



Tina Morton and her three dogs walk along Highway 219 south of Saskatoon Sunday afternoon. They walk daily for approximately an hour-and-a-half. From left to right are Coco the miniature daschund, Ginger the golden retriever and Larry the bloodhound. (SP Photo by Richard Marjan)

paper articles as sources to strengthen the Sask. Party case.

“Today the Saskatchewan Party is making it easy for the people of this province to view that record for themselves,” said Heppner.

Saskatoon Meewasin NDP candidate Frank Quennell says the site is chock full of misinformation.

“On item, after item, after item the information is wrong — and I think deliberately so,” said Quennell in a press con-

ference and the programs of the two parties.

“What we do in our so-called negative advertising is ask a question,” he said. “We’re not misinforming people. It’s factual. It’s asking questions about the future.”

Quennell doesn’t think the Sask. Party website will have a huge effect on voters.

“People may go check it out, but I don’t think it will influence people’s votes,” said Quennell.

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Choc la Cure delicious way to help cancer clinic

COMMENTARY

Jackie Tennent is on a mission. “I need a snowblower,” she said.

She has lined up other cool swag for a silent auction in support of the Saskatoon Cancer Centre — spa packages, recreation equipment, travel vouchers. Just no snowblower.

She is working on it.

When Jackie first volunteered to be part of this annual fundraiser her contribution consisted of slicing fruit for party trays and pouring coffee on the evening of the event; a few hours was all. Now that she is a member of the organizing committee she works on the gala for months, her days occupied by securing sponsors and canvassing businesses for donations, in scoring a new snowblower, perhaps.

“People say to me ‘You retired to do THIS?’ ” said Jackie, who worked for 34 years as a teacher and principal.

“It’s become my full-time job. That’s OK. It keeps me out of the quilt shop.”

Not a job, it’s a benevolent adventure. Not just Jackie Tennent, it’s a whole team with varying ages and different backgrounds, but of singular purpose. There is Eileen Bunko and Joanne Chartier and Ruth de Rooy and Shelley Gregg and Lynn Heppler and Pamela Twigg and Bev Vassos and Jody Pellegri and the vanDuyvendyks, Kim and Leslie.



BOB FLORENCE

Since 2005 they’ve been getting together to present an annual evening of music and fashion and sinister chocolate, all in aid of the Saskatoon Cancer Centre.

Choc la Cure, they call it.

To get a feel for what the cancer centre needs and for how the money the gala raises can best be spent, Jackie and other members of the organizing team went and saw the place.

“We’ve gone twice,” said Shelley Gregg, a stay-at-home mother. “The first time I went I saw a young boy who was there for treatment. I looked at him. He looked at me. I couldn’t get through it. I had to leave.

“He’d have been about 15, 16,” she said, the age Shelley was when she was diagnosed with cancer.

Said Jackie: “I was so touched by what I saw — people of different ages, people in different stages of treatment. I had a lump in my throat that day. I left thinking ‘How lucky I am that I can walk out of here. I have this energy I can use. I can make a difference for these people.’ ”

This year, they want to use the proceeds from

▼ CHOC LA CURE

□ A gala evening of music, fashion and chocolate in support of the Saskatoon Cancer Centre Nov. 16 at Dutch Growers Garden Centre

□ For tickets phone 249-1222 or e-mail cure@choclacure.com

the gala to buy software for the cancer centre, reducing to a matter of hours the work a radiation technician now needs days to complete. For a cancer patient, the sooner they can start treatment, the better.

The software package costs \$19,000.

“We want to get five,” said Jackie, which would be enough to supply each of the technicians at the centre.

“And we want 450 guests (at the fundraiser) having a gala time, saying ‘This is great. We have to go again next year.’ ”

A ton of work goes into making this evening fun. The committee began putting the event together in March and has been going flat out since September. They have people to see, favours to ask. Although times are good and the economy is cooking, Jackie and Shelley and the crew

recognize how much the community has already given, not only to this cause, but others. They have seen the face of donor fatigue.

“You’re the third one today,” one of the gala volunteers was told when she introduced herself to a business owner, seeking support.

There is that.

But there is also this: There is Shelley and her mother volunteering at the annual Gardenscape at Credit Union Centre, running a roulette wheel as a cancer fundraiser, two bucks a spin. “An amazing weekend,” Shelley said. “You’d meet someone who was in town visiting an aunt in hospital, or talk with a man with his boys, stopping in for a minute before going back to see his wife who was getting treatment. I don’t know how many stories we heard like that. People really opened up to us.”

There is this, too: There is Jackie, dropping in at PickNic’s restaurant and pastry parlour downtown and having Nicola Larson, the young owner of the place, spontaneously offer to provide treats for the annual gala.

“You know what else we often get?” Jackie said. “We get people saying thank you. ‘Thank you for doing this,’ they say. Things like that sustain you.”

Well, that and the chocolate.

“Now,” Jackie said, “I’ve just got to get that snowblower.”

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