

Fundraiser draws many teams

By Karen Gibson/ Tab Staff Writer

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This is the second of three stories leading up to the Against the Tide swim/walk/kayak event scheduled for June 25 at the Hopkinton State Park to raise funds for breast cancer research.

People are eager to join the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) in the Against the Tide swim/kayak/walk on June 25 at Hopkinton State Park.

The event contains a one mile swim, a two mile kayak ride (with kayaks donated by Barry Gold of Outdoor Recreation in Hopkinton) and a three mile walk. The Ashland Fire Department is volunteering their time, EMTs and rescue equipment for the swim event.

One excited team is Team Sweet Pea, led by Hopkinton resident Alexandra DeCollibus, who is an instructor at Sweet Pea Yoga on Main Street in town.

Even though DeCollibus has been fortunate to not have breast cancer in her family, she still felt a strong pull to join in the event.

"It's something I felt was really important to do," said DeCollibus. "I wanted to do something accessible...People really want to help...and some people are more motivated to do it with a group."

DeCollibus used to participate in the Avon run/walk event in New York City when she lived there for many years, but when she returned to Hopkinton she wanted to find something in this area. She said she likes the fact it is in Hopkinton and that the MBCC does not require participants to raise a large amount of money (only \$150) to take part in the event.

Many of the parents from her yoga class, where she teaches newborn babies to 2 years old, will join in the walking portion of the event with their children in tow. DeCollibus said she finds it intriguing that the MBCC does research on why cancer exists, not just how to treat it.

"As a wife, daughter, teacher and friend it is important for me to honor the women who have been touched by cancer and the devoted families and friends who have supported and loved those women through each day," said DeCollibus. "What has drawn me to the Against the Tide and the MBCC is their emphasis on the prevention of breast cancer.

"By researching the connection between environmental elements and its role in the development of breast cancer, we can draw attention to the very root causes that play a role in the incidence of cancer...Hopefully our next generation won't even know what breast cancer is."

Cheryl Osimo, the Event and Outreach Coordinator of the MBCC, echoes DeCollibus' thoughts.

"Alexandra understands how important it is that we focus on the preventable causes of breast cancer for our children and future generations," said Osimo. "Because of her enthusiasm, many citizens in her community are coming together as a team to support our work. All of us at the MBCC are so grateful. She is a caring and dynamic business woman who clearly understands what it is we have to do to end the breast cancer epidemic."

DeCollibus is spreading her excitement for this event to her husband, Mike Krausert, as well. He has brought together Team Halloween.

Krausert has designed and built haunted attractions all over the East Coast and Midwest for over 14 years, and he has found an amazing amount of support in this industry - an industry mainly of men.

"He's been really amazed by the support in his business," said his wife, DeCollibus. "(Breast cancer) is not a gender related cause."

DeCollibus said her husband was excited about this event from the start, especially since he is a huge kayaking enthusiast

"By researching and creating a healthy environment and lifestyle, hopefully we can find a way to stop this disease before it even gets a chance to develop," said Krausert.

Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of death in women all over the world - more so than any other cancer. In the past 50 years, the risk of breast cancer has nearly tripled in this country. Every one in seven women will be hit with this disease in their lifetime.

Registration for Against the Tide opens at 7:30 a.m. with events starting at 9 a.m. A complimentary breakfast and awards ceremony will be at 11 a.m., and the entire event usually wraps up by noon.

All events are non-competitive, except an extra swim event which is self-timed if participants choose. Participants can compete in one or all of the events.

A second session of Against the Tide will be held Saturday, August 20 at Nickerson State Park in Brewster, on Cape Cod. Times and information are the same in each location.

Anyone can raise funds for the MBCC without competing in the events. Prizes are given to the top money-makers, and everyone who raises the minimum of \$150 receives a T-shirt. To learn more about the event and fundraising for the MBCC, go on-line to www.mbcc.org/swim or call 1-800-649-MBCC.

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