

Verge Insurance Group grills for a good cause

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ST. CATHARINES — Verge Insurance Group hosted its annual barbecue in Montebello Park on Thursday, working the grills in support of Hospice Niagara.

Now in its seventh year, the annual barbecue sees employees from the insurance brokerage running the barbecue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the downtown St. Catharines park, serving up hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers in support of a good cause. While Hospice Niagara is a regular beneficiary, in the past the event has also been held in support of United Way.

Over the course of three hours, organizers were able to raise \$2,700 for Hospice Niagara – working out to \$900 for each hour of the barbecue.

“We love supporting local charities that provide such valuable services to our communities. We are proud to be donating to Hospice Niagara, an organization that provides a really important service in our community and that regularly touches many lives,” stated Mark Sherk, President of the Verge Insurance Group.

Angela Siracusa, who hosts a weekly open mic on Sundays at Club Belvedere in Thorold, organized the music for the event, featuring several musicians who are regulars at her open mics. Hospice Niagara also volunteers on hand, selling tickets for their 5 Car Draw Lottery. Tickets for the 5 Car Draw are \$25 each, with the final draw taking place Aug. 1 at 6:30 p.m. in Montebello Park during St. Catharines Rotary Ribfest.

Since its inception, Verge’s barbecues have raised more than \$50,000 for charity.

“We really encourage our employees to give back and we are really thrilled with the success of our fundraising these past several years,” said Sherk.

In the summer, barbecues are held across Niagara in communities where Verge Insurance Group operates. The next barbecue is scheduled for Aug. 17 at Reimer Verge in Virgil, 1588 Hwy. 55, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in support of Red Roof Retreat.

For more information on the events, visit www.vergeinsurance.com/news/bbq-information .



Harvey Carter, Mike Hildebrandt and Roger Fulton man the grill at the Verge Insurance Group’s annual barbecue in Montebello Park.

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Mike Hildebrandt drops a hamburger patty in the bun Shona Meloche is holding during Verge Insurance Groups recent barbecue at Montebello Park.

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Live music is a regular feature at the annual Verge Insurance Group barbecue, now in its seventh year.