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NO HAIRCUT FOR 21 YEARS
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LIFE

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HAIR-RAISING: Martin Mustapha stands on a chair as he prepares to cut five feet, four inches of hair from Dorothy Parsons of Windsor. Parsons had been growing her hair for 21 years. She had the cut to surprise her boyfriend for his 50th birthday. She donated the hair to the cancer society. *Star photos: Brent Foster*

No splitting hairs

Parsons five feet, two inches; hair five feet, four inches

By DOUG WILLIAMSON
STAFF REPORTER

Talk about letting your hair down.

A weight was lifted from Dorothy Parsons' shoulders when she closed her eyes and let Windsor stylist Martin Mustapha cut her hair — all five feet, four inches of it.

The dark tresses which Parsons has let grow for 21 years since the birth of her twin daughters will be donated to the cancer society to be used in making wigs for children receiving chemotherapy.

The 42-year-old Windsor woman decided several weeks ago to cut her hair to mark her boyfriend's 50th birthday and chose Mustapha, who owns Martin's Coiffeur and Spa, after visiting several stylists.

She and Mustapha decided on donating the hair for wigs. She surprised her boyfriend at his birthday party.

It only took 60 seconds to do the deed, but she was in that chair for an hour beforehand, alternately crying and embracing Mustapha while one of her daughters looked on.

Afterwards, he measured the cut portion at five

feet, four inches, compared to Parsons' height of five feet, two inches. "I've been a stylist for 11 years, never encountered anything like it," Mustapha said after completing the procedure.

And the cut wasn't simply a matter of snipping away he said. Parsons wanted to leave her hair at shoulder length, and the cut strands had to be all even length.

"It has to be clean prior, it has to be cut in one length. To actually do it, it took 60 seconds," he said. "It took an hour before, exchanging emotion at the event. We were hugging each other and both crying."

The three-hour cut and makeover cost Parsons \$250.

She doesn't regret the decision, but the long braids did hold memories. Her young children would hold it as they walked with her and she would keep it braided and hanging to her lower back.

Parsons, a dealer at Detroit's Greektown Casino, said co-workers had no idea how long her hair really was until one day when she let it all hang out. She said they couldn't wait for her to go back to work to see her new "do."

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Mustapha and Parsons after the cut.

