

The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award



Wendolyn J Callahan

Whitehorse, Yukon

Wendy Callahan is a familiar sight on the streets of Whitehorse. A dedicated walker, she decided several years ago to use her love of walking to raise money for the health of her community.



Doing it on her own, solely through individual contributions, Ms. Callahan raised more than \$3 000 in 1999 by running in Whitehorse's first-ever Run for Mom. Buoyed by this success, she has participated every year since. She not only takes part in the run, but spends many hours soliciting contributions; over the years, she has raised more than \$80 000.

Her story is best told through the eyes of those she has personally helped. Karen St. Pierre was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001. Ms. St. Pierre's youth, lifestyle and family history meant she was at little risk of developing the disease, so doctors had to rely on past research in developing the right treatment for her. The money raised by Ms. Callahan's efforts was used in support of further research and new equipment, which has made all the difference in the early detection of breast cancer. Ms. St. Pierre herself has now been cancer-free for 11 years.

"For women living in Yukon, a state-of-the-art mammography unit could mean the difference between life and death in the early discovery of breast cancer," Ms. St. Pierre says. "With more than \$80 000 in donations raised by Wendy, this has made a significant contribution towards the purchase of this new unit. For that reason alone I wholeheartedly support Wendy Callahan for the Caring Canadian award."

Ms. Callahan has lived in Yukon all her life and is well-known to people throughout the territory. In 2010, to thank her for her efforts during that year's Run for Mom, she was awarded a trip aboard Air North, Yukon's official airline, to any of their destination cities. That same year, she received the Commissioner's Award for service to her community. "I have known Wendy

all of her life and her dedication to combating cancer has been exemplary," says former Premier Dennis Fentie.

"We have known Wendy for upwards of 40 years and know her to be a true Yukoner and Canadian, a wife and mother, a daughter and a sister and a true friend to those she works with and meets daily."

Marie Cox, nominator

These sentiments are echoed by Marie Cox, who nominated Ms. Callahan for the Caring Canadian Award. "We have known Wendy for upwards of 40 years and know her to be a true Yukoner and Canadian, a wife and mother, a daughter and a sister and a true friend to those she works with and meets daily. In 2011, Wendy once again spent many hours soliciting contributions as well as running in the event and we know she is already gearing up for the 2012 run. She is an outstanding volunteer."



The Caring Canadian Award was presented to Wendolyn J Callahan on April 17, 2012, at Rideau Hall. Sgt Ronald Duchesne 2012 © Rideau Hall