

28th Annual Scottish Games Charity Golf Tournament donates \$14,285 to St. Anne Institute

Another great year! Despite the rumbling threat of thunderstorms, we were able to host yet another successful year. At our 28th annual Capital District Scottish Games Charity Golf tournament, we once again had it all: a fabulous golf course, bagpipes, kilts, great food, imported beers, individual piper and full pipe band performances. Yes, all of those things and more are what you get when you play in the Capital District Scottish Games Charity Golf Tournament.

As it has been for past 20 years, our charity of choice was St Anne Institute in Albany, NY. St Anne Institute is a private, not for profit, secular residential and community-based preventive service agency committed to providing the highest level of care and rehabilitation services in the briefest time to children and families throughout New York State. Our golf committee has visited their facilities and we've always left there feeling like we have definitely made the right choice when we see, first hand, the good work that they do.

Our 2024 tournament fielded 124 golfers. We were down a little bit from previous years, most likely, due to the Belmont being held at Saratoga. However, despite fielding a bit fewer golfers, our donation to St Anne Institute was actually higher than previous years. When that \$14,285 donation is added to the previous 27 years donations it results in our golf tournament being responsible for \$204,599 to local charities! It is no secret that the people who have been coming to this tournament for most of our 28 years and the sponsors who continue to support us are very special. Yes, they enjoy golf, having a good time and having a few good beers on tap but above and beyond all of that, they care about helping others who may be a bit down on their luck or have more than their share of crosses to bear. The Scottish Games Golf Tournament Committee is constantly reminded of how lucky we are on an annual basis when we see the generosity and the selfless attitude that seems to grow from year to year. We are so lucky to have somehow attracted this wonderful bunch of golfers and sponsors.

The day started with a moment of silence and Amazing Grace played by bagpiper Mike Munro to honor two long-time, loyal golfers who had passed since our last gathering. To kick things off just prior to our 8:30 shotgun start Mike Munro played a few piping selections. Then the singing of our national anthem before sending our golfers on their way to a fun filled day. Brian Munro lent his piping talents at the hole-in-one contest tee box all day. You could hear the skirl of the pipes in the distance and it made everyone truly feel like they were in a special place. Alissa Munro, Brian's wife, was our foursome photographer for the day. Judy Cocca and Barbara Munro (my beautiful wife of 51 years) were our witnesses at the Hole-In-One event on the 15th hole.

I want to take the time to thank our Charity Golf Tournament Committee without whom none of this gets done: Vince Colonno, Joe Bradley, Bill Munro, Lou Schenck, and Mike Munro. There's a lot of work involved in organizing, advertising and managing a charity golf Tournament of this size. They make sure that everything gets done and all the bases are covered and these guys do it every year without expecting any recognition. Behind the scenes Matt Kelly helped us a lot with setting up the on-line registration process, the tracking of credit card payments and all of the website related work for the tournament.

While all the golfers were outside enjoying the day, the Stadium Golf Club staff was busy preparing a delicious banquet and tapping more of the Guinness and Smithwick's and Lite beer so that everyone could grab a cold one as they came off the course and readied themselves for the banquet. This is our 26th year at the Stadium Golf Club. Michele and Greg Hennel are like family to us now and why change locations when they already provide us with the best possible tournament, a golf course in tip-top shape and all of that at the most reasonable price.

For the seventh year in a row the Schenectady Pipe Band Association Par 3 contest was held on the 12th hole. The event had golfers of all skill levels competing for some special prizes if they were able to put the ball on the green with their first swing and some pretty nice prizes for the off the green group as well. Donna Dardaris, the SPBA President, Kim LaBelle the SPBA

Treasurer along with Dona Marie Munro, the SPBA Secretary, Sue Mackey and Steve Mackey volunteered their time to raise approximately \$700.

I've noted below our fabulous sponsors as well as the winners of this year's tournament contests. We hope you will honor our sponsors with your patronage. The committee would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of the golfers, sponsors and volunteers for what was another extremely successful year for a golf tournament that has been near and dear to our hearts for so long.

Our 2024 Sponsors

DeCrescente Distributing, Acemaker Sponsor and Scottish Games Sponsor, \$1,400 donation to St Anne Institute

Broadview FCU, Acemaker Sponsor and Scottish Games Sponsor

JAMCORE Home Improvements (518) 470-9001, **Both Acemaker & Eagle Sponsorships**

Fox & Schingo Plastic Surgery, a new Eagle Sponsor

Haughey Insurance Agency LLC (518) 399-1583, Eagle Sponsor

Capital District Celtic Cultural Association, Hole Sponsor Plus \$875 donation

Stadium Golf Club, \$300 donation to St Anne Institute

Albany AOH Division 5, Hole Sponsor

Albany Rebels Gaelic Football Club, Hole Sponsor

Avila Retirement Community, a new Hole Sponsor

BBL Construction Services LLC, a new Hole Sponsor this year

Big Top Tent Rentals, Hole Sponsor

Bradley Painting Inc., Hole Sponsor

Cardona's Market & Catering, a new Hole Sponsor this year

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, Hole Sponsor

Clan Cameron, Hole Sponsor

Clan Mackay Society, USA, Hole Sponsor

Coldwell Banker Prime Properties, Hole Sponsor

Driver & Greene LLP, Hole Sponsor

Gabriel's Super Market, Hole Sponsor

Linda A LeDuke SEFCU Mortgage Services (518) 378-5791, a new Hole Sponsor this year

In Memory of George Dushensky III, a new Hole Sponsor this year

John and KellyAnne Murray Charitable Foundation, Hole Sponsor

Northern River Family of Services, Hole Sponsor

Recovery Room Sports Grill, a new Hole Sponsor this year

St Andrews Society of Schenectady, Hole Sponsor

Schenectady Pipe Band Association, Hole Sponsor

The Albany Distilling Company, a new Hole Sponsor this year

The Trestle Restaurant & Pub

Other contributors:

Scissors III & Co. donated a basket containing high end personal beauty care products

2024 Capital District Scottish Games Charity Golf Tournament Winners

A Flight:

1st Place Rich Murray & Garrett Murray Score of - 60

2nd Place Ron Rock & John Ericson Score of - 64

3rd Place Matt Bunkoff & Matt Cole Score of - 66

B Flight:

1st Place Mark Hurley & Jason Schoonmaker Score of - 64

2nd Place Jim Schrimsher & Scott St Denis Score of - 67

3rd Place Paul St Pierre & Terri St Pierre Score of - 68

C Flight:

1st Place Rick Jaked & Peggy Jaked Score of - 68

2nd Place Mike Hanelt & Matt St Pierre Score of - 69

3rd Place Devlin Forsyth & Brian Fowler Score of - 73

D Flight:

1st Place George Dushensky & Andrew Dushensky Score of - 69

2nd Place Joe Bradley Jr & Bobby Sandburg Score of - 73

3rd Place Peter Lattanzio & Joe Contois Sr Score of - 75

Longest Drive Men – Bill Szesnat

Longest Drive Women – Lori Deichman

Closest to the Pin on Hole 5 – Greg Pautler (13’’)

Closest to the Pin on Hole 8 – Sy Johnston (5’5’’)