



AARON O'NEILL IS THE FIRST GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF TOGETHER, WE PLAY \$10,000 CASH PRIZE

November 2010

A Ridgetown, Ontario resident, Aaron O'Neill, scooped the top prize in the first ever Together, We Play draw for \$10,000 cash & other prizes held by Four Counties Health Services and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundations.

When O'Neill was told that he was the grand prize winner of \$10,000 cash over the phone on October 28th, his response of shock and surprise was greeted by rounds of applause and cheers from guests in a packed room waiting to hear the winner's reaction.

O'Neill's immediate response to hearing he had won? "No way!"

"I didn't really believe it at first," says O'Neill of the phone call he received from Strathroy Hospital Foundation CEO Susan McLean to tell him that he was the winner of the \$10,000 cash grand prize.



Together, We Play grand prize winner Aaron O'Neill (centre) pictured with \$10,000 cash sponsors Monte McNaughton of McNaughton's in Newbury (left) and Rob Pearson of Town & Country Mutual Insurance (right), Debbie Munn of FCHS Foundation and Danielle Grandine of SMGH Foundation.

O'Neill who is 28, has worked for Precision Concrete in Wardsville for just over 3 years. Precision Concrete is a contest game-board sponsor. He was one of 75 people throughout South-Western Ontario who won a wide range of prizes including gift certificates for many different items including gas cards, gift baskets, dinner out, a flat screen TV, gym memberships, and much more. All contest entry forms with correct answers were included in each prize draw.

"This is fantastic news – we're absolutely delighted to have such positive feedback from the community, local businesses, sponsors and players over the past few months for the game," says Susan McLean, CEO of the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation.

"Plus we now have over 75 excited winners, and many others asking us how they can enter for next year already."

The Together, We Play contest is entirely free to play. Players search an online game-board to find all the clues to spell the words 'LOCAL HEROES'. Local Heroes refers to long-time public health care figures Dorothy Doan and Grace Anderson, known for the advocacy and strong support for community-based care predominately supporting rural residents. Clues were revealed monthly at the website www.togetherweplay.com. Game players had to visit one of the participating businesses listed on the game-board to pick up an entry form, complete all the answers and send it in for the chance to win.

The game has been coined a WIN-WIN-WIN: local residents have the chance to enter to win prizes for free, local businesses receive recognition and benefits from sponsoring an ad to be listed on the game-board and traffic from people to pick up entry cards, and all proceeds from sponsor ads support the purchase of equipment for the two local hospital sites of the Middlesex Hospital Alliance. The greatest benefit of all is that funds raised directly supports patient care at the hospitals – something that's good for everyone throughout the region. Proceeds are being tallied and will be announced in the near future.

"Our greatest appreciation and thanks to McNaughton's in Newbury and Town & Country Mutual Insurance for donating the grand prize money," says McLean. "Without their support and generosity this contest would just not be possible."

Plans for next year's contest are already underway with new clues to uncover and prizes in 2011.