

Neighbours rally to raise funds for local family

By Lisa Tallyn
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Life has been tough for the Jesus family of Georgetown for the past three years.

Rob Jesus was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor at the age of 38.

Shortly after the diagnosis in March 2012 he underwent surgery to remove as much of the tumour as possible, followed by radiation, then chemotherapy to shrink what was left.

The treatment worked for a while, but by January 2013 the tumour was active again. Rob's wife Sharon said they started him on Avastin—a costly drug that attacks the blood vessels surrounding the tumour. Fortunately it has been keeping the tumour stable, but it has many negative side effects.

The cost of Avastin—\$12,600 a month in Rob's case—is covered by some other provincial plans but not in Ontario, Sharon said.

Currently most of the cost of the drug is being paid by Sharon's benefit plan, and the drug manufacturer's patient assistance program is covering the remainder. Sharon is hopeful the coverage will continue.

Rob, who is also on a multitude of other medications, has not been able to work since the diagnosis (he was an oil/lube technician in Milton) and his company did not have a long-term disability plan.

Due to stress and caring for her husband Sharon has been on medical leave from her job as a business consultant.

The couple, who live on Argyll Rd. have three children—aged 14, 10 and 5—and since Rob became ill they have struggled to deal with several medical-related expenses

as well as household maintenance costs, including having to replace a leaking roof and contend with a flood in their living room.

To help alleviate some of the financial pressure a group of concerned neighbours have organized a Valentine's Fundraiser Dance featuring The Wheat Kings (a Tragically Hip cover band) to be held Friday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m. at Nashville North. All money raised will go to the Rob and Sharon Fund.

Kit Andrew, owner of Nashville North, was happy to offer the club at no charge for the event and is also covering the cost of hiring the band. He said there will be no costs to the fundraising committee for the dance.

Andrew can relate to the struggles the family is having as he underwent brain surgery a couple years ago for a cerebral arteriovenous malformation (AVM). He too was off work for some time and he said it caused him "financial concern" as well.

While it's difficult for them to accept help, Sharon said she doesn't "know how to put into words" how grateful she is that her neighbours have decided to host the fundraiser for them.

Tickets for the dance, which will also include a silent auction, raffles and door prizes, are \$20 and available at <https://www.facebook.com/RobandSharonFund>, by calling 416-930-5261, or emailing lynasinteriors@cogeco.ca. Tickets will also be available at the door if they are not sold out.

Monetary donations can be made at <http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/rob-and-sharon-fund/273406>, which is a link that can also be found on the Facebook page.

Anyone who has items to donate for the silent auction, raffle or door prizes is asked to call 416-930-5261.



A rendering of the proposed retirement residence to be built on Maple Ave. This is a progress rendering, meaning it could change before construction begins.

Rendering courtesy of Rockport Group

No public concerns raised at meeting on Rockport proposal

By Lisa Tallyn
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There were no concerns or comments from the public raised at a public meeting Monday night at the Civic Centre on the seniors residence proposed for the former Holy Cross Church property.

Rockport Group is seeking an Official Plan and Zoning bylaw amendment to permit the six-storey, 120-suite seniors residence on the 2.35 acre property.

The proposed 102,680 sq. ft. building is to feature 66 independent living suites, 27 assisted living units and 27 memory care suites. None of the units will have full kitchens as all residents are expected to have their meals in the building's dining room. There are to be 42 above ground and 32 underground parking spaces.

The majority of the site is designated Major Institutional Area and zoned Insti-

tutional, both of which don't allow a seniors residence. The application calls for a change to High Density Residential OP designation and zoning to allow for the facility. The site is bisected by the Silver Creek Valley system, which will be preserved.

The application has been circulated to various agencies for review and comment.

CVC is recommending removing the existing parking lot on the site and naturalizing that portion to provide natural cover and contribute to the form and function of the Silver Creek Valley system.

The Town has received an email from a resident suggesting a pedestrian bridge be built over the Silver Creek Valley to connect the site to downtown Georgetown and make the area more walkable for elderly residents

Town staff is expected to report back to Council on the application later this year.

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