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Kick-Off Meeting for Aroostook County Relay for Life to be held March 5 at NMCC

Aroostook County - Northern Maine Community College will once again host the Relay for Life event for Aroostook County in early June. A kick-off meeting regarding the annual event that raises funds for the American Cancer Society will be held at the College on Wednesday, March 5, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Edmunds Conference Center.

The Relay for Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to bring together those who have been touched by cancer in our community. More than 200 Relays were held throughout New England in 2007, all celebrating survivorship and raising money to help the American Cancer Society in its mission to save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer, and empower individuals to fight back.

This year's Relay for Life will take place on June 6-7 at NMCC. Throughout Friday evening, a number of activities will happen that are open to the general public. After those activities wind down, many team members will be on hand throughout the night, with a representative from each team mandated to be on the track at all times until the closing lap on Saturday morning. Several fun activities are scheduled throughout the night to keep the team energized.

Teams of approximately 8 to 15 members raise pledge money and take turns walking throughout the 16-hour event. Teams are often sponsored by area businesses, but can also be formed by other community groups or individuals. Each team is expected to raise a minimum of \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society.

“We had ten teams take part last year, and we’d really like to increase those numbers this year,” said Becky Maynard of Presque Isle, chair of this year’s local Relay for Life planning committee and co-chair of NMCC’s team for the past several years. While most of last year’s teams were from the central Aroostook area, the committee is hoping to get more teams from southern Aroostook and the St. John Valley this year.

“This is a great way to honor people in your life who have had cancer or who have it right now. I think we all have been touched by cancer in some way,” said Maynard, who lost her father last year after a ten-year battle with cancer and just recently lost an aunt to ovarian cancer.

The national theme for this year’s Relay for Life is “Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back.”

Anyone interested in forming a team with co-workers, friends or family members, or perhaps just learning more about how they can get involved and help with this community activity, is encouraged to attend the kick-off meeting on March 5.

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