

Riding the trails to raise money for cancer research

From page B1.

"Dan is my neighbour and when he approached me about helping, I jumped at the chance."

Now entering its seventh year, the Great Canadian Ride for Cancer has raised more than \$50,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

All the money raised by the volunteer-driven, non-profit organization goes to aid cancer research.

And volunteers keep flocking to the ride. Horse-holders, checkpoint operators, lunch people - all important to the success of the event - come back year after year to lend a hand.

"The same lunch stop people have been with us since the beginning," Coates said.

The number of corporate sponsors has also increased. Tack shops such as Frontier, Foxhunter and Tack Town donate prizes for riders collecting the most pledges.

Zehrs in Uxbridge, Dominion in the 404 plaza, Coffee Time on Hwy. 48 and Vince's in Sharon all donate food to satisfy hungry riders and volunteers.

Last year's ride hosted 126 riders and raised \$22,955.

"Our goal for this year is \$30,000," said Smith.

The long-term goals for the ride include starting other rides across Canada.

"There's already a ride going in P.E.I.," said Coates. "We're trying to get people in other provinces to start up the event in their area. All they have to do is contact us and we'll send them all the information they need to get started."

"We're trying to raise awareness, as well as money," explained Coates. "Most people get involved with the ride because cancer has touched their lives in some way already. What people have to understand is that cancer touches everyone at some point in their lives and they should be getting involved now - not waiting until someone they know gets sick."

Getting involved has given Coates a feeling of satisfaction, knowing he's doing his part to help other cancer victims and their families keep up the fight for

a cure. "Having cancer - and beating it - has given me a new outlook on life," said Coates. "You don't take life for granted when you've been so close to death."

Registration for this year's ride, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 23, is already at 130 riders. The forestry authorities have imposed a 200-rider limit for safety reasons, so time is running out if you want to participate. Plans are already in the works for next year and volunteers are always needed. For more information, contact Laurie Smith at (905) 830-0447.

Dan Coates and Joey (below) - a special partnership that sparked an extraordinary event.



Entertainment

Prairie Oyster

Charlie Major

Amanda Stott

Support

Sat., September 9, 2000



Hoedown 2000

Sat., September 9, 2000
6:00 pm - 12:00 am

For more information:
1-800-872-5803

Event

Information

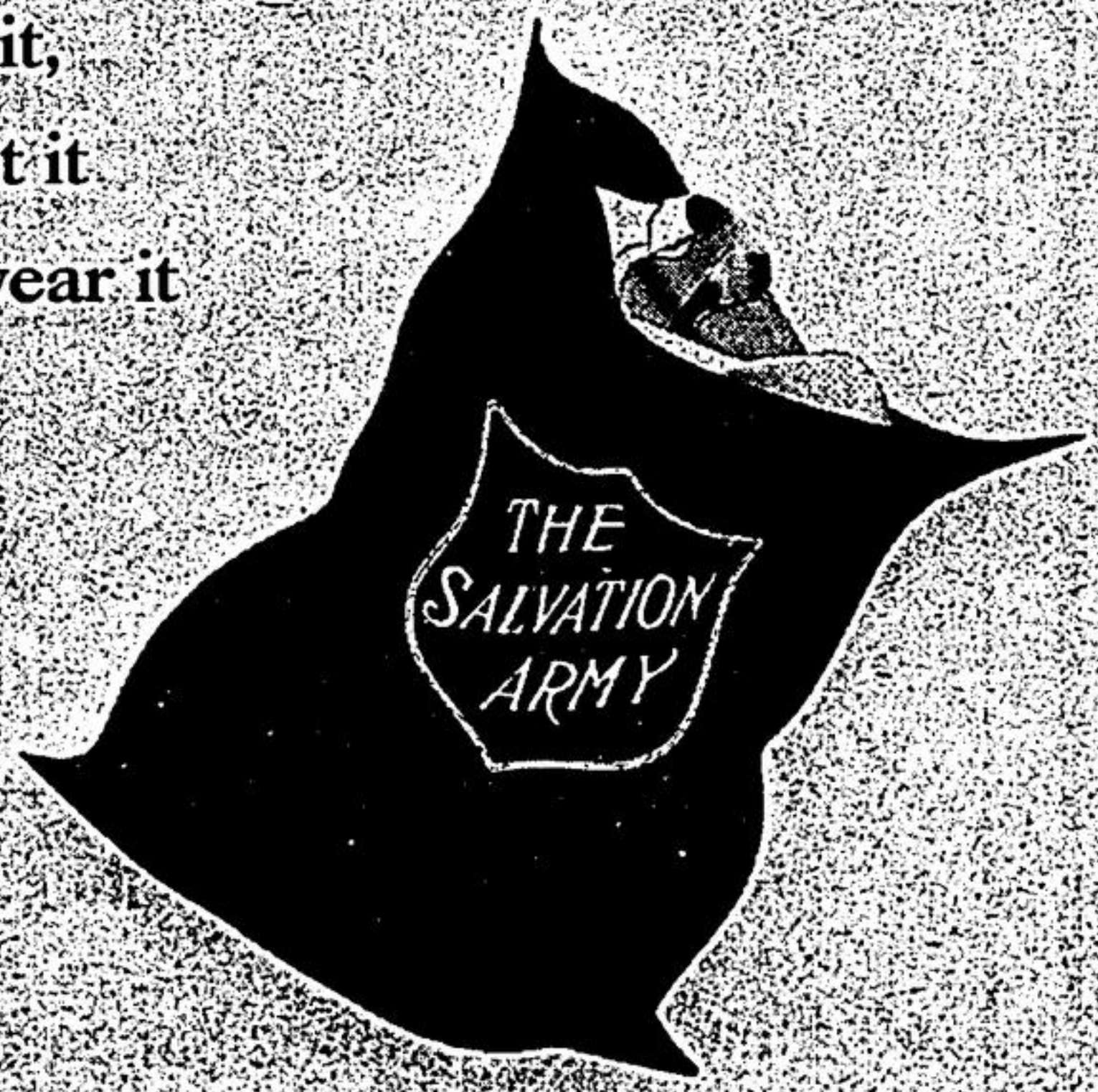
Location: Tent at Magna Dr., Aurora
South of Aurora, between Hwy. 7 & Hwy. 101

Tickets: \$40.00 per person
Ride: \$10.00 per person
Admission: \$10.00 per person
Live Auction of Curtis Joseph's "Moose in the City"

Tickets available at:
Aurora: AB Cox Pontiac Buick, R&P Book Bar, Rec Cycle N'Sports
Newmarket: Lipton's Electronics, Newmarket Hardware
Richmond Hill: Southbrook Farms
Rotimaster: 416-879-8000, www.ticketmaster.ca



If you
no longer
need it,
like it,
want it
or wear it



Bag it for us.

It's a great way to give.

Drop your bags off...

MARKHAM
ECONOMIST & SUN

MARKVILLE naturally
Drop off your bag at the Lower Level Bag Court

Get blue bags at participating malls until Sept. 9th or at Salvation Army Thrift Stores or call 1-877-BLU-GIVE. No one does more with your donations.

Thank you to all the donors and sponsors.

