

TAKING THE PLUNGE

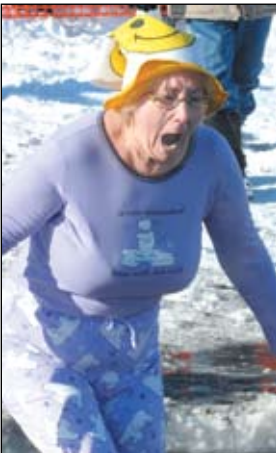


Even the bright January sun couldn't disguise how cold it was on January 9 when more than 30 brave souls took the plunge for charity at the lakefront in Port Perry. Participants were greeted with an air temperature hovering around -15C as they made their frantic dash to the pool of cold water, which had been carved out of the frozen lake.

Despite the cold, a large crowd gathered along the lakeshore to watch and cheer on each of the contestants run, clad in bathing suits and an assortment of costumes to the water's edge. Some carefully climbed off the ice into the water while others took a flying leap, but each displayed their shock when their warm bodies hit the frigid water.

This is the third year the local hospital auxiliary has organized this popular fundraising event and once again it was an overwhelming success.

When all was done, \$13,500 had been raised by 34 plungers for the Auxiliary. The money will be used to purchase medical equipment for the local hospital. This brings the total money raised from the event to more than \$38,000 since it was started three winters ago.



Due to their quick exit from the cold water, we were unable to round up the names of the participants featured on this page, but we're sure many will be recognized.