

# Golfer exceeds fundraising goals

*Kevin Pare plays 150 holes of golf, raises around \$30,000 for Road to Hope*

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Kevin Pare was looking to play 100 rounds of golf at the Lac La Biche Golf and Country Club recently as part of a fundraiser for the local charity Road to Hope last Saturday.

He ended up achieving even more than he hoped.

Pare exceeded his goals on two counts. He ended up playing 150 holes of golf and raised at least \$27,000 for the Lac La Biche and Athabasca-based charity that gives transportation to cancer patients needing to get appointments. The amount was well over the original \$10,000 he was aiming for when he started the fundraiser, and both Pare and the charity were very happy with how it went.

"Kevin and his team have done a wonderful thing," said Road to Hope President Roger Poulin. "I'm blown away by the amount and by his commitment."

Kevin's son Tommy also praised his father's efforts.

"I'm proud of all of his accomplishments in life," he said. "He really means a lot to his family and to this community."

## Raising money

Pare started doing fundraising after he had participated in his

employer Cenovus's Thanks and Giving program, where employees have raised funds to help feed the homeless, for the last six years. But this year, Pare decided that he wanted to do his own fundraiser.

He said he picked Road to Hope because of how little it was known and because it was the kind of goal that he thought was really worthwhile.

"Lots of people with cancer don't realize the services they have," he said.

Pare picked golf as a method because he is also a longtime golfer who believed that it was an effective method of fundraising, it's a way that he personally enjoys.

"I always think of doing something for others but hopefully you enjoy it too," he said. "I've never seen this done in this community, or anywhere for that matter. The Kinsmen used to do it as a group but I've never seen it as a personal marathon."

There were some initial concerns when Pare started fundraising, including questions about how much money would be raised because of the state of the economy. But he also said that he only approached people he knew for fundraising dollars and that the kindness of local donors was particularly inspiring.

"It was a lot more work than I thought," he said. "I had to go out and get every dollar, but it was well worth it."

He also got donations from Cenovus as well as support from Palamaruk Golf and Apparel and golf club head pro Lance Palamaruk who supplied him with golf balls and a powercart.

Going 50 more holes than planned, was partly due to Pare admitting to having some decent shots and a long streak of "hitting the ball straight."

But it wasn't about the scores ... which Pare said he didn't keep track of.

"The scores weren't that great," he said with a laugh. "We were going



Left to right, Trishea Stellmaker, Tommy Pare, Kevin Pare, Alexis Pare, Connie Pare, Alice Thompson, Elaine Poulin and Road to Hope President Roger Poulin pose near the golf cart Lac La Biche Golf and Country club donated during his effort to raise money for Poulin's organization.

Daniel Smeenk/LLB Post

fast — but the ball was going straight."

It was more about the funds and awareness he was raising, which is very much appreciated by the Road To Hope officials.

Poulin said the funds are essential to keeping the organization going,

and that fundraisers like Pare's are critical to keeping them going.

He also said the donations show that what their is doing is worthwhile.

"It gives people one less worry," he said, referring to cancer patients who use their

services.

While the initial count of \$27,000 is a solid total, Pare said that because there are some cheques still coming through to him, the eventual total could actually be around \$30,000.

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