



More than 100 walkers took part in the annual Relay for Life on June 1 -2 at Northern Maine Community College. The fun-filled overnight event is designed to bring together those who have been touched by cancer in our community and to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Aroostook County's Relay for Life is one of about 200 Relays taking place in New England in 2007.



More than 20 NMCC employees, students and their children joined forces to walk in this year's Relay, led by team captains Lori Keith and Becky Maynard (holding sign, from left). Thanks to a lot of hard work, the team raised more than \$3,200, raising the second largest amount of any team. Coming in first place was the TAMC Trekkers, who raised more than \$3,300. With some donations still being collected, a total of more than \$17,000 was raised by the Aroostook County Relay for Life event.



Diamonds in the Rough was just one of three teams from The Aroostook Medical Center taking part in the Relay for Life. In all, eleven teams participated in the 16-hour event. In addition to the three teams from TAMC, there were teams from Northern Maine Community College, Aroostook County Action Program, Cary Medical Center, the Department of Health & Human Services/MSEA Unit, F.A. Peabody Company, Maurices, McCains, and WAGM-TV.



The Aroostook Medical Center sponsored a free barbecue for the Relay for Life participants. On hand to cook for everyone was, from left, Bruce Sandstrom, executive vice president for finance, and Steve Poitras, vice president of plant operations and risk management, from TAMC.



Among the varied activities taking place during the evening of June 1 for the Relay for Life was a special reception for cancer survivors held in the courtyard at Northern Maine Community College.



Annie Charles, winner of Aroostook Idol 2007, was among those who entertained the crowd during the “Pack the Track” event for the Relay for Life. New to the Relay this year, this event was an attempt to get as many members of the public as possible to attend the Friday evening start of the Relay, in order to show their support of local cancer survivors and the family members of those lost to cancer.



Several members from the Presque Isle Fire Department were on hand at NMCC to help with the Ceremony of Hope, lighting more than 600 luminaries. Individuals could purchase luminary bags in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of someone who had lost the battle with cancer.



Luminary bags lined the path of the walkers, lighting their way throughout the night, with some spelling out the word "hope". During the ceremony, the names of all of those honored or remembered were read, in one of the most moving events in the Relay.