

AGAINST THE TIDE

Murphy swims to support breast cancer research

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) June 18 called out all the mothers, daughters, sisters and their loved ones to support breast cancer prevention by participating in the organization's annual Against the Tide swim, kayak, walk or run fundraising event.

North Andover resident Kyle Murphy, 16, was ready to plunge into the water for the one-mile competitive swim for the fifth year in a row to support breast cancer prevention. Murphy started participating in this event when he was only 12 years old after a friend's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and he was able to see that tragedies and heart break the disease can cause.

Murphy is now a member of the Saint John's Prep swimming team in Danvers, and still trains on the Hurricane team at the YMCA in Andover.

This summer, Murphy will be a lifeguard at Great Harbors, and will teach a younger team

how to swim the one-mile. He has been trying to round up his swimming teammates, classmates and their families to join him on his Team "Swimming Against Breast Cancer."

Murphy said he'd gotten a later start than usual this year because of his studies, but that wasn't going to stop him.

"He has even offered to pay for his friends since there is not enough time for all of them to fundraise," said mom, Nancy Murphy.

The teen's dedication has caught the eye of event organizers.

"Every year, Kyle's dedication to our Against the Tide events has amazed me," says Director of Events, Cheryl Osimo. "Because of Kyle's perseverance, commitment, and support we will certainly be able change the legacy of breast cancer for future generations. Kyle, along with his family and friends, has been a tremendous support and help to the MBCC Against the Tide over the past years."

Massachusetts Breast Cancer

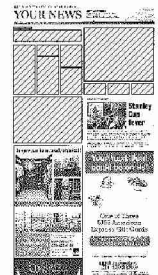
Coalition (MBCC) is a statewide grassroots advocacy organization that seeks answers to what is causing breast cancer in order to offer changes that will lead towards breast cancer prevention.

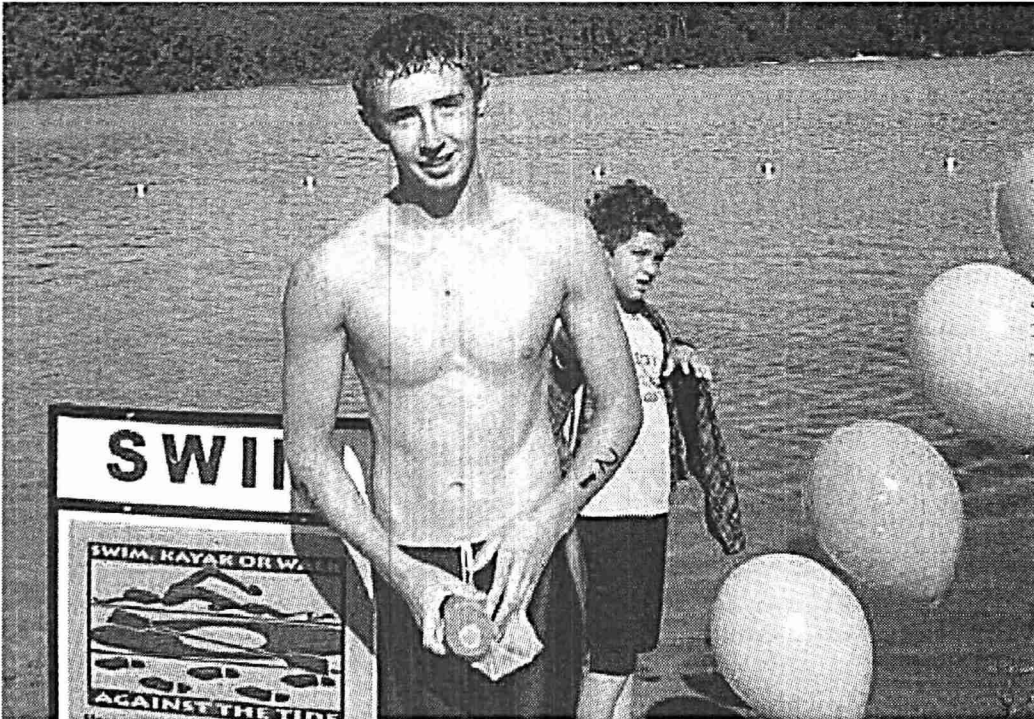
Massachusetts' breast cancer rate is nearly 10 percent higher than the national average, with some women in Greater Boston and Cape Cod bearing some of the highest risk for breast cancer in the world.

More than 1 in 7 women risk a breast cancer diagnosis during her lifetime; and, while breast cancer is typically a disease affecting older women, more and more younger women are being diagnosed with very aggressive forms of the disease.

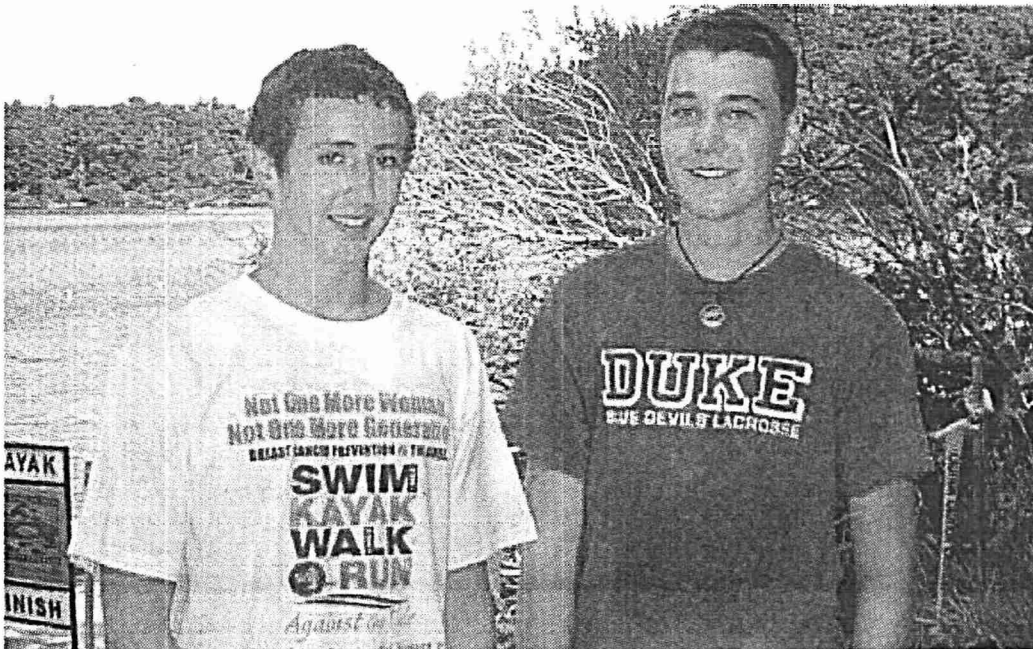
Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition is asking citizens throughout Massachusetts to join the Against the Tide event on Aug. 20th on Cape Cod. "

Donations may be sent to Against the Tide c/o MBCC 1419 Hancock Street, Suite 202 Quincy, MA 02169.





North Andover's Kyle Murphy swam in the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition's 'Against the Tide' event on June 18. The 16-year-old has been participating in the event for five years. COURTESY PHOTOS



North Andover Kyle Murphy and a friend ready themselves for the 'Against the Tide' swim.