

# The Borthwick Surpasses Target

A record number of live and silent auction items led to many exciting bidding opportunities helping the HGCC Foundation exceed its 2025 funding goal for its charity partners by \$35,000 at the 52nd Annual Dick Borthwick Memorial Golf Tournament.

The sold-out event brought in \$360,000, surpassing the target of \$325,000. The popular silent and live auction, led by auctioneers Chris Bellefeuille and Jeff Paikin, brought in an outstanding addition of \$140,000, making Monday, September 9, a day for members and guests to remember.

Local charities supported through proceeds from The Borthwick include Ancaster Community Services, the Cancer Assist Program, the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton, De Mazenod Door Outreach, Empowerment Squared, Habitat for Humanity, Hamilton Food Share, Hamilton Music Collective, TEAD Therapeutic Riding, and the HGCC Bursary Fund.

"This day, this tournament is a small part of the great legacy, of the passion and commitment of a remarkable man, Dick Borthwick, and it has created a special legacy in his name," Emidio Piccioni, Leadership Coach and Cultural Liaison at Losani Homes told the gathering. "Hamilton is such a great place to live and grow. This fundraiser is an example of this. We have people here from all walks of life coming together for the betterment of our community, and I want to thank you for your support."

Dick Borthwick's name is synonymous with golf royalty across Canada. As the resident golf professional at HGCC from 1946 to 1974, Dick was noted as a leader, mentor, teacher, advisor, innovator, man of character and truly a legend. He was inducted into the PGA of Canada Golf Hall of Fame in 2023.

After missing last year's event for a family matter, Dick Borthwick's son Bob was happy to be back in the mix for a fun-filled day that included golfing with his son Rick Borthwick.

"I loved the whole day," Bob shared. "To play at the fantastic Hamilton Golf & Country Club with the day more about friendship and charity. It doesn't get better than that! The entire day is well organized, and the committee and staff are so



Members enjoying the social hour and silent auction prior to dinner and the live auction.



The Borthwick Co-presenting sponsors: The Losani Family Foundation, including Shelly, Fred and Lauren Losani and their guests for the day.



committed to every detail. My Dad would be amazed and proud that the tournament has run for 52 years. In the early days, the charity would receive around \$15,000, now in excess of \$350,000 for Hamilton charities, which is a credit to the Board of Directors, members, and especially the dedicated HGCC Foundation Committee."

Alan Scott, President of the HGCC Foundation and Co-chair of the Borthwick Committee along with Jeff Paikin, was delighted with the day's turnout, the club's support, and the membership's generosity.

"I'm thrilled that we have surpassed our revenue target as we start a new three-year funding cycle with nine new member-sponsored charities," Scott shared. "We're excited to start working with our new charity partners as we focus on improving the lives of people in Hamilton, especially children and families in need. Once again, it's most gratifying to see HGCC members coming together to strengthen our community at the grassroots level where it's needed so desperately."

And back to the auctions. While he doesn't have a cottage in Muskoka and has never played golf at Port Carling Golf & Country Club, Tim Berezowski leapt at the chance to bid on a day-trip to Muskoka. The outing in Brian Leggat's private helicopter that conveniently flies out of Hamilton's airport will be hosted by HGCC member Greg Hall.

"I took part in another fly-in golf trip to Muskoka a few years ago, and it was a terrific day, so I thought we should do it again," says Tim, who has been a regular in The Borthwick since 2014. "I'm looking forward to the flight and the views. I have heard terrific comments about Port Carling from people who have played it, so it should be an awesome day. The day's highlight is knowing that significant money was raised for great local charities and children who will benefit from the day. Our fabulous membership group accomplishes amazing things when they set their mind to it."

Peter Turkstra, one of the co-presenting sponsors, returned to the club the next day to find a signed Maurice Rocket Richard Montreal Canadiens jersey in his locker. "It was an awesome day. I grew up in Montreal watching the Canadiens play in the old Forum, so I put in the winning bid on the four tickets to watch Toronto play in Montreal," said Peter, who recommends Joe Beef as the place to eat



**Auctioneer Chris Bellefeuille working the floor during silent auction bidding on an RBC Canadian Open golf bag signed by many of the 2024 competitors.**



**Tim Berezowski with guests Don and Steve Hearn and Gino Piccioni.**



**The Borthwick Co-presenting Sponsor: Turkstra Lumber, including Peter Turkstra and guests.**



before a game. The jersey belonged to auctioneer Chris Bellefeuille, who added it to the mix to increase the bidding.

While other sporting event tickets were hotly contested, especially for the Toronto Maple Leafs and Crown Verity BBQ, one of the most popular bidding wars in the silent auction was for the 40-kilogram wheel of parmesan cheese.

