

The Border City “Beat”



Heart Defects Society of Windsor and Essex County

Francine Bryar Passes Away

Hearts weren't meant
to be born broken.

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On September 7th, Francine Bryar, President and the last original founder of the Heart Defects Society of Windsor and Essex County, passed away while at Toronto General Hospital due to sudden cardiac arrest almost 10 months after receiving her heart transplant on November 9th of 2009.

Francine, along with Melissa Trothen and Claudette Dugas, formed the Heart Defects Society in 2000. It was their goal and passion to associate others with heart defects so that they did not have to feel alone or isolated, something that the three founders felt until they found each other via an interview that Francine did on CBC.

The Heart Defects Society was Francine's passion. Even while Francine was in the hospital post transplant, she continued to guide and work on the HDS from her bedside, planning and organizing events. While she was in Toronto General on the day that she passed away, she took the time to console the mother of a child who passed away 5 years earlier, who would have started school on the day that Francine passed away.



This legacy, as well as the work of all of the founding members of the Heart Defects Society, will continue on in memory of Francine, Melissa and Claudette, and all others who have lost the battle due to Congenital Heart Defects.

4th Annual HDS Walk'n Roll – Oct 16, 2010

On October 16th, 2010, the Heart Defects Society will be holding its 4th Annual Walk'n Roll Walkathon to raise awareness of the impact that congenital heart defects have on members of our community and raise funds in order to assist those affected.

The HDS 5 km Walk'n Roll will take place along the Riverfront, starting at Assumption Park, going to Dieppe Park, and back.

Registration starts at 10:00 am, with entertainment and fun. The Walk'n Roll will begin promptly at 11:00 am.

A celebration will be held at 12:30 pm at Assumption Park, where prizes for top pledge earners will be awarded. A BBQ meal will be provided to all participants. Please come out and join us for a nice leisurely walk in the park.

Pledge forms for the walk are still available so please contact us at walknroll@HeartDefectsSociety.org if you would like to assist us by collecting pledges.

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First Annual Christine Sorrell Memorial "Pooker" Ride

Warren Hayes

On July 25 we held the 1st annual Christine Sorrell Memorial "Pooker" Ride, a motorcycle ride throughout Essex County. Christine, the daughter of Genevieve and step daughter of Warren Hayes passed away Oct 30th, 2005 due to a previously undetected heart defect. "Pooker" was Christine's 'nickname'. With approximately 80 motorcycles gathered at the CAW local 444-200 union hall the group was led via police escort out of the city on a tour of the county. Our stops included Shooters in Amherstburg, The Meadows in Anderdon for lunch, Waterfront Bar and Grill in Leamington, Billy's Pub in Essex, Mr. Biggs Eatery in Belle River and finished at the Teutonia Club in Windsor for dinner and awards. We had a lot of nice prizes to give away including a Broil King BBQ to the largest pledge earner, Yvonne Renaud who raised over \$1000.00!!! Congratulations and thank you Yvonne!.

While the weather didn't initially cooperate with many riders caught in the rain on the way to CAW hall and still a bit overcast by the time we pulled out, the sun was out and shining as we stopped in Amherstburg. More bikes started to show up and we were still registering riders at Shooters and the Meadows. We would also like to acknowledge Jim Maxim for riding his bicycle the whole ride. Jim left about half an hour before the group, made all the stops and beat us to Belle River.

The highlight of the ride was the reception we received at Ravine Cottages in Oxley. The whole park came out with pink balloons and banners to greet us. (Pink was Christine's favourite colour.) It was a very emotional and heartfelt touch and more than appreciated by Gen and Warren.

The ride was a great success for a great cause and raised over \$25,000.00 for the HDS, thanks to a \$10,000 donation from CAW locals 444-200 and \$13,000 in pledges raised by the riders.

We would like to thank all those who gathered pledges, our hard working volunteers and the Windsor Police for providing us an escort out to Windsor Raceway so we could all stay together.



Help For Fragile Hearts by Bob Henson

*Doris made the signs all pink and loud
While Bruce and Evvy held a sign proud
A two hander, you know what I mean
Each pink balloon with a person in tow
Went together to the main road to show
Their respect for daughter Christine*

*Terry was herself just being a clown
Mary used a stick to bring the house down
Resulting in much merriment we've seen
Wonderful bikers in a long thundering row
Waived their arms with gusto to show
Their respect for daughter Christine*

*Broken hearts are meant to mend in time
Seems slower if it happens to yours and mine
And remembrance will always be keen
Love and honour was shown on this day
And each year we will return this way
To remember daughter Christine*

Big thanks to the CAW Locals 200 and 444 for their support!!

What causes CHDs?

Christine Womack—Secretary

We wish we knew. Although congenital heart defects are the number one birth defect in the world, their cause is often unknown. Numerous studies have been and continue to be conducted on this topic. As an organization, the Heart Defects Society strives to provide accurate and useful information on CHDs to our members and the public. In order to stay abreast of the latest research, we need your help. We are looking for a computer-savvy volunteer to do an extensive Internet search in order to compile a database of current and past research studies relating to the causes of congenital heart defects. This would be an ideal opportunity for a student needing volunteer hours, or for an adult who would like to get more involved with the HDS on their own time.

If you are interested in assisting with this project, or would like more information, please contact Christine Womack at Christine@HeartDefectsSociety.org.

**Did you know that we are on facebook? Join our group,
Heart Defects Society of Windsor and Essex County.**

Melissa Trothen Memorial Fund

The Melissa Trothen Memorial Fund is available to assist any Windsor or Essex County family who needs to travel to London or Toronto for congenital heart defect related appointments, surgeries or other procedures. If you or your loved one will be heading to London or Toronto for care in the near future, please do not hesitate to contact us at 519- 973-0915 or print out and mail the application form from our website at www.HeartDefectsSociety.org/MTMFund.html.

If you know of any families outside of our membership that have been affected by congenital heart defects, please pass this information on to them as well. We are here to help!

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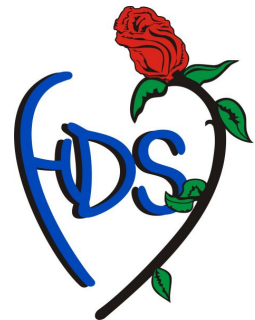
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