

Sports

Cold doesn't stop Cochranites at Kimmett Cup

By Riley Cassidy
Special to the Times

Cochranites have yet again displayed another amazing display of community generosity and solidarity at the 11th annual Kimmett Cup, braving the harsh cold to stand up for a good cause.

52 teams in total competed at Mitford Pond and Spray Lakes Recreation Centre throughout the weekend of Feb. 8 to raise money for the Children's Wish Foundation and Children's Cottage Society.

Co-organizer Jason Baserman said he was astonished by the amount of support the community showed this year.

"We were all just blown away by the enthusiasm, and the spirit of the community. Everybody really rallied together. We had an incredible turnout of volunteers, sponsors trickled in all the way up to the moment the puck dropped, and not a

single team in the tournament cancelled," he said.

"We were all just incredibly pleased given the fact that it was the coldest Kimmett Cup on record. Everyone played with full heart."

"Special shoutouts to Tim Horton's, Half Hitch Brewery, Cobb's Breads, the Perogy Boyz, and Boston Pizza for keeping everybody fed and warm."

He said the fundraising goals that were set for this year's Kimmett Cup were met and exceeded thanks to the community's generosity.

"It may not have been the biggest in terms of the number of teams and fans, but it came close. It was the biggest in terms of fundraising however."

"Donations continued to come in throughout the weekend, and the Children's Wish and Children's Cottage pages are still open and collecting donations. Our goal was to raise \$100, 000 for



Riley Cassidy/Special to the Times

Kimmett Cup players take to the ice in freezing cold temperatures to honour the legacies of Lindsay Kimmett, Sarah Degraw, and others.

Children's Wish, and the online pages alone were at \$91, 000 last time I checked."

"I think we will certainly surpass our goals for raising \$100, 000 for Children's Wish and \$25, 000 for Children's Cottage. We've met and exceeded those expectations, which is awesome."

Late Calgary police officer Sarah Degraw was honoured at this year's Kimmett Cup, with every jersey sporting an 'S.D.' in memory of the officer who passed away last April.

"We wanted to recognize her and her brave service, as well as her husband Andy who has been a Kimmett Cup volunteer

and player for 11 straight years."

"A lot of people rallied around their special family, and the whole tournament gave everyone a purpose."

"Everyone laced up their skates at a frozen pond or in an arena to play Canada's game, and they all did it for somebody else."

"Everybody played for somebody, and that's the magic of the Kimmett Cup. Everyone played for somebody, and that's why they braved the cold."

While the tournament is at an end for the rest of the year, Baserman said people could still stay up to date with everything the organization is doing in the interim time before next year's event.

By visiting kimmettcup.com, individuals can click on the 'join the mailing list' button on the home page to keep in touch with the latest Kimmett Cup news.

He said the potential that the Kimmett Cup can reach is limitless.

"We thought we reached our peak last year, with 56 teams. We came close this year, but all signs are pointing to the fact that we raised more money than ever before. I think the sky's the limit, and we're going to continue to grow."

He said the Kimmett Cup owes its success to every single person who got involved.

"The Kimmett Cup really is a reflection of the community coming together, and we want to thank everybody who made it possible—and there's a lot of people."

"We want to thank all of our sponsors, our volunteers, our fans, and our players. They all deserve a very special thanks, and we hope everybody is warming up and getting some rest after what was a very monumental weekend," said Baserman.

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