

Things get hairy at Town Hall ahead of Relay for Life



By Brock Weir

She went into the room armed only with an electric shaver and a vague idea of what was to come, but Ivy Henriksen put on a brave face as she climbed up into a makeshift barber chair and let her coworkers make fast work of her locks.

Ms. Henriksen, Manager of Customer Service at the Town of Aurora, underwent a close shave Friday afternoon ahead of the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life. As *The Auroran* reported last week, Ms. Henriksen decided to auction off the "shaving rights" to her head to raise money for the United Way of York Region, and also raise awareness for that evening's Relay.

She was inspired to take this extra step in solidarity with her sister-in-law, Sherry, who is currently "kicking cancer's ass" for the second time. The women are but two members of Sherry's Sugar Bears, a team which takes the Brant Relay for Life by storm each year.

Through her efforts within the Town of Aurora, Ms. Henriksen also raised enough money to push the team over the \$2,000 mark.

"Welcome to the party," said Ms. Henriksen with excitement and some degree of trepidation, as she greeted friends and co-workers into the Council Chamber at Aurora Town Hall on Friday. "I am shaving my head for people with cancer, including my family members, honouring the survivors, our colleagues, my sister-in-law, and a past partner. I'm actually excited to do this, but I'm more nervous tonight about my family's reaction than this afternoon.

"I think I can pull this off. What do you guys think?"

From the cheers and applause, everyone in the room evidently thought she would rock the look and her boss, Techa Van Leeuwen, the Town's Director of Bylaw Services, and cancer survivor herself, made the first sweep with the shaver. Building and Bylaw Services joined forces with Corporate and Financial Services to make the winning bid after going head to head throughout the silent bidding.

"One rule?" said Ms. Henriksen before Ms. van Leeuwen fired up the shaver. "No mullets!?"

Mullets may have been out of the question, but things such as an "Alfalfa flip" suggested by Town Treasurer Dan Elliott, a "Cindy Lou Who" tuft ventured by another, and leaving enough for one potential Jheri curl were all fair game. At the end, Ms. Henriksen ended up with a short brush cut before opting to take things one step further with having cancer ribbon etched into the stubble.

?The ribbon is so people are always are that this is not a fashion forward trend, and I am doing it for a reason and awareness,? she said. ?I want people to be reminded ? make your doctors' appointments!?

Inspired by Ivy's campaign, as her new look was still fresh, bylaw officer Dave Marshall stepped up to the plate volunteering to go in for a shave as well ? before his wife found out. Mr. Marshall himself has been in the process of ?kicking cancer's ass? for three years.