



STAFF PHOTOS/STÉVE SOMERVILLE

Susan Acton, Deborah Emmerson, Katie Jones and Dale Jackson check out Wayne Emmerson's shorts — which were auctioned off for \$1,000 — during his 16th golf tourney at the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club Wednesday. On the cover, tournament committee members Wayne Jackson and Richard Bartley admire one of the mayor's shots.



Louie Kocjancic hits this bunker shot, as partners John Bovolini, Abdi Reyhani and Piero Ferrari, who could not stand to watch, await their turns.

COMMUNITY

Mayor sells his shorts for charity at final tourney

BY SANDRA BOLAN
sbolan@yrmg.com

After 16 editions and more than \$500,000 raised, the last putt was sunk in Mayor Wayne Emmerson's golf tournament Wednesday afternoon.

"It's time to move on," he told The Sun-Tribune Thursday morning, admitting it was a sad day.

But it's not without some trepidation.

"It's very sad to give up something that has been very, very successful," said Mr. Emmerson, who appeared choked up while thanking participants at the tournament dinner.

Mr. Emmerson will not run for re-election in 2014 despite being continually asked to do so by friends. Instead, he will vie for the regional chair's position, which is being vacated by Bill Fisch at the end of the term.

This year's tournament, which was held at the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club, raised very close to Mr. Emmerson's goal of \$50,000, including \$1,000 for the pink flamingo shorts he was wearing at the tourney banquet.

Friend and Georgina Mayor Rob Grossi suggested, spur of the moment, the shorts go on the auction block with a starting bid of \$100. When the bidding got to around \$800, a gentleman stood up and offered \$1,000.

"I had to go to the car and get my other shorts. I had to give them to him right away," Mr. Emmerson said.

Some of the other items auctioned off included a platinum package to a Leafs' game that consisted of four tickets, a limo ride and dinner at the ACC; a large screen TV and barbecue.

Among the more than 260 participants were York Region Police Chief Eric Jolliffe, Mr. Fisch and Keith Acton, the Edmonton Oilers new associate coach.

'It's very sad to give up something that has been very, very successful.'

Along with giving away his clothes, Mr. Emmerson plans on clearing out the tournament bank account before his term ends next year by dishing it out to local programs and projects — as has been the case every year since the tournament started.

The pool, library, old skateboard park as well as the one going into Memorial Park later this year, minor hockey, softball, figure skating, the arenas, a piano at Nineteen on the Park, canoes for the boy scouts and various youth initiatives have all received money from the tournament over the years.

"It's always been my initiative to put back as much money as I can into the community," he said.

Mr. Emmerson thanked the committee that organized the tournament and fields requests for donations.



Paul Mortillaro chips onto the green as his Stouffville Toyota teammates Kevin Wain, Kevin Baxter and Kuls Dela Cruz look on during the mayor's golf tournament in Ballantrae.