

# The Borthwick **Exceeds its Goal**

The Borthwick Committee upped the ante, and the HGCC membership came through with a record total in excess of \$360,000 at the 53rd Annual Dick Borthwick Memorial Golf Tournament on September 8.

Although the numbers haven't been finalized and funds are still being raised through the \$100 square board in the Professional Shop for the Paul McCartney concert tickets, it's safe to say that this year's tournament has surpassed all previous years in terms of money raised.

Surpassing the \$360,000 total, which was last year's milestone mark, will allow the HGCC Foundation to meet its funding commitment of \$260,000 to its nine local charity partners, as well as the HGCC Bursary Program, with additional funds available for operating expenses and a reserve fund for one-time donations to other charities.

"We could not have possibly achieved this remarkable goal without the incredible support of the entire membership, the club, the Board of Directors and staff," says Alan Scott, who co-chairs The Borthwick along with Jeff Paikin. "Thank you to everyone who donated time, energy and money to support the local charities that do such important work in our community to make life better for thousands of children and families in need.

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.

"Canadians are acknowledged and respected the world over for their work ethic, as being respectful and caring towards others, along with a deep commitment to peace and fairness in the world. Our willingness as Canadians to embrace diverse people from all over the world for many centuries demonstrates Canada's attitude and model of a cultural mosaic where many parts make up the whole. This points to the authentic nature that connects all Canadians. The spirit of



**2025 Borthwick Memorial Golf Tournament winners Leah Ippolito, Marilyn Gregus, Shelly Losani and Lauren Losani.**

this room inspires me and all of us to do better and be better. We are proud and we are Canadian," said Emidio Piccioni, Director, Losani Family Foundation, as he welcomed everyone for dinner on behalf of Fred Losani and Peter Turkstra.

"Yet, we have many challenges, poverty, children's mental/physical well-being, women fleeing abusive situations, family instability, food insecurities...and so on. We do not deny any of this...but as caring Canadians, we challenge ourselves and

one another to make our community (Hamilton) better. Whether as a vocal supporter of the weak and marginalized, as a financial contributor, or a volunteer, who enjoys helping but wants to be anonymous. Tonight is a call to arms, a call to stand tall and stand shoulder to shoulder with one another and for our brothers and sisters who are suffering and may feel invisible. Tonight, and many evenings like this, we show those in need in our community that we do see them, we do care, and that it is our hand extended in friendship and in service. And as Canadians, we feel it is our duty to help and an honour to serve and boost them up," Emidio added.

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.

The Borthwick co-chairs gifted presenting sponsors Peter Turkstra (Turkstra Lumber) and Fred Losani (Losani Family Foundation) with framed prints in appreciation of their three-year lead sponsorship of the tournament.

On the golf course, among the 45 teams participating, the mother-daughter team of Shelly and Lauren Losani and Marilyn Gregus and Leah Ippolito pulled off the victory in retrogression at 18-under in the One Net Best Ball format. It's quite possibly the first time an all-women's team has won the tournament! They received Ping G440 fairway woods for their efforts. Second place went to the team of Bruce Robinson, Ian Clarke, Brian Adamson and Coleman Robinson, followed in third place by Peter Turkstra, Dave Lumsden, William Grieg and Shawn Sider at 17-under. Rounding out the top five were Mark DeBenedictis, Jerry Matthews, Rick Court and Mike Strelbisky at 17-under in fourth and Kevin Martin, Cam Oversteom, Mike Restauri and Brian O'Donovan in fifth at 16-under.

"We thought a mother-daughter day with Marilyn and Leah would be a terrific opportunity to spend some time together, and it was beyond my expectations. We had a wonderful time on the golf course, enjoyed each other's company, and the good shots just seemed to add up as the day rolled along. It was a wonderful win with memories that made for a very special day," says Shelly Losani.



