

# Local softball tournaments step up to the plate for great causes



Above: Linda Wittenberg of the Tenaquip Tornadoes tosses the ball as Chris Rosen of 4Solutions races for home during the Sian Bradwell tournament. Above right: Ian Roter rips at the ball during the Bernie Duplantie Tournament.

By Mark Lidbetter  
The Suburban

Two West Island summertime traditions, the 19th edition of the Bernie Duplantie Softball Tournament in Dollard and the 24th running of the Sian Bradwell Softball Tournament in Kirkland took place over the course of last weekend.

These long time fixtures on the softball scene have a common objective, raise funds while having some fun.

The Duplantie tournament is organized by the Dollard Executive Softball League and puts the fundraising efforts towards le Defi Canderel for can-

cer research. The league undertakes the organizing of the event each year to honour the memory of their late teammate Bernie Duplantie.

The Sian Bradwell tournament has grown from a West Island event to one in Toronto, bowling events in Montreal and Toronto plus has teamed with the West Island Lakers Basketball Association. Monies raised go towards the purchase of equipment at the Montreal Children's Hospital here and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and the McMaster Children's Hospital in Burlington.

All the efforts of the family of volunteers are done in memory of

Sian Bradwell, who died at the age of 17 months in March of 1985 from a rare form of cancer called primitive neuroectodermal tumour.

Taking part in the Bradwell tournament for the first time was the New Jersey Showtime squad, who had applied last summer but was too late as the Open Division was already full.

"I got the cheque in early this year," said Monte Harris of the New Jersey visitors. "We look for a tournament in Canada each year and this was a great choice. The organizers, the facilities all first class and the teams all great sports it has been a fantastic weekend here."

## CHARTRAIN

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news with his father Andre. Andre signed with the Quebec Nordiques in 1981 and spent four years playing professionally in various minor leagues from 1982-85.

"He's been a huge role model of mine," Chartrain said of his father. "He's always got advice for me and it's a benefit to have him around because he's been through all of this and he's been great with the whole process.

"His advice was mostly to have fun and enjoy it. Opportunities like this don't come around all the time

so enjoy it, listen to the coaching staff and learn as much as possible."

Chartrain feels he accomplished his goals at the Caps' development camp and the Sports Management major is hopeful of a pro contract following his senior season at Niagara. Not bad for a guy who moved to the U.S. when he was 15 because he didn't think he would make the Lac St. Louis Lions AAA Midget team.

"I was sort of a late bloomer and I had to grow a bit and get stronger," he said. "So I left after Bantam and went to a junior prep school in the States. It was either that or play for Lac St. Louis, but given that I was small, there was no guarantee I

would make the team. It was just a move that I needed to do for school and for hockey and I think it's been worth it for sure."

Chartrain has been in the U.S. for seven years, but returns to the West Island every summer. Per NCAA rules though, Chartrain had to pay his own travel expenses before meeting the Capitals at their headquarters in Northern Virginia. Its money he hopes to recoup sometime, perhaps in the form of a pro hockey paycheck.

"I don't know how far hockey will take me but playing in the NHL is still a dream of mine and I think that's getting closer after coming here. You never know."



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