"The bidding for the wheel of cheese was pretty tense at times. People came out of the woodwork, and the price continued to climb, but we had so much fun with it last year that we decided to keep bidding on it," said David Pietrantonio, who split the wheel with the Losani family. "The plan is to gather with friends and family into the Christmas season for many "pasta alla ruta" dinners. This is the art of halving the wheel, scooping out a few inches, and immersing the pasta into the wheel for amazing finishing touches. At the final dinner, we will divide the wheel amongst our guests so they can enjoy the remainder."

"More than anything, The Borthwick is such a pleasure to play in because the golf is secondary to the cause and camaraderie," David adds. "Raising money with friends for local charities that make a difference in our community - that's the true enjoyment."



**David Pietrantonio & Lauren Losani with their cheese wheel.**

For the second year in a row, a team led by Kevin Huynh with Josh Reagan and guests Chris McGuire and Adam Clermont posted the day's low score at 19-under to win Callaway Ai Smoke fairway woods.

There was a three-way tie at 18-under, with the team of Rick Chittley-Young and guests Bill Sloper, David Carter and Ian Marshall receiving the nod for second spot through retrogression. Mark Loeffler's foursome, including Adam Ray, Aaron D'Angelo and Graham Barr, came in third, and Cam Steer's group of Lucas Manuel, Scott Irwin and Darren Croghan rounded out the top four.



**Andrew Jubenville filling in a silent auction bid sheet.**



**Richard Libby, Brad Fay, Bob Borthwick and Rick Borthwick.**



**Diane Campbell, Molly Charko, Betsy Ippolito and Susan Ippolito.**



"The Borthwick is definitely a highlight of our club events each year, and it's always a blast," Kevin shares. "We're always excited to contribute to the amazing auction items, all to support the HGCC Foundation and its fantastic work in our community."

For the second year in a row, Kevin and Josh were the high bidders on the exclusive golf buddies trip to Ireland to play Old Head Golf Links and stay three nights at the course-side home owned by members Mark Shepherd and Dave Lumsden. Kevin, Josh, member Berardo Diamante and Chris McGuire, who played in The Borthwick, flew to Ireland the day after The Borthwick to enjoy three rounds of golf and a few pints of Guinness.

"It was absolutely fantastic. We took the Red Eye to Dublin, drove to Kinsale and played golf later that afternoon. People have told me for the past year that the course is incredible, so I had high expectations when we arrived and wasn't disappointed. I was in awe of the golf course every step of the way in the first round. I was still in awe of every hole for the third round," Kevin said, noting they walked with caddies each day, even Berardo, and the sun came out for the final round, with no wind and a high of 19 C, which is unheard of in those parts.

"The one word I would use to describe the course is 'majestic,' said Kevin, who had previously been to Dublin about 15 years ago and fell under the Guinness spell. "The Guinness in Ireland is so silky and smooth. It's way better than what we drink in Canada."

"The trip's biggest challenge was learning to listen to our caddies. There are a couple of ocean holes where they want you to aim your ball right at the ocean and the wind will push it back toward the green. But once we learned to trust them, it was all good, but it was a difficult ask," Kevin shares.

"The accommodations provided by Dave and Mark were wonderfully comfy and overall, I would recommend this trip to all golf enthusiasts," Kevin adds. "I'm so happy that Josh and I bid on the trip and won it again, even after Peter bid us up. You never know when Mark and Dave might stop donating it as a prize," Kevin added. "It's the best golf course I have played in the world, and I can't believe we're fortunate enough to be returning in 2025."



Josh Reagan, Kevin Huynh, Chris McGuire and Adam Clermont posted the low score of the day!



George McCarter, Matt Kershaw, Erin Dunham and Matt Abbott.



Jennifer Jewitt-Matsumoto, Deb Lancaster, Teresa Silvestro & Sheila Drury ready to close the silent auction.





Phil Davidson, Dan Deroche, Troy Thompson, Paul Pettit, Matt Rende, Tudor Bachu and Mike DeGroote with Steve Duffield missing from the photo.



Cameron Steer, third from left, with his guests.



David Sauve, at the far right, with his guests.



James Mahler, Matt Johnston, Nick Carnicelli and Sergio Manchia.



Bob Vinson, John Fabrizio, Clint Davis and Mark Shepherd.



Shaldun Wilson, Dash Ewen, Dave Johnson and Aaron Blake enjoying cigars.



Chris Bellefeuille, Stuart Aird, Chris White and Stephen Dunn.



Borthwick Co-Chair Jeff Paikin and diamond ring winner Jim Mitchell.