

11-Feb-10

An open request for help from Karen's Quest-Lions Camp Dorset
[\[www.lionscampdorset.on.ca\]](http://www.lionscampdorset.on.ca):

My name is Lion Sherry Welsh; and I am a member of the South Brant Lions Club. Currently, I am the District A-2 Chair and Director of Corporate Fundraising for Lions Camp Dorset.

Lions Camp Dorset has a very special place in my heart. Ten years ago I lost my sister to kidney disease. She, along with her two daughters and husband had the opportunity to experience the freedom, generosity and loving care provided by Lions Camp Dorset as a dialysis family. Those were very memorable times, which she could not truly find the words to describe.

Lions Camp Dorset is the only camp in Ontario that caters to people and their families where a family member is required to undergo dialysis for kidney disease. For approximately 13 weeks each summer, a full medical staff and dialysis equipment is provided for the families who attend. This allows the families to enjoy a summer activity together that would otherwise not be possible. The family member needing dialysis typically attends their local hospital for dialysis every second or third day, depending on the degree of kidney impairment they suffer. My sister, Karen, and her family thoroughly enjoyed attending the camp for several summers until kidney disease ultimately took her life.

In addition to funding the summer program, capital expenditures must also be funded. Many Lions clubs make donations of money and labor to the camp, but the need is still great. This year, repairs must be made to the camp swimming pool, and a program to renew and improve the cottages is still on-going. The camp has been in operation for 30 years and building maintenance is required.

For the past two years, under the banner of "Karen's Quest", I have organized very long fund raising walks – approximately 600 kilometers each year. These walks have raised funds for the camp, raised awareness of Organ and Tissue donation, and have also given some local high school students an opportunity to work community service hours. While I am the only walker that does the entire trip, people join the walk for a day or two as they can and help collect pledges in their local community.

Along the way, walkers pick up appropriate recyclables from the roadside and from local residents who choose to donate them. The proceeds from this effort pay for expenses incurred on the walk such as accommodations and gas for the truck that accompanies us.

This year, the walk will begin at Lions Camp Dorset on May 1, and finish up at Parliament Hill in Ottawa on June 6.

See page two for a list of ways you can help.

I can be reached at welsh.sherry@gmail.com, or by phone at either 519-909-9780 or 519-446-2408. I thank you in advance for your participation in helping this excellent cause.

How can I help?

[Please co-ordinate your efforts with us, so that we can inform you of changes.]

- Make a donation of money, or beer bottles, wine or liquor bottles.
- Walk with us and collect pledges – tax receipts are available for donations of \$20 and up.
 - Pledge forms are available.
- Sponsor a fund-raising event in your community as we pass through.
- Tell everyone about the walk and what it raises money for – help us obtain media coverage.
- Provide accommodations or help us obtain a list of inexpensive motels along our route
 - Typically 2 to 4 walkers need accommodations each evening.
- Provide a meal for the walkers or a light lunch along the roadside.

Our tentative walking route and schedule:

May 1, depart Camp Dorset

May 4, Minden

May 8, Bobcaygeon

May 11, Millbrook

May 15, Warkworth

May 17, Frankford

May 18, Stirling

May 20, Tweed

May 23, Tamworth

May 25, Verona

May 29, Newboro

June 1, Merrickville

June 2, Kemptville

June 4, Manotick

June 6, Parliament Hill, Ottawa

For more information please contact me.

e-mail – welsh.sherry@gmail.com

Phone – 519-446-2408

Cell - 519-909-9780

I cannot thank you enough for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Attached is a Flyer, sponsorship form and Calendar of events.

Yours in Lionism,

Lion Sherry Welsh

District A-2 Chair

Director

Corporate Fundraiser

Lions Camp Dorset