at the General Campus where she started volunteering in 2001.

Fran has been a peer support volunteer since 2002 and provides emotional support to patients both face-to-face and over the phone. She has also trained in palliative care and has personally helped 65 clients from Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

In 2005, Fran became Group Support Facilitators starting a malignant melanoma support group—the only one in Eastern Ontario. Later she and fellow volunteer, Pauline Thompson, took their facilitating skills to the Maurice Grimes Lodge to start the Thursday Tea and Chat Group.

In 2009, Fran became a community services trainer with the CCS. Fran is described as “a popular presenter who adds colour to the module content by sharing her own experiences as a survivor and as a society volunteer.” Just another of her many achievements with the Canadian Cancer Society!

Lynne Peterman Celebrating Dedication Award, 2010



When Lynne Peterman gets an idea she really runs with it. A longtime volunteer, having started in 1983 as a Residential Area Captain, Lynne noticed that volunteers were declining in her area. Where could she find young, vibrant people to help with the door- to-door campaign? Why the neighborhood High School, of course and so began the Hillcrest Cancer Drive.

So in 1995, Lynne struck up a partnership with Hillcrest High School which has continues to this day. But she didn't just turn the project over to some staff member, instead she solicited drivers, organized routes and maps, prepared kits and managed volunteers to count and bank the money (over \$340,000 to date). She has encouraged more active student ownership of the program, although she still recruits, gets community support and is there to help with the logistics on blitz night.

Today, five schools participate in their own Cancer Drive, each modeled after the success achieved at Hillcrest—a feat that can be traced back to one woman, Lynne Peterman!

Noah Zeibdawi Celebrating Youth Award, 2010



In senior kindergarten, Noah was inspired by a class movie about Terry Fox, and determined to help in any way he could, persuading his mother to contact the Canadian Cancer Society. He started to canvass the next April and raised \$500 from two streets in his neighbourhood.

Now that he is eight, Noah has collected nearly \$3,000 going out several times during the month and has big plans for next year.

Organizers say that Noah cares deeply about the planet and does everything in his power to try to make a difference. He also volunteers for Cycle for Autism, the Heart and Stroke Foundation (Jump Rope for Heart), Scouts Canada and church initiatives for Third World causes.

Noah is still pretty young, but that hasn't kept him from spreading the word for the Canadian Cancer Society. This year he persuaded his sister to help him sell daffodils for the cause.

An avid reader and writer, Noah has started a book club and written his first book. He is an “A” student at Leslie Park Public School.

Daffodil Drivers of Ottawa

Members: Janet Fader, Mike Roach, Bert Beechey, Larry Jones, Pat Kully, Nancy Murdoch, Bob Ferguson
Celebrating Teamwork Award, 2010



When you are in a booth, selling daffodils, it may not seem like a huge undertaking. But the truth is, it takes a 60-100 drivers to get all those daffodils out to kiosks and businesses around the city over five days.

The team organizing all of these deliveries consists of seven people, mainly members of the Association of Retired Ottawa Board of Education Administrators and Principals who undertook this activity, as a group, starting in 1995. Planning and recruiting start in January, but during Daffodil Week they do all the coordination, meeting all the drivers as they arrive and stepping in to cover if a driver fails to show up.

After 15 years, 2010 will be the group's last campaign, although some members have decided to continue driving during Daffodil Days. The team has been a model to encourage other groups to get involved, and they deserve much thanks for their communal efforts.

50 Year Service Award **Stanley Swettenham**



When Stanley's mother died in 1961 after a 2 year battle with cancer he decided to fight back by canvassing his neighbourhood.

During his fifty years with the Canadian Cancer Society, Stanley also served as an area coordinator for the canvass. His devotion to helping the Society has grown stronger over the years as he has sadly lost a sister, mother-in-law and three cousins to the disease.

This year he is recovering from surgery, but when asked if that would mean an end to his canvassing his response was hearty: "Oh no," he laughed. "I'm having home rehab and the walking will do me good." Now that's a dedicated volunteer!