



The Deep River and District Hospital hosted the opening reception last week for “Pop Up Art Renfrew County, featuring an exhibit which explores how ordinary objects can take on a larger meaning in our lives. The artists involved range from all over the Ottawa Valley and the exhibit runs at the hospital until July 21. From left to right Deep River artist Eva Gallagher is joined at the reception by fellow Valley artists Derrick Nearing, Anya Gansterer, curator of the Ottawa Valley Creative Arts Open Studio, Patricia Thurston, Bridget Haworth and Tanya Lyons. The hospital is waiving parking fees for people visiting the Pop Up gallery. Photo: Vance Gutzman

## DEEP RIVER AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

# Is “Catch the Ace” lottery heating up?

BY LEO BUCKLEY

Now that the major campaign team has unveiled its progressive thermometer to indicate how far we have come in reaching the campaign goal of \$1.75 million, is there a chance the Catch the Ace Lottery is starting to heat up and will push us to the goal more quickly?

The ticket sales hit another new high for the second straight week, but as they parse the data, the statisticians are quick to point that the increase observed was still within the bounds of a standard deviation.

The consensus is we are still on a steady course. So, do not expect a rapid change in the progressive thermometer readings with each week the lottery continues.

Based on the current ticket sales, the best we can do is raise the level of the indicator on the thermometer by less than half a per cent per week.

### CONSISTENT REVENUES

But that is still a spectacular outcome as the lottery has been consistently providing about \$5,000 in revenues each week, giving great hope to assisting the hospital to acquire new diagnostic imaging equipment.

With Canada Day and Draw 14 behind us, we move into Week 15 as the Ace of Spades was not uncovered.

Bryon Slattery was the owner of the ticket pulled this week. Bryon felt the Ace would be found in Envelope 31; he was partially right, as the envelope contained a low spade, the 4 Spades.

It was not quite low enough to claim the progressive jackpot. However, Bryon will take home as the weekly prize, \$3,413 that is 20 per cent of the weekly ticket sales.

Mike Paquette sold Bryon his ticket at the Giant Tiger store. Mike could be mobbed by prospective ticket buyers if he keeps on selling winning tickets.

The weekly prize grew from \$3,243 in Week 13, but as inferred earlier, sales are steady with the progressive jackpot gradually pushing upwards to make the potential winnings available in Week 15 to be approximately \$57,500.

The value is based on estimating the number of tickets sold and adding together the estimated weekly prize with the estimated progressive jackpot.

The lottery is still in its early days. The number of envelopes to choose from has dropped to 38; but for ticket buyers they still have a difficult time attempting to pick where the Ace of Spades is hiding.

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario that oversees our lottery establishes that 50 per cent of the proceeds must be given in prizes.

The weekly prizes that have been distributed through 14 weeks amount to approximately \$33,300; the progressive jackpot has nearly reached \$50,000. The Foundation is given the other half and has to pay all the associated expenses with operating the lottery.

The net proceeds have exceeded \$73,000 only because the operating costs are kept low. Business owners give freely of their premises to allow tickets to be sold; volunteers spend hours selling and delivering tickets with additional time to travel to some locations; and, then there are the volunteers who do all the tasks associated with accounting and planning.

While we are not yet frantically busy, nearly 40 volunteers are logging about 150 hours in total each week. It is very evident that without this solid community commitment the lottery would not be reaping the benefits we all see and hope to achieve.

So while the Foundation is pleased with the outcome, we owe much to the volunteers.

This week one of the volunteers explained that being thanked by ticket buyers for selling tickets for such a worthy cause was all the reward needed.

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