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HEAD FOR THE HILLS PAIRS BEER AND CHARITY FOR A FIFTH YEAR

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A craft beer festival can be hard to pass up, but a craft beer festival for a good cause is even harder. Head for the Hills, Georgetown's craft beer festival, is expecting another great turnout for 2019.

"It's a bit of a homecoming," said John Fini, one of the festival's organizers. "People come and see people they haven't seen in years, or they come to visit their family."

But what keeps people coming back, year after year, Fini said, is the cause.

"When we talked to brewers, food trucks, and people about the event we let them know every dollar goes to charity," Fini said. "It makes a big difference."

Funds raised support five local charities, including: Food4Kids North Halton, the festival's primary charity, as well as Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CASHH), Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Georgetown Breadbasket, and Trafalgar Sports Park's Field of Dreams.

"Between the charity aspect and the homecoming aspect, it brings people together," Fini said, "and as long as people keep coming, we'll keep doing it."

The festival has raised more than \$75,000 since it began. This year's festival features 34 craft brewers from southern Ontario, 15 gourmet food trucks and four live bands, with more than 5,500 craft beer lovers

expected to attend.

The festival is the hard work of four service clubs in Georgetown - Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis and Kinsmen - and was dreamt up over several meetings about six years ago.

Fini said, while he was president of the Georgetown Lions Club, he wanted to create a big event that would attract people to Georgetown.

"We realized we weren't going to be able to do it on our own," Fini said, adding that after several meetings of the presidents of each club, the plans for a craft beer festival were finalized.

"It's amazing to work with these people," Fini said. "If it weren't for them, this festival would have



Head for the Hills Photo

Head for the Hills, Georgetown's craft beer festival, brings more than 30 brewers, 15 food trucks, and four live bands, for a day-long event at Trafalgar Sports Park on Sept. 14.

been done years ago."

Unlike many beer fests, Head for The Hills wraps up just in time for dinner.

"By ending the festival at 6 p.m., we get the best of the weather," Fini said. "In September, you never know if you're going to get rain or shine."

But a byproduct of ending the festival early is an opportunity for visitors to visit local businesses, restaurants, or spend time in Georgetown.

As Head for the Hills has a craft beer focus, parking is limited and driving is discouraged, five shuttle routes will bring festivalgoers to and from the festival. Head for the Hills, Georgetown's craft beer festival, takes place on Sept. 14 at the Trafalgar Sports Park (11494 Trafalgar Rd.), from 11 a.m. until 6

p.m. Single tickets start at \$29 until Sept. 14, when they go up to \$39. The event is for those age 19 or older. Each ticket includes a customized Head for the Hills beer mug and four tokens redeemable for a four-ounce sample of beer. Tokens are also on sale on site for three for \$5.

More information is available at headforthehills.ca.

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