Interlake schools join forces to support cancer research and care

Students unite for Relay for Life May 29

By Lana Meier

Student leadership teams from Collège Stonewall Collegiate, Teulon Collegiate and Warren Collegiate are joining forces this spring to support the Canadian Cancer Society through a unified Relay For Life fundraiser.

The outdoor event, set for Friday, May 29 at Collège Stonewall Collegiate, will bring students, staff and community members together for an evening of walking, remembrance and celebration.

Opening ceremonies begin at 4:30 p.m., featuring a guest speaker and a ceremonial opening lap led by cancer survivors. Participants will then take to the track in teams, walking laps in support of those affected by cancer.

The idea for the joint event grew out of a shared experience at a national student leadership conference.

"A few leadership students from the three schools attended the Canadian Student Leadership Conference in Haliburton, Ont., in the fall of 2025," said Collège Stonewall Collegiate student Eli Uhres-Todd. "At the event, there was a Relay For Life pop-up and the students felt a strong connection to the mission of the Canadian Cancer Society and saw the real-life impact of the Relay For Life event. Connecting the three schools is an amazing opportunity to unite our communities and support one another."

Bringing the three schools together has strengthened both the reach and impact of the fundraiser.

"Bringing together the three schools has given more opportunity for us to share the Canadian Cancer Society's mission and our passion for uniting community and bringing more attention and funding to cancer research," Uhres-Todd and fellow student Kristen Greigson said.

Students have played a leading role in organizing the event.

"In planning for our Relay For Life event, students have taken on large roles in organizing, planning and marketing," Uhres-Todd and Greigson said.

For many involved, the cause is deeply personal.

"Everyone has been affected by cancer in some way," Greigson said. "The true passion from the students and organizers is what will make this event successful."

Teulon Collegiate student Kenadi Sherred said her own family's experiences have shaped her involvement.

"Many members from my family have been affected by cancer. From breast cancer to leukemia, it was hard watching loved ones go through it," she said. "Being able to host a Relay For Life event after seeing first-hand the effect cancer has on people's lives is such a blessing."

Organizers emphasize that the event is about more than fundraising — it's about building awareness and connection among young people.

"I think that it is important for students to be involved in causes like Relay For Life to build community and bring awareness to important causes such as cancer," Greigson said. "Showing up for your community is beneficial for all teenagers to show commitment, passion and to meet new people."

Participants can expect more than just walking laps, with organizers planning food, activities and opportunities to honour loved ones.

"We are providing food and shirts with every registration and creating a strong sense of camaraderie between the three communities," said Teulon Collegiate students Brook Waldbauer, Alayna Toth and Sherred. "The $20 registration includes a meal, T-shirt and a luminary bag in honour of loved ones."

Luminaries will also be available for purchase ahead of the event and on site, priced at $10 each or three for $20.

The opening ceremonies and survivor lap remain a central part of the evening.

"The significance of the opening ceremony and the survivors lap is giving them a chance to know they are not alone," said student Akira Abacan. "It also reminds the public who we are doing this for."

Organizers have set a fundraising goal of $15,000 and say strong community support will be key.

"We are very confident in our goal and are hoping to raise even more," said Warren Collegiate student Kiera Schutz. "It will take all three communities coming together to achieve it."

Funds raised will support cancer research and programs across Canada.

"The funds we raise locally help on a much larger scale," Schutz said. "They support research, improve quality of life for those with cancer and provide services for families in need."

Organizers say they hope participants leave with a greater understanding of the impact of cancer and the importance of community support.

"By coming together as three communities, we hope people realize just how much we can do to support this cause," Schutz said.

Anyone interested in registering a team or making a donation can contact organizers Deanna Johnson, Chelsea Meier, Heather Tataryn, Fallon Campbell, Curtis Grieve or Jesse Hourie.

The event runs from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Collège Stonewall Collegiate, 297 5th St. W.



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Collège Stonewall Collegiate student leadership members support the joint Relay For Life initiative. From left: Eli Uhres-Todd, Livia Borges, Lacey Learning, Mia Smart, Lucy Hoff, Anna Hoff, Kyaira Zagrodnik, Julia Gilroy, Emily Randall, Taylor Dove, Kristen Greigson, Romeo Paguio and Addy Meier.



Student leaders from Warren Collegiate gather in support of the upcoming Relay For Life fundraiser. From left: Kiera Schutz, Jersey MacMillan, Ella Riddell, Olivia Fontaine, Danika Shaver, Everly Sherry, Blake Darragh, Joslyn Tetlock, Maria Riddell and Fallon Campbell.



Teulon Collegiate students prepare for Relay For Life. Back row, from left: Kingston Lowe, Brook Waldbauer, Robyn Loudon, Alayna Toth, Ainsleigh Hutchinson and Sam Loudon. Front: Kenadi Sherred.