

COMING UP: Chemotherapy fridge this year's project

Eat, drink, fight cancer at Ballantrae fundraiser

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Appetizers, entrees, chardonnays, merlots, lagers and sweet treats will be dished out by area eateries in an effort to raise money for a chemotherapy drug treatment refrigerator for Newmarket's Southlake Regional Cancer Care Hospital.

GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

The fifth annual Wine and Food Festival takes place June 7 at the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

"We're seeing there's a real serious demand for cancer care treatment in Stouffville," said the event's founder, Phil Bannon. "Southlake is now our centre for cancer care in this region instead of going to Sunnybrook."

The fridge costs just under \$10,000, according to the town councillor.

"I have to sell out and I have to make more money on the side to purchase it," he said. "We're cutting all our expenses and doing everything we can to meet this."

But that does not mean there will be any skimping on the food being offered.

This year's event includes 13 restaurants, bakeries and caterers, three wineries and two breweries.

"Every year it just seems to get better and

better," Mr. Bannon said.

New to this year's festival is Stouffville's Sgt. Peppers Bar and Grill and Purple Onion Cuisine. Other newcomers include Markham's Passion for Desserts, along with Sarpa from Oak Ridges and Petit Gourmet from Mount Albert.

"This is fine dining. There's no shortage of food and what's good about it is the variety," Mr. Bannon said.

In the four previous years, the Wine and Food Festival has raised more than \$50,000 for a variety of area charities.

"It's always a great purpose when you donate to the Evergreen Hospice, Markham Stouffville Hospital and York Durham Aphasia Centre, but it's good to be able to actually purchase a piece of equipment," Mr. Bannon said.

'NOT A CORPORATE' EVENT

The event, which also includes prize draws, sells out every year.

Tickets are \$35 each.

"We've never raised the price of the tickets because I want to keep it at a price acceptable for the residents of Stouffville, not a corporate fundraiser," Mr. Bannon said.

Tickets are available by calling 905-640-7422 or by going to www.philbannon.ca



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