

SAC's SpringSmash helping kids get in the game

By Jake Courtepatte

With a reputation for leadership through athletics, St. Andrew's College students certainly understand the power of sport. That is why Canadian Tire's JumpStart program will once again be the charity of choice, for the seventh straight year, in the school's annual SpringSmash end-of-year festival happening next month.

"At St. Andrews College, we believe that we're very lucky to have the opportunity to participate in various sports," said student Callum Macpherson, one of the organizers of this year's event. "They're important in terms of the life lessons that they teach kids, (like) teamwork, leadership, sportsmanship."

Hosted annually by the SAC McEwen Leadership program, the festival of sports tournaments has brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Canadian Tire charity, helping children in the local community by providing the opportunity to participate in sports they otherwise couldn't afford.

"We recognize that many students and kids in the York Region and Aurora area do not have the same opportunity," said Macpherson. "We believe that it is important to give back to our local community and give those kids a 'sporting chance.'"

Last year's event alone brought in over \$40,000 for the charity.

"To put this into perspective, if you donate \$100, one kid is put into the game."

A Business Studies program implemented in 2007, the McEwen Leadership program runs the event similar to a corporation, procuring donations, offering athletic activities, and handing out incentive prizes, which will be finalized later this week.

The fundraising campaign kicks off this week through both pledge forms and an online donation site, with more information found at www.sac.on.ca.