

We moved along the course on a gorgeous summer afternoon. The air was full of friendship and fun and meaning. At various times Tony and Andrew would put an arm around Dan and have a chat with him, or walk from green to tee. They'd become pals. A round of golf can do that for people who were strangers when they set out on their common journey around the course.

That's the key, isn't it? The key at Keystone this lovely Sunday was that Dan could do so much, and that he enjoyed every minute. I've learned over the years that the important thing is to give Dan a chance, to afford him opportunities to express himself. In Peterborough, he expressed himself at the pool table and over the 18 holes of a round of golf with new friends. He again showed me that I should never limit my thinking of what somebody with Down syndrome can accomplish. It's so much more than I would have thought before I met Dan. He's expanded my world.

Dan's an inspiration in our family. I know that every Down child and adult is an inspiration in his or her own family. It's only a matter of our opening our eyes to what they can do, and giving them opportunities to perform and live a full life. I was thinking about these things at dinner after the golf tournament, and during our ride back to Toronto. I'm thinking of these things now, and I'm looking forward to the next time Dan and I play some golf. And next time I play, I'll be picturing his grip, and trying to keep my head down.

I'll also be thinking about what I learned from Dan, that it's all about our keeping our collective head down and getting a grip so that we can continue to help every child and adult with Down syndrome live a full life in which they reach their potential. The Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough is working hard to accomplish these important goals, shot by shot by shot, putt by putt by putt, day by day by day. It meant a lot for Dan and me to be part of one of the many important events the Association hosts."

Check out our website next week at www.downsyndromepeterborough.ca for some great golf pictures!

JOIN THE 'UP WITH PUMPKINS' WALK IN LINDSAY

Sunday, September 28th, 2008

NEW *

1:00 pm. - Registration 1:30 pm. - Walk

2:00 pm. - Races and Games 3:00 pm. - BBQ

3:30 pm. - Silent Auction

**at the Boys and Girls Club, 107 Lindsay Street, Lindsay
Bring the completed pledge form(s) and monies with you.**

**Most Pledges Raised Wins 2 tickets to an Ottawa
Senators Game and overnight accommodation in Ottawa.**

*** Each entry receives a ticket to the Peterborough Petes
Game during Down Syndrome Awareness Week in November.**