

2 SCENE

Nine generations of adventure get kickstart

Catherine Brunelle.

Local blogger and author pens first piece of fiction while experiencing a real-life twist



BACKSTAGE PASS

Jen Traplin
ottawa@metronews.ca

Hoping to start a family but nervous to do so, Catherine Brunelle started writing a book a few years ago as a way to explore and understand the emotions that come along with being pregnant and having kids.

The process, she says, did help and the result is her first novel, *The Adventures of Claire Neverending*.

"The book is about nine generations of women who share the same middle name — Claire — and it made me think about, if my mother and her mother and her mother all got through that experience of birth and having a family, then I could do it. It gave me strength in that way," Brunelle says.

Halfway through writing the book, though, everything changed when she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"My family plans had been put on hold indefinitely, but I kept writing because, by the time it happened, I felt a real connection with the women in my story. It was more than just about pregnancy, it was about the stories and making a life for yourself and maybe

When and where

The book launch for *The Adventures of Claire Neverending* will be on May 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Kavanaugh Showroom (84-86 Beechwood Ave.); RSVP claireneverending@gmail.com.

that's why it's so important to me."

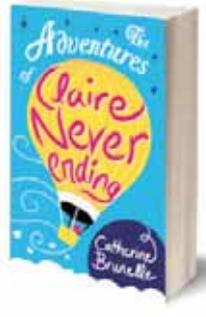
Brunelle published *The Adventures of Claire Neverending* herself with the help of an extremely successful Kickstarter campaign.

Her goal was to raise \$3,000. In just 24 hours, she met that goal and, in the month that followed, that number more than doubled. To date, she has received more than \$7,500.

Initially, the majority of the contributions came from people she knows but, as the campaign went on, Brunelle's heavy online and social media presence (she blogs and tweets under the name *bumpyboobs*) attracted even more interest and contributions.

"It was amazing — one of those moments that you don't forget," she says. "It was a show of support for the book, it was a show of support for me and I guess the idea of having big dreams beyond the diagnosis. It was empowering and it's been such a learning experience."

To learn more about Catherine Brunelle, visit catherinebrunelle.com and read her blog at bumpyboobs.wordpress.com.



Catherine Brunelle's first novel, *The Adventures of Claire Neverending*, was made possible thanks to a very successful Kickstarter campaign. CONTRIBUTED



NATIONAL
ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL
DES ARTS

Canada is our stage.
Le Canada en scène.

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET *Coppélia*



with the NAC Orchestra

May 1-3

Southam Hall

N A C D A N C E

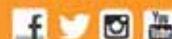
ATTENTION Full-time students

Live shows on a
student budget

\$12*
NAC tickets



liverush.ca



*Some restrictions apply. Full-time students must be between the ages of 13-29.

TRINITY
LIVE
RUSH