

## *My Experience as a Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Snow Run "Newbie"*

*My first experience with the KSBCSR was more than I could have ever imagined. I was nervous, excited, anxious, proud and happy all at once. I don't know the last time I felt all of these emotions at one time.*

*On Friday February 6th, my friend Rana and I did our last check of the sleds and trailer, made sure we were packed and set off for Hidden Valley Resort in Huntsville, Ontario. We left in a snow storm, drove through some sunshine, then drove through a terrible blizzard with whiteout conditions....All while towing our sleds. Almost 5 hours later we arrived! What was waiting for us was so awesome. There was a grounds crew/snowmobile valet. They unloaded our machines and trailer and got our sleds tucked in for the night. Then, up to our room! What a beautiful room with an amazing view of the lake. We got ready for our pyjama party meet and greet. We met breast cancer survivors, people currently battling and those whom have had breast cancer touch their lives in different ways. This group of amazing women welcomed us with open arms. It was the 16th year the KSBCSR has been on!! Sweet 16 was the theme, and PINK is always the colour!!!!*

*Saturday morning was full of happiness and excitement. We got down to our sleds. Some announcements, a moment of silence and then an amazing dance session to ShaniaTwain's "Man, I feel like a Woman" Then it was announced!! "Ladies, Start Your ENGINES!" Everything I worked so hard for was here! DREAM TEAM #1 was my crew for the day and SUZY Q was our amazing leader. What an amazing ride!!! The conditions were perfect! We had a few stops including Lunch in Dorset. (Awesome ladies making soup and sandwiches) Then off we went again! We were crossing back over the frozen lake and could see the resort when my sled decided to break down. I was "dead on the water" I got towed back by the wonderful OPP officer that was riding with our team. A video of this was taken including me asking him to put me in*

cuffs or to turn on the lights and sirens to make me look cooler. Despite all of this, it didn't even put a damper on the night because I was having such an amazing time!!!! When we got back we relaxed and got ready for the dinner gala. Beverly Thompson from Canada AM was our emcee. She rides with us! She's a survivor. So awesome!!!! Dinner was great. Then the awards. I received the 2015 Sled ED award...I guess my video made me famous!!! My breakdown won me the award for this year's unfortunate sled mishap!

As I write this, I smile thinking about my crazy weekend. Despite my breakdown and crazy driving weather, I came home with the happiest heart and the best memories. I met some amazing women. I rode with some amazing women, and I made memories and helped others with some amazing women. I am so grateful and proud. This experience was better than I could have ever imagined. I am looking forward to participating in February 2016....I have already started counting down the days!

Amy Gregorio