

## Pink warriors treated to 'Day of Glamour,' model gowns

Fashion show fundraiser for Seymour Pink held at Quarry Walk in Oxford

By Patricia Villers

*Photos by Allegra Villers, Cameron Villers, Agathe Likoba, Debbie Russell, Josie Gaetano Campolattano*

OXFORD - Wow. It has been slightly more than two weeks since I was transformed, for a short while, into a princess for a Pink Warrior Fashion Show.

The event at [Quarry Walk](#) was a fundraiser for Seymour Pink, a community's fight against breast cancer. The nonprofit founded a decade ago by Seymour resident Mary Deming raises awareness and supports breast cancer survivors emotionally and financially.

As a pink warrior I enjoyed a wonderful day of glamour along with nine other women who are breast cancer survivors courtesy of Friends of [Seymour Pink](#).

Our day included choosing a gorgeous gown to model, having our hair and makeup done and having professional photos taken.

I'm filled with feelings of gratitude. I want to publicly offer a huge thank you to Laurye Natale, owner of [Dazzle Boutique](#) at Quarry Walk, for organizing this amazing experience for us pink warriors. She made us all feel at home in her shop.

When I walked into Dazzle Boutique, I was greeted by row upon row of beautiful gowns in every style and in every color of the rainbow. The shop specializes in prom and pageant gowns and accessories.

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Natale urged us to pick our favorite dresses to try on to see how they looked.

Since the only time I had ever worn a gown was on my wedding day I truly didn't know where to begin. I felt like I was in a formal wear version of an October corn maze. What color do I choose? And more importantly, what size would I wear in such a lovely dress?

My friend Kim from the Circle of Friends breast cancer support group at Griffin Hospital helped me get started.

We had fun combing through the racks and checking out the many styles!

I found a pink gown with a sparkly top I hoped would fit. Some might call it bubble gum pink but I prefer to see it as breast cancer awareness pink - in honor of Seymour Pink!

With Natale's help - she pulled me together and zipped me up - I discovered that I could wear it.

Before choosing the dress I had my hair done right next

door to the boutique at [67 West Hair Designers](#). I want to give a big thanks to salon owner Josie Campolattano and hair stylist Lacy Steiskal for their talented handiwork! I appreciate their time and their warm welcome.

When I returned to Dazzle Boutique I took a seat on a stool under bright lights to have makeup applied by certified makeup artist Allyssa G. DiGiovancarlo. I didn't know I was going to wear false eyelashes for the event - another first! Her business, [FlawLyss Artistry](#), is in Waterbury.

In between taking turns trying on dresses and getting our makeup done the ladies and I had a chance to get to know each other. In addition to Kim and Pam, my Circle of Friends' cohorts, I chatted with Robbin, Debbie, Donna, Erin, Laurie, Kim, and Kim. It was a great gathering of girls.

Next up was a professional photo shoot courtesy of Jerome Stallings Photography of Wolcott. We took turns visiting the photographers in a temporary studio set up on the second floor next door. I can't wait to see the photos! I'm used to being behind the camera, not in front of it. *Continued on P.3*



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When it was almost time for the fashion show to begin on the town green at Quarry Walk Natale had us line up. We were in alphabetical order so I was at the end of the line.



Natale was like a mother duck leading her ducklings out of her shop and across the parking lot to backstage.

Before we each made our entrance to model our dresses we heard Natale read heart-warming letters from those who nominated us for the honor.



The lights were so bright I couldn't see the audience, but I knew it was filled with people who supported us and our journeys.

I also knew my daughter Allegra and son Cameron and a good friend were there to support me, which gave me confidence as I modeled the gown and waved.

Afterward my supporters came over, cameras in hand. They had taken photos and videos of me and of our whole group.

They looked at me almost incredulously and all they could say was "wow."



**Thanks to *all* who made this special night possible!**



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