Dragon Busters - Inaugural Team - 1999



Vi Boulet

Shore Team: 1999-2000 Vi was from Brandon. She worked at Fairview and also enjoyed vacationing at her cottage on Pelican Lake. The 1999 inaugural team called her "Auntie Vi" because of the many ways she helped the first paddling team.



Irene Bynesheuski

Member: 1999

Irene was from Brandon and worked at Fairview. She paddled with the team in Winnipeg.



Norma Jean (Noni) Coates

Norma was born in Souris, MB and was married in 1951. She has one daughter, Colleen and a special granddaughter, Sarah Jean. She graduated from Brandon University and taught at Assiniboine Community College for 20 years.

In 1992, Norma Jean was diagnosed with breast cancer. Norma Jean says, "It affected me with denial and a great deal of anger. Thank goodness for my family!" After treatment she was active with the Manitoba Cancer Society in the patient services. She is so happy to be on the Waves of Hope dragon boat team and we are glad that she is a very active member who always supplies us with opportunities for laughter and support for one another. Norma Jean initiated and convened the teams extremely successful spring fashion shows for 2003, 2004 and 2005, each larger than the one prior.



Shelley Foster

Shelley lives in Rivers with her husband Rod, daughter Rebecca, son Mitchell, and their old cat Nathan. Even though they have moved eleven times in eight years, this has been their home since 1990. Shelley works as a pharmacy technician at the local pharmacy. She sits on various boards in Rivers and teaches Sunday school. Sewing, crafts, gardening and fixing up a 1908 house consume her rare moments of spare time.

Shelly was diagnosed at the age of 35 and had a lumpectomy and a mastectomy followed by reconstruction a year later. Her faith, family and friends helped her to maintain a positive attitude. As traumatic as those months were, it has changed her life in a positive way. "I do not take my life or my health for granted and appreciate all that is precious to me. In my life, cancer has been only a stepping stone that has brought me to the person I am".