

Rankin Cancer Walk

On the 6th of October, 2016, E.L Crossley Secondary School students participated in the annual Rankin Cancer walk/run. The events of the day included an inspirational speech about the organization, students from the 9th to 12th grades walking and running around the Pelham ON area, and a free barbeque organized by the business leadership class.

The Rankin Cancer run/walk is an annual event that occurs in the Port Weller area of St.Catharines in May, however, Crossley has its own version of the run that happens earlier in the school year. All of the proceeds gathered from generous students and parents within the community, are contributed to the money fundraised in May.

In the past, Crossley has supported the Terry Fox Foundation, however in 2011, decided to focus their efforts more locally for the benefit of a Crossley student who had cancer at the time. There is a guarantee by choosing the Rankin Run that all of the funds raised are going to go back to local hospitals and centres, all of which would be supporting people like the Crossley student. Rankin, in previous years, has donated 400 000\$ to the Walker family centre, 150 000\$ to Hospice Niagara, 200 000\$ to Wellspring Niagara and at least 250 000\$ to local hospitals like the Greater Niagara General Hospital.

The director of this unique cause, Mary Ann Edwards, first came up with the idea to start an organization that dealt specifically with cancer in the Niagara region when she was a volunteer at a national committee between the years of 1999 and 2004. Edwards started her own group in 2004, but was left with the problem of who the lead sponsor was going to be. Fortunately, in the same year, Tom Rankin of Rankin Construction agreed to accept the position in which the noble foundation was finally launched. Since then the Rankin Cancer walk has been notably successful throughout the years in which schools like Laura Secord Secondary, Canadian Martyrs, Dalewood and Richmond have contributed their efforts in supporting the cause. Crossley alone has raised at least 40 000\$ in the past five years.

The Rankin cancer run is still successful today, seeing as students of every grade and classroom at Crossley are continuously donating through pledges. Although the pledges are very effective, Crossley has gone above and beyond with creative and inventive solutions that have further propelled the amount of money raised. One of these ideas has been giving Rankin Run t-shirts designed by E.L Crossley student, Christie Tran, to students that donate over 20\$ in their pledges. Other means of accumulating funds included selling raffle tickets to students that wanted to win quality jewelry donated from sponsors. To top off the icing on the cake, baked goods made by supportive teachers and parents were also sold on the day on the run.

Undoubtedly, The Rankin Cancer Walk/Run is an excellent community charity organization, however it is also a fun and unforgettable activity to participate in. The day of the run provides students with the opportunity to spend time with their friends and walk around a serene safe community, all in the name of a good cause, the Rankin Cancer Walk.