

# NEWS FROM THRY VORS

Volume 1, Issue 1  
June 2002

The **Canadian Thyroid Cancer Support Group (Thry'vors) Inc.** officially became a non-profit incorporation on Jan 29, 2002, with the goal of providing support and information to patients and families affected by thyroid cancer.

To date, our achievements include setting-up and providing:

- an email address, [thryvors@sympatico.ca](mailto:thryvors@sympatico.ca)
- a telephone number, 416-487-8267 (please call during office hours only)
- a postal address:  
P.O. Box 23007  
550 Eglinton Ave West  
Toronto ON M5N 3A8
- a listserv: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/thryvors>

promotional material (a brochure, resource list and poster)

Earlier this spring, Thry'vors participated in a Resource Committee that produced 500 thyroid cancer information kits. The *Thyroid Foundation of Canada* has continued to offer support to Thry'vors by publishing various articles and stories in their *thybulletin* and were instrumental in facilitating the preparation and distribution of the Patient Kits from the Kingston Chapter Office. *Theramed* is currently distributing these kits to doctors who have a special interest in treating thyroid cancer patients.

Thry'vors held its first AGM on May 25, 2002 and confirmed our Board of Directors:

Dianne Dodd,  
President, Ottawa

Rita Banach,  
Vice President, Toronto

Patricia Sharkey,  
Treasurer, Guelph

Theresa de Jeu,  
Secretary, London

Kim McNally,  
Director, Kingston

Diane Patching,  
Director, Dundalk (near Orangeville)

Debbie Langdon,  
Director, Wasaga Beach (Georgian Bay)

Thry'vors listserv is actively being used by people across Canada (approx 45 members at this time), and we are exploring the various features that a listserv provides, from files and bookmarks to calendars and chatrooms. Thry'vors has been working to promote itself with the *Canadian Cancer Society* and has already had some links set-up from other organizations. We are considering alternative ways to promote ourselves including distributing posters to hospital departments and RAI isolation rooms. Thry'vors has also had inquiries from people who don't have access to the web.

Besides the listserv, several members have expressed interest in providing local support. Some of our board

members are already volunteers with *CancerConnection*, and we encourage our members to become involved in whatever capacity they feel comfortable with.

Some ideas for possible future projects that Thry'vors has discussed include:

- producing a comprehensive glossary of short forms and terminology used in diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancer to help members sort through the maze of information they are often presented with
- writing and producing a more comprehensive booklet that covers the emotional aspects of having thyroid cancer
- collecting helpful hints and tips from our online members, all of which may someday be used in the context of a "Thyca Treatment Diary"

Thry'vors made a policy decision about neutrality with regards to products used in the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancer and agreed that no endorsements will be made.

Thry'vors has started making plans to host a "Thyroid Cancer Conference" in London in the Spring of 2003. Thry'vors hope to have several guest speakers. Although we haven't set a date, we hope to hold our 2nd AGM at the same time.

Health Canada released some disturbing statistics in April that showed thyroid cancer is increasing at the fastest rate among cancers in 20-44 year olds (6.6% per year in women and 4.2% per year in men). Thyroid cancer comprised 8% of all cancers in women in this age group.

Health Canada granted Thyrogen prescription drug status on May 31, 2002. It's DIN# 02246016 and the price will soon be \$1,324 Cdn (plus dispensing fee if ordered through a pharmacy), once distribution gets under way.

Sara Rosenthal will soon release a new book entitled, *The Thyroid Cancer Book*. Sara will promote Thry'vors in her book and has included information about hypoparathyroidism contributed from one of our members.

For further details about Thry'vors, please email us at [thryvors@sympatico.ca](mailto:thryvors@sympatico.ca).