**Steve Stipsits, Fred Losani, Aldo Beltrano and Paul Hubner on the first tee.**



**Shawn Sider, Peter Turkstra, William Greig and Dave Lumsden ready to tee off.**

"As an all-women's team, we knew how difficult the competition would be, but we pulled it off, and it was nice to see how happy dad (Fred) was for all of us when it was announced that we won," Lauren Losani added. "It was a fantastic day, seeing the membership come together

on the golf course and for the auctions to raise money for charities. It was a memorable experience."

"Great playing with Shelly and Lauren today. I had not played with Lauren before, so it was nice to spend some time

with her and for our daughters to share this experience with us,” Marilyn shared. “We played great as a group; everybody was relaxed and cohesive. It was a lot of fun as we celebrated all of the shots and supported the charities, which it is all about.”

Leah noted that the live auction atmosphere was incredible.

One of the highlights each year is the Key Box, sponsored by G.W. Thompson Jeweller and Pawnbroker, which sells 200 keys at \$50 each, generating \$10,000 - an increase of \$5,000 over last year. This year’s winner was Ken Aquino, who has been buying keys annually since first attending The Borthwick in 2013.

This time around, he purchased six keys – two at registration and four more during dinner – without even having a look at the ring! With the six keys in hand, Ken was having little success and told box monitor Lisa Forster, “Why am I doing this? I’m wasting my time,” after the fifth unsuccessful try. “Then she said, “This one is going to open it”, and I turned the key, and it opened. I thought, “No way,” and probably said, ‘I can’t believe this too many times.’ The ring is wonderful, and Troy picked a perfect one as it fit my wife, Joanne, without any need for sizing. The day was fantastic, and we are always happy to sponsor and help local people who have been less fortunate than ourselves,” added Ken who also bid on and won a signed Matthew Tkachuk Florida Panthers 2025 jersey in the live auction including two tickets to a Toronto Maple Leafs game in the alumni booth with former Leaf Brad May, who played in the tournament.

Talking tickets – Jeremy Crowder stepped up and won the Montreal Canadiens experience at the Bell Centre vs. the Toronto Maple Leafs, as well as the Leafs and Raptors seats for a couple of games.

The highlight item of the evening – four nights’ accommodations with two rounds of golf for four at Old Head Golf Links in Ireland, donated by Dave Lumsden – turned into a double whammy for the HGCC Foundation. The bidding was sweet and reached \$21,000 before auctioneer extraordinaire Jeff Paikin asked Dave if he could manage two trips – Dave smiled and nodded his head yes – and both bidders agreed on the price.

“I played the course once before and really loved it and have wanted to go back, so this was a perfect opportunity to do that



Ken Aquino purchasing a couple of keys at registration.



Borthwick Co-chair Jeff Paikin thanking Fred Losani & Peter Turkstra as presenting sponsors.



Jeremy Crowder bidding on some seats to a Leafs' game.

and support some local charities," says guest John McNamara, whose grandfather was a member of HGCC many years ago. He also has a photo of the course as the screensaver on his phone. "I'm looking forward to seeing Dave's house and hope to get there sometime in 2026."

Although he was busy flying to Ireland to play golf at Old Head, Kevin Huynh picked up his third consecutive trip to Ireland with the help of a friend.

Another three-time winner was David Pietrantonio who teamed up with Lauren Losani for a second time to claim the 40kg cheese wheel.

"The wheel will once again be shared with family and friends during the Christmas season as pasta 'alla routa'. It's a crowd pleaser," David says. "The organizing committee, auctioneers, charity partners, and participants make this tournament what it is - an opportunity to give back to our local community that has impactful change. Always fun to be part of an amazing day!"

The live auction brought in just over \$90,000 and the silent auction accounted for about \$36,000.



David Pietrantonio with an early bid on the cheese wheel.



Rick Court, Mark DeBenedictis, Mike Strelbisky and Jerry Matthews hoping for a new ride.



Action in the Great Hall prior to dinner and the live auction.



Chris Bellefeuille and Stephen Dunn checking out the Ghost



Dick Borthwick's grandson Rick (right) with family friends.