

But organizers vow to return in 2009

Fund-raising golf tournament comes to an end after 30 years

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

A long-time local golf tournament, that since its inception has raised more than \$700,000 for cancer agencies, won't be held this year, but organizers are hoping to be back in 2009.

The Bill Smith Invitational Golf Tournament founder Bill Smith said, due to his poor health, he "hangs his hat—for now," but he's hopeful he'll be back running the 31-year-old tournament again next year. The tournament traditionally is held the Monday after Father's Day.

In a letter submitted to *The Independent & Free Press* (see page 6), Smith said he was "indebted to all kinds of supporters, committee members, players, sponsors, all the car dealers, volunteers and North Halton Golf & Country Club who have made the Bill Smith Invitational Golf Tournament successful for 30 years."

Money raised through the tournament originally went to the Canadian Cancer Society and in recent years to Cancer Assistance Services-Halton Hills (CASHh).

Smith, recovering from strokes and hip surgeries, said "the time has come to put the ball at rest and say thank you for all the good years."

He encourages everyone to continue to raise funds for CASHh.

Smith regrets not having been able to oversee last year's tournament, which he said experienced some problems.

To date \$11,500 from the 2007 tournament has been received by CASHh, and the remainder of the approximately \$20,000 raised through sponsors of

the event was recently invoiced.

"It was an unfortunate circumstance," said Smith. "CASHh will be rectified, and the money will be paid."

Smith stressed he didn't want to "give an impression there was anything illegal or underhanded, it was more mismanagement."

"Some people took on jobs they didn't realize what was involved," said Smith.

Brad Smith, Bill's son, and a long-time organizer of the tournament, said everything that was raised is going to be turned over to CASHh, and in fact the money coming in from invoices recently sent out will go directly to the organization.

"If we made any mistake at all it was not getting a treasurer," said Brad, who added his "right hand man was out of commission for a couple of months."

"The tournament wasn't run any differently than any other year, except we didn't get the invoices out before the end of the year," said Brad, who is no longer on the tournament's organizing committee.

He said it was his intention to go ahead with the tournament this year, and he even had the golf course booked.

Bonnie Malenfant, current treasurer of the tournament, said they decided not to have the tournament this year until last year's event "was cleaned up", but they do intend to hold the event again next year.

Sheila Smith, of CASHh, and Bill's wife, said the organization has "really appreciated" all the support it has received from the tournament in the past.

"We know Bill will be back," she said.

(Lisa Tallyn can be reached at ltallyn@independentfreepress.com)



Plants for sale

Georgetown Horticultural Society members Jo MacLean (left) and Dorinne Wagner, were recently busy sorting through the various plants that will be offered at the Society's upcoming plant sale, Saturday, May 9, at 6 p.m. at the Gellert Community Centre. Perennials, annuals, trees and shrubs as well as some baskets will be available, as well as a silent auction of goods and services. Sheridan Nurseries is a generous supporter of the sale, with all sorts of plants available.

Photo by Ted Brown



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