

LETTER FROM BLAINE HOLMES TO CROIX WEEKEND: JUNE 19, 2012
TO RESPOND TO ARTICLE BY VERN FAULKNER, COURIER, JUNE 15

Dear Mr Faulkner;

I would like to explain why The Charlotte County Cancer Society feels it is necessary to publish a disclaimer, stating we are not associated with the St.Stephen Relay for Life.

We are frequently asked what happens to the funds raised from the Relay, and we have to explain that it is for The N.B. Division of The Canadian Cancer Society. All funds from the Relay go to the Saint John office; none is passed on to The Charlotte County Cancer Society. If someone from Charlotte County goes to the Saint John office for assistance, they are told to contact The Charlotte County Cancer Society.

Our group has been providing financial assistance to residents of Charlotte County, since 1958. As of our most recent year end, February 29, 2012, we received \$ 154,631. in donations, and our total expenses for the year were \$ 121,975. Of these expenses, \$ 113,975 was spent on prescription drugs and transportation for cancer patients. The balance, \$ 7,374, or 6% was spent on printing, advertising, insurance, bank charges and telephone, our operating costs. None of our people are paid, we are all volunteers. Luckily we have a very dedicated group who are willing to give their time and efforts to make our group function.

As with our group, The Canadian Cancer Society does do good work. They are a much larger group, thus have large expenses, including wages, transportation, and advertising. Our estimated advertising costs for the disclaimers are a pittance compared to the advertising budget for the St.Stephen Relay.

Walk Cause We Care is a walk organized by a group of people who support the work of The Charlotte Cancer Society. The Walk is not organized by CCCS, although a number of people serve on both committees, but is the recipient of their efforts. There is nothing to prevent The Walk Cause We Care group to decide to support a different charity at some time.

When the Walk is held in the fall or when we have other fundraisers, we are asked why we have two walks. People have thanked us for assisting them with prescription and transportation expenses, and said they will put a team in the Relay as a thank you, not realizing the money used to help them didn't come from the Relay.

There is confusion between the Relay and Walk, and we are only trying to inform the public about the differences. We are not sparring, or making attack ads, just clarifying where the funds go. Money received from Walk Cause We Care goes directly to Charlotte County cancer patients. Money from The Relay for Life goes to help operate the N B Division of The Canadian Cancer Society. Maybe, Mr Editor, you could investigate and see how much of the \$ 60,000 raised from the Relay will be returned to Charlotte County from The Canadian Cancer Society.

Thank you,

Blaine K Holmes
President, Charlotte County Cancer Society