Submitted Greg Cyfko

Thomas's father, Tony Jasinski, left, along with Victoria and Wanda Jasinski take a quick break from the tournament to pose together at the Barry's Bay Golf Course last Saturday.

Memorial golf tournament a success

SUBMITTED

On Saturday July 30, 50 golfers teed off at Barry's Bay Golf Course in the third annual charity tournament in memory of Thomas P Jasinski, and in support of the Scholarship Fund for Business Students, which was established by Thomas' family and friends last year, in his memory and honour.

At only 17 Thomas was an accomplished musician, dancer, tech wizard, budding entrepreneur, and busy Grade 12 A student at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School in Oakville, Ontario. As a testament to Thomas' commitment to his own success, he had been accepted at five universities as he prepared for the next phase of his life in the fall of 2009. He had a love of learning, a passion for business and technology, and above all a desire and commitment to help others succeed in their personal and academic lives. He always looked for ways to improve things around him without expecting or looking for compensation in return.

Tragically, Thomas was killed in a single-vehicle collision in Mississauga on March 31, 2009. He was returning home about 1 a.m. and was just one highway exit away from home when the Jeep Wrangler he was driving entered a ditch, became airborne and crashed into an overpass. Police concluded that he simply fell asleep at the wheel and that there were no other contributing factors. In keeping with the way he lived his life until that tragic moment, Thomas had earlier that evening been counselling a high school friend who was experiencing some classic pre-graduation anxiety.

Thomas and his father Tony shared a lot in common, including a very generous heart. That he had been aiding a friend was no surprise to Tony. "He was focused on helping his friends deal with difficulties in life and school," he says.

After his death the Thomas P. Jasinski Scholarship Fund was created. The Fund is a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency, established to provide scholarships to high school students wishing to pursue post-secondary education and a career in the business world, with a view to setting up their own business. The Fund's mission is to "commemorate Thomas Jasinski's love of learning and his passion for business and technology as well to perpetuate the memory of a son who wanted, above all, to help others." In 2009, 2010 and again this year, a total of ten students entering university each received $2,000 from the fund.

Thomas' family has been coming to this area for over 40 years and has owned cottages on Wadsworth Lake for over 20 of those years. Thomas enjoyed the cottage experience his whole life. "Thomas loved the slower pace," says his father, Tony. "He loved stargazing with his telescope, fishing, swimming, boating, ATV riding, and skiing and building snow forts in winter."

Congratulations to the team of Waldemar Urlich, Jim McDonnell and Wiktor Reinholz, headed by Andrew Oziewicz, who gave Team Grys a whisker-thin run for the honours, which was ultimately resolved by a putting competition. Marian Grys headed a team of Mathew Grys, Greg Budziak, Ryan Broadhead, Roman Kuliczkowski and Greg Rokitnicki.

Tony and his wife Wanda express their thanks and gratitude to everyone who has supported the charity, and the golf tournament. Sponsors this year included Action Total Service Concepts Inc., Barry's Bay Esso, Barry's Bay Home Hardware, Barry's Bay Valu-Mart, Capital Brand, Coleman Containers, Fia Plumbing, Griffin Technology Ltd, Kam Keg Marine, Kitt Services Inc., and Thomhold Inc. Special thanks go to Barry's Bay Golf for all its help, and all of the volunteer committee.

This year, Tony and Wanda have awarded for the first time two scholarship awards of $2,000 each to Leanne-Marie Recoskie and Dominic Stelmach, students from the Madawaska Valley District High School.

For more information on the Fund, visit online at www.thomaspjasinski.com.

Submitted Greg Cyfko

Above: Jonathan Howard, one of the many participants in the third annual charity tournament in memory of Thomas P Jasinski, held at the Barry's Bay Golf Course, chips his shot out of the rough like a pro.

Below: Team Oziewicz - Waldemar Urlich, left, Wiktor Reinholz, Andrew Oziewicz, Jim McDonnell, were victorious in an exciting playoff vs. defending team champs, Team Grys. It came down to Waldemar Urlich & Jim McDonnell (Team Oziewicz) vs. Marian Grys & Ryan Broadhead (Team Grys) who squared off in a putt-off format after the final round ended in a tie, Team Oziewicz won by a stroke taking the coveted trophy and winners jackets.

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