Golfing for smiles

Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County founder and volunteer dentist Bill Kerr points to a bidder during the live auction of the Volunteer Dental Outreach Golf Tournament event on Thursday, Aug. 23 at the Rhubarb restaurant. The annual fundraiser for the VDO for Haliburton County raised more than $40,000 through tickets and "a number of generous private donations" that will help to cover six months of operating costs at the clinic. Event organizers announced the clinic has provided more than $1 millon of dental service since it started. The fundraiser was a sellout, drawing 147 golfers and close to 10 more people for lunch at the Rhubarb restaurant. The VDO has provided free dental care for 439 residents who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford the service. The event included 77 silent auction items and two live auction items and had help from former NHLer Bernie Nicholls, who was at the Celebrity Challenge hole.

Darren Lum Staff

Twelve-year-old Justin Cusato putts on the fifth hole during the Volunteer Dental Outreach Golf Tournament on Thursday, Aug. 23 at the Blairhampton Golf Course. Cusato was with his mother, sister and his father, Mike, who works in Minden.

Million dollar smiles

Event premier sponsor and Volunteer Dental Outreach board member Janis Parker, left, with organizers Bill Kerr and Lisa Kerr announced the Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County has provided more than $1 million of dental service at the lunch for the fourth annual Volunteer Dental Outreach Golf Tournament on Aug. 21. The annual fundraiser for the VDO for Haliburton County was a sellout, drawing 147 golfers and close to 10 more people for lunch at the Rhubarb restaurant. IThe VDO has provided free dental care for 439 residents who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford the service. The event included 77 silent auction items and two live auction items, and help from former NHLer Bernie Nicholls, who was at the Celebrity Challenge hole. **Darren Lum** Staff

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Jim Winn of Haliburton drives his ball for the green on the 15th hole during the Volunteer Dental Outreach Golf Tournament on Aug. 21 at the Blairhampton Golf Course. The event raised more than $40,000 through ticket sales and a "number of generous private donations." This covers six months of operating costs at the clinic.

Dental Outreach gives thanks

To the Editor,

In this season of Thanksgiving, we would like to acknowledge how grateful we are to this community for the support it has given the Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County. In November 2010, Janis Parker was consulted as to the best way to open a volunteer dental clinic for low income Haliburton County residents. While none of us really knew how to launch this initiative, within three days, Janis Parker had been in touch with Dysart about a location for the clinic and assembled a steering committee of people with the knowledge and expertise to bring this innovative concept to a reality.

A mere six months later, after considerable planning, construction, fundraising, hundreds of emails and immeasurable support from Janis, the clinic opened. The leadership, motivation, unfaltering support, resources and "hands on" hard work board chair Janis Parker provided propelled (and continues to propel) this project along at a staggeringly fast rate.

Our board of directors announced at our fourth annual Charity Golf Tournament in August that our volunteer dental clinic has provided over one million dollars in free dental care to people in our community. Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County is a perfect example of how great things can be accomplished in our community with outstanding leadership, generosity, vision, hard work and the cooperation of our councils. For all of you who have attended fundraisers, made donations to VDO, helped in construction, web support, plowing, volunteered at the clinic and board members, your efforts are appreciated by local families who are helped in a very significant way every day at VDO.

Bill and Lisa Kerr
Minden