



# CANCER

A CODE RED PROJECT

# THE ENEMY WITHIN

When it comes to getting cancer in Hamilton, there are the usual genetic and lifestyle clues. There is also an indisputable link between cancer and wealth



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PHOTOS BY JOHN RENNISON, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN RENNISON AND GARY YOKOYAMA, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

JANICE MCFADYEN arrived at the Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice on Aug. 12, one week before her 45th birthday.

Her daughter, Rachel, would turn 20 on Aug. 24, and a week after that, her 17-year-old son Dylan was starting his first year at Brock University.

While her children were taking their first tentative steps into the adult world, Janice was preparing to die peacefully at the pleasant hospice on Stone Church Road East.

At the beginning of August, she had been told she had five weeks to live.

The breast cancer that had been diagnosed 10 years earlier — and beaten once — had returned and now riddled her bones, her lungs and her liver.

There were no more treatments to try and nothing left to do but wait.

“I’m inoperable right now and that’s not cool,” Janice said slowly from her hospice bed, eyelids heavy as she struggled to stay awake from the painkillers keeping her comfortable.

The room is filled with the constant whirring and clacking of the oxygen machine tucked away discreetly in the washroom next to her bed.

“I started planning my funeral about three years ago,” she said. “I just knew.”

Forty-five years old, planning your own funeral and waiting for death to arrive.

It shouldn’t be like that, you think. There’s something wrong with this picture.

Genetics played an enormous role in why Janice got cancer in the first place.

The bigger and tougher question: why is she dying of cancer?

Terrible continues // BA2



Cancer patient Janice McFadyen at Bob Kemp Centre for Hospice Palliative Care. She’s on inhalers as her cancer has metastasized to her lungs, leaving her with breathing difficulties. ‘I’m inoperable right now.’