

Alzheimer patients benefit from Food & Wine Festival

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

The first annual Ballantrae Food & Wine Festival raised about \$6,000 to help Alzheimer patients at Bloomington Cove.

Several hundred people attended the event at the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club to sample food and drinks from local restaurants and wineries.

The money will be used to purchase equipment for Bloomington Cove's Snoezelen treatment rooms, which are designed to calm down patients and modify inappropriate behaviour.

Bloomington Cove should be able to purchase two fibre-optic light spray units and a bubbling water tube, which illuminates bubbles inside clear vertical chambers which can be used for patient relaxation or mood elevation.

The Snoezelen rooms are open 24 hours a day for residents, staff and family, said Robin Stewart, director of resident and family services. They are used for Alzheimer patients whose short-term memory is so

impaired they can no longer take part in regular group activities such as bingo.

Each piece of equipment costs about \$2,000.

The equipment "is very expensive and homes can't usually purchase them", Ms Stewart noted.

As Alzheimer Disease progresses, patients lose short-term memory leading to impaired judgment and decision-making.

The food and wine festival was organized by Phil Bannon.

Heritage train at Strawberry Festival

The York-Durham Heritage Railway train is making special hourly runs all day July 1 from Stouffville GO Station during the Strawberry Festival.

The fare for the shuttle train is \$5 for all passengers (Infants under one year ride free). The first train leaves at 10:30 a.m.

Between trips, the vintage engine and caboose will be open to the public for tours at the Stouffville GO Station.

The next day, Sunday, July 2nd, children and their teddy bears can ride the Teddy Bear Trains.

Youngsters are encouraged to have their teddy bear checked out for a clean bill of health by Dr. Ron.

Teddy bears will also be on sale on the train with proceeds going to the TD Bank charity fundraiser.

Children who bring along teddy bears will enjoy a complementary ride when accompanied by an adult (maximum two children per adult).

The Teddy Bear Trains leave Uxbridge Station at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and depart the Stouffville GO Station at 1:00 p.m. and (one way only) at 4:15 p.m.

For more information call 905-852-3696 or check out www.ydhr.on.ca

Later special events include trips to Doors Open in Unionville Aug. 27 and 28, a fall colours excursion on Oct. 14, Halloween trains on Oct. 28 and 29 and Santa trains in November and December.

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