

Golf tournament raises major funding for women's shelter

PATRICK GIBSON

This year's Monumental Tournament of Aces golf event raised \$50,000 for the Big Hill Haven women's shelter initiative.

"This cheque goes directly into our capital fund and it gives us an opportunity to start planning for building Big Hill Haven and making it a reality and it's a huge step in that direction, so we're very grateful to everybody and all of the support in the community and all the people that were involved," said Big Hill Haven board chair Valerie Gilmore.

"It was an amazing event."

The tournament also raised

\$20,000 for Cochrane Search & Rescue. Held earlier this month at GlenEagles, it was organized by the local Rotary club with significant support from Cochrane Search & Rescue and Dianne and Kelly Kimmett of the Lindsay Leigh Kimmett Memorial Foundation, named for their daughter.

"This tournament was originally started after we lost our daughter in 2008 and as far as the community spirit since, the community has stood solidly behind us including this tournament every year," Dianne Kimmett said.

"And so it's a very positive thing that has come out of negative."

The Kimmetts said the mission



Big Hill Haven's Valerie Gilmore, the Rotary club's Glen Gryzko and Kevin Shier, and Big Hill Haven's Jenessa Blanchett with a contribution to the shelter raised from the 2021 Monumental Tournament of Aces. COCHRANE ROTARY

of Big Hill Haven aligns with their daughter's legacy.

"Lindsay was going to be a doctor, she was in her final year of medicine, and I think this would ring true to her heart of taking care of people," Kelly Kimmett said of the cause.

"She was an advocate for women, so I think it fits right into that part of her legacy. We're very happy to have been a partial contributor to them."

More information on the programming and initiatives already taking part at Big Hill Haven, in addition to a link to donate, is available at BigHillHaven.com. Their staff can also be reached for most of the day Tuesday-Saturday at 403-

796-6564 (emergencies call 911).

"It was a really nice event to have and be able to see all the people face-to-face that were supporting us and bringing the community together, and Cochrane is always about community," Gilmore added.

Innovation programming under development

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The town says work is underway on developing programming for the business incubation portion of the new municipal building on Railway Street, 'The Station at Cochrane Crossing'.

"That work is active and ongoing, and certainly well ahead of the completion of the facility itself," chief administrative officer Mike Derricott told councillors in September.

"The new council will see the proposed programming that would take place in that space."

The CAO sought to clarify that the scope of the facility would be broader than the technology sector.

"I think while tech is certainly a part of it, the initial pieces are business, incubation and innovation in general of which obviously tech is normally a part of that, but we hope that it will be a broader opportunity for our business community to collaborate and create new opportunities in our community," he said.

"That's I think as much about

as I could comfortably say at this stage, but seeing as how that project is scheduled for completion in early to mid-summer of next year, it would be fairly early in the new council's term where I think they would start to see some of the programming elements come back."

These functions are expected to occupy "a third or better of the active space" of the upcoming facility, the CAO added.

"It does present us with some really significant opportunities to offer some new and exciting programs in our community."

An email from the economic development department on October 15 said that there probably wouldn't be additional updates until December as they were "working with many stakeholders at this point and it is too soon to share as many things are in a state of flux."

The remainder of the building will function like a municipal one-stop for a range of town services, in addition to being the central hub for local and regional transit.

While greater-than-expected remediation of the ground under

the site caused a seven-week delay, councillors were told the project has been able to remain within the allocated budget.

"We still anticipate that this project will be completed in the summer of 2022, however, it did obviously put pressure on the timelines having to deal with that additional variable there," Derricott added.

It's also expected next summer that Cochraneites will be able to cross between the two halves of downtown on a pedestrian bridge over the railway near the site.