

Annual Relay for Life held Friday at Robert F. Hall

By Bill Rea

The weather was very co-operative and the mood was great for the cause of fighting cancer.

Students and staff at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School in Caledon East were out in force Friday night for the annual Relay for Live. They started at 7 p.m. and spent the next 12 hours walking laps around the school's track, raising money for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Amber Hann, one of the head chairs of the event, told the participants it's expected there will be 131,300 new cases of cancer diagnosed in Canada this year, and there will be about 76,600 who will die from the disease. She added the Cancer Society is leading the fight against the disease, promoting education, prevention and early detection.

'Relay for Life will certainly save lives,' she declared.

She also observed there were six cancer survivors on hand to lead the first lap of the Relay.

'A cancer diagnosis can be one of life's most terrifying moments,' she observed.

'Cancer takes lives and breaks hearts every day,' Samantha Steeves, another head chair, commented.

'Cancer must be eradicated,' Vice-Principal Chris Letters told the participants before they started on the Relay.

He recalled his mother had been diagnosed with cancer. 'It felt like I had been punched in the stomach,' he said, although his mother did live another 19 years.

He pointed out medicine has come a long way over the years in dealing with the illness.

'But we've got to do a lot more,' he said. 'Tonight, you're assisting in that miracle to find a cure.'

'One person can make a difference,' he added. 'You are that one person.'



Many students at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School didn't get a very restful night's sleep Friday, but it was all in aid of a good cause. They were taking place in the annual Relay for Life, in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. As usual, the first lap of the relay was led by Cancer survivors, with other participants falling in behind. Photos by Bill Rea



Samantha Steeves and Amber Hann, the head chairs of the event, were welcoming the participants Friday evening, accompanied by Chaplain Brenda Holtkamp and Vice-Principal Chris Letters.