

The Sixteenth Annual 2015 Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Snow Run was fast approaching and the anticipation was building, as my cousin Melanie Robitaille shared her enthusiasm for this special event, after volunteering in 2014.

Mel asked me to join her this year as a fellow volunteer. She said it was hard work but, an amazing experience. Well it wasn't a tough decision - A girl's weekend, raising money for a good cause, an excuse to wear an endless amount of pink and the sweet smell of 2-stroke engine oil in the morning. What more could a girl ask for? I knew it would be a great experience, as volunteering is always rewarding and she had wonderful stories to share as the previous years, "Newbie."

What I didn't expect was when she said it would be a lot of work, was that my pink pumps would magically grow wings! I have never seen a more passionate and dedicated group of women and men work together towards one goal and make it look so effortless. The organizing of this event is an immense undertaking, all driven by volunteers.

It wasn't until I heard people share their stories of Kelly's unwavering passion and dedication to helping others affected by breast cancer, that I understood where people channeled their energy from.

Stories of this remarkable woman brought stinging tears to my eyes and goosebumps up and down my arms.

As the weekend came to an end I reflected on a very memorable and heartfelt moment in my life that had blessed me with beautiful memories of love, courage, kindness, generosity, hope, sisterhood (some bros too) and just plain good ole' fashion fun!

Kelly Shires lives on! She lives on through all those who knew and loved her. All of you that shared your precious memories of Kelly now live on through me.

So, this "Newbie" will be polishing her winged-pink pumps in preparation for next year, knowing that Kelly's vision of truly helping others continues by volunteering a small portion of my time to make a huge impact!

"Let's go girls! I feel like a woman, da da da da da DA DA!"

Audrey Phillips

~Proud Member of Team Extraordinaire~



"Team Extraordinaire"