

Tracy's Dream Calendar Launch

November 17, 2015 Days Inn – 5:30 P.M.

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good evening and thank you so much for inviting me here today. It's a real honour to join you to celebrate this calendar launch in support of Tracy's Dream.

Today's event offers proof positive that sometimes out of the simplest of ideas—in this case, covering parking costs for cancer patients—remarkable things can come. Since its inception, Tracy's Dream has raised over \$15,000 to be used towards parking passes. With proceeds from this calendar, that amount will likely be doubled before too much longer.

So obviously, we can't talk about Tracy's Dream without starting the conversation with one remarkable woman: Tracy Dinelle. Though she could not be here today, I want to commend Tracy for her selflessness and for being the driving force behind Tracy's Dream. She personally went through some very difficult experiences with cancer. No one would have faulted her for getting down or turning inward as a result.

But instead, Tracy became a force of optimism and positivity. Instead of focusing on herself, she asked what she could do to help others in the same situation. And then she went out and did it, and our whole community has been inspired as a result. This day would not have happened without her. On behalf of the Office of the Mayor and our Sault Ste. Marie City Council, I want to thank Tracy for her drive, initiative, and fearlessness.

I'd also like to thank all of the women who participated as models for the calendar. It takes courage to do this—not only to be photographed, but also to share your stories.

A cancer diagnosis is without question one of the most frightening and upsetting events that can happen to a person and their loved ones. But there is no better antidote to this fear than to be able to look to the example of others who have faced or are facing the disease, and are continuing to live vibrantly and courageously.

Now, with this calendar, Sault and area residents have thirteen examples of local women who've faced down breast cancer. Ladies, you are all remarkable. Thank you for your participation and your bravery

Thanks as well to Anna Pelletier-Doble of Kevanna Studios for lending her time and talents to do the photography for the calendar and to the supporters who made the project possible: Stone's Office Supply, Sault College, and the Sault Area Hospital.

So once more, I'd just like to commend everyone who came together to make the calendar a reality and to support this worthy cause. We have a big-hearted community and I know already that this calendar is destined to be a best-seller. Thank you again for inviting me today; it's been an honour to be able to speak with you.

Thank you.