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our community on the web

"IT" HAS TOUCHED US ALL

You may have noticed in years gone by how we have always tried to promote the Taylor Cup 4 on 4 Pond Hockey Championship held at Bayview-Wildwood Resort on Sparrow Lake. This is a fabulous fund raising event that donates thousands of dollars each year to The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation and greatly benefits Sarcoma research.

Well this year as an added follow up to the promotion I figured I would go over and just check this event out that is in honour of a friend to many of the participants Judy Taylor who lost her battle with cancer back in 2003 at the age of 41.

Since which this group of 175 - 200 players, volunteers and hard working believers have contributed an astounding six hundred ninety thousand dollars toward treatments and research that has led to a seventy percent survival rate

of sarcoma patients thus far. And the future holds even greater promise when groups like this one continue to fight for cures to such devastating diseases.

Their target for funds raised this year was one hundred ten thousand dollars in the beginning but as of the Saturday Fundraising Awards Ceremonies the very successful campaign had raised one hundred twenty thousand and promoters were hopeful of one hundred twenty five thousand dollars by the Sunday afternoon tournaments end.

I could certainly see the potential for much more as I walked around the facility looking at the fantastic items available in a silent auction, the great

looking jackets, sweat shirts, hats and many other articles available for purchasing and the many more events planned to finish off the week end. Just to name a couple, there was one of the 12 or 13 rinks set aside for family skating, a kid's camp, Casino night with a DJ and dancing, horse drawn sleigh rides and access to the amenities of the resort such as indoor pool, hot tubs and spa services.

I was a bit disappointed that I couldn't hang around for some of the late night entertainment because I'm sure from the looks of the crowd that had gathered for the award ceremony and the enthusiasm shown by every person in the building that the festivities that evening would

surely have been very fun and probably funny at times.

However there wasn't much funny about how much these folks were into the fight against this deadly disease. Each of the thirty two teams that played in at least four thirty minute games, were asked





for a minimum donation and a target of two thousand dollars per player. Many weren't able to quite reach those lofty goals but Team 2 shown in the accompanying photo, raised a whopping twenty one thousand dollars while just one of the team, Bill, raised nine thousand on his own. Very impressive.

As were the quality of the hockey games and the facilities of the ice surfaces and lights and all the necessities of making this event happen. The amount of work and dedication to this project is huge.

At one point of the award presentations the MC asked a couple of questions concerning who had been affected in one way or another by cancer and would they please stand. In a very short moment, everyone in the place was standing. We are all affected somehow so it's nice to see that not far from our location is being built a top of the line cancer facility as an addition to the RVH in Barrie.

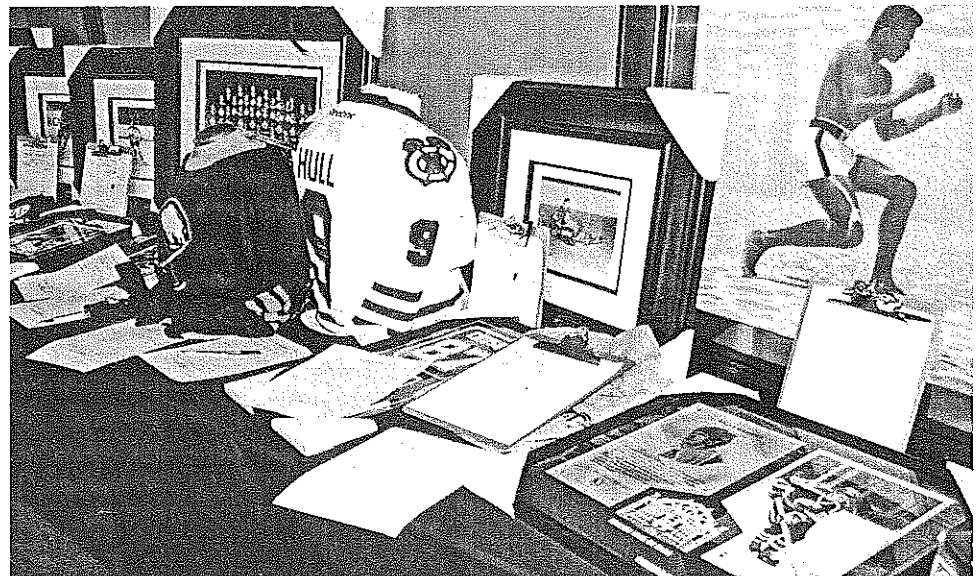
The Phase 1 Expansion project will almost double the size of the hospital, adding an additional 400,000 square

feet of space, and capacity for 165 additional inpatient beds, including a dedicated Coronary Care Unit; significant expansions of the Emergency Department, Diagnostic Imaging and Laboratory; two additional Operating Rooms. In addition to the significant expansion, another 100,000 square feet of the current facility will undergo

extensive renovations over the next several years.

This ambitious, \$450 million project also features the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre. The centre, which will be the only one of its kind between Newmarket and Sudbury, will provide advanced diagnostics, radiation treatment and follow-up cancer care to the almost half million people who live in Simcoe County and Muskoka. In its first year alone, the cancer centre will log over 60,000 patient visits.

I hope and pray that none of our neighbourhood will be among those 60,000 but if that be the case it is nice to know that Barrie will be as far as we will need to go. It's also nice to know that groups like the dedicated team of Taylor Cup volunteers are doing what they do to try and make life a lot more comfortable for us all.



The best way to cheer yourself up is to cheer somebody else up

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