Tournament of Aces raises $83,000



By Troy Durrell
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"It was a truly monumental tournament."

Those were the words spoken by Glenn Gryzko, tournament organizer for the Rotary Club when asked to describe the 2017 Tournament of Aces golf tournament that took place on Sept. 30, held at the Links of GlenEagles. This is the 10th year the tournament has been running.

The tournament provides an opportunity for those involved to honour the memory of Lindsay Leigh Kimmett, who was killed in an automobile accident. Each year, funds are raised for several causes, and this year included the Cochrane Search and Rescue, Rotary Club of Cochrane Student Exchange Program and "Lindsay's Kids" Sport Sponsorship.

The tournament, which had 190 golfers join the tournament, raised $83,000, with $42,000 from sponsorships.

"We sold out the tournament again this year, same as last year," Gryzko said.

"The $42,000 the sponsorships raised (for the tournament) is critical to the tournament's success, because even if we only had 120 golfers join, we still would have raised that amount of money."

Those who didn't swing a club were still invited to come enjoy the food, drinks and other attractions that came with the tournament.

"We have two great auctioneers, one being Jon Cornish from the Calgary Stampeders, who really worked the room and kept it lighthearted and fun," Gryzko said.

"They kept people from wanting to go home."

Gryzko said the tournament is also a great way for the community to get out and enjoy themselves.

"The Kimmett family does a great job of including the entire community, and the tournament itself isn't like any other golf tournament. It's more relaxed, as others are semi serious where you can't just play best ball and have a good time," Gryzko said.

While this was to be the final year the tournament was co-organized by the Lindsay Leigh Kimmett Memorial Foundation and the Rotary Club of Cochrane, Gryzko said the Kimmett family will not step away completely from involvement in the tournament.

"They will be involved less but still will work the final week and the event and will remain legacy benefactors in the future," he said.

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