

## **Skate with Daniel in Thornhill Helps to End Brain Cancer**

Thornhill

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Come Skate with Daniel and help to fight brain cancer.

Each year, some 300 children under the age of 15 are diagnosed with a brain tumour in Canada. Brain tumours are the second most common childhood malignancy (after leukemia) and the number one cause of cancer-related deaths in children under 20.

Brain tumours can attack anybody at any time. Its main cause is still unknown, screening is unrealistic and prevention is impossible. Even though treatment for this illness is improving, more research and support is needed.

In the winter of 2007, at the age of 16, a boy named Daniel Bertoia was diagnosed with a brain tumour and began receiving treatment. Daniel's sporting passion had always been hockey and the illness prevented him from playing. In the spring of 2007, family and friends got together in a show of support, and the first Skate With Daniel event was held. Daniel was able to play that day and had ended up scoring the winning goal. This event raised \$2,011 for brain tumour research. After this event, Daniel had found a new passion: helping to find a cure by raising funds for brain tumour research.

On May 24, 2008, Skate With Daniel 2008 was held. The event had grown and there were eight teams playing hockey along with a balloon-pop and silent auction event with lots of donated prizes. Skate With Daniel 2008 was supported by the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA). Daniel was too ill to attend, but the event raised \$47,511.11 for brain tumour research.

Sadly, on August 20, 2008, after a courageous battle that had lasted 18 months, Daniel succumbed to the illness. Daniel's family and friends continue to honour his amazing commitment to helping find a cure for brain cancer.

Skate With Daniel 2009 will take place Saturday, May 23, at the Thornhill Community Centre, at 7755 Bayview Avenue.

Daniel's friends and family hope you will join them in making this event a great success. In addition to the ice hockey events, there are many other fun activities for families and friends.

Sponsors should contact Marcel Sturino at 416-347-2321 or e-mail him at [sturino@sympatico.ca](mailto:sturino@sympatico.ca).

To make a donation, call Eva Avramis at the SickKids Foundation at 416-813-7309.

Daniel's story and more information and donation opportunities can be found at [www.coffee2help.com](http://www.coffee2help.com).