

## Students plan road hockey game to remember



**By Jeff Doner**

Local high school students Ben Hankins and Liam Devlin are looking to raise some funds and awareness for Alzheimer's and need your help.

As part of their Grade 12 Sports Management class at Aurora High School, Ben and Liam are responsible for planning and putting together an event, a road hockey game, on their own.

"At first we were having trouble picking a charity, but then we looked at a lot of charities and narrowed it down, we talked about how big of a problem Alzheimer's and dementia is and it's not something you see and hear about all the time," said Liam. "It would be nice to try and help someone who isn't getting as much exposure and help them get some money and just try and help out."

The event is set to take place on Saturday, June 1 from 12 to 5 p.m. at a location in Aurora still to be determined. Anyone can sign up to participate for \$10 per person.

"We're looking for eight to nine teams consisting of six to eight people and then we're going to play a lot of games and most likely run it from 12 to 5 p.m., depending on how long it takes," said Ben. "If people want to join as a team already, that's great."

Ben and Liam have also put out a call to those interested to bring some hockey sticks, goalie equipment and nets if available.

With so much planning, time and work going into the project, both admitted to being excited to see it all starting to come together.

"Right when Mr. Lau mentioned that there would be a project like this that we would be working on all semester, Ben and I instantly came together and wanted to actually make some real money and make a difference," Liam said. "It has actually been a lot of fun. We got in contact with the Alzheimer's Society right away and we thought instantly a road hockey game would be perfect, because it's not just a way to make money, but it's also perfect to get people out and have a good time."



Liam Devlin and Ben Hankins are students at AuroraHigh School. (Supplied photo)

Added Ben: "We were given the project in the middle of March and to see it finally unfold is great because we have been waiting to run this event for months and now that it is only two weeks away we are more excited than ever, for both the event and to help the Alzheimer Society of York Region."

The 18 year olds, who are both leaving for university in the fall, are happy to close out their high school years planning an event for such a worthy cause.

"I want to go to school for physical education so that I can be a gym teacher, but if there's ever anything like this for charities, I will definitely always participate and donate to it," said Ben, who is heading to Nipissing in the fall. "Anything with sports I love to do and especially if it's for a charity and a good cause."

Liam, who has chosen to study marketing at Guelph next year, is equally excited and said planning the event has been a valuable experience.

"I would have to say it's really amazing to see just a few small ideas that we wanted to do for fun become something where tons of people and friends want to come out, raise money, and have a good time. Before, when I wasn't in this class, I wouldn't have thought I could contact a charity and put together something like this, but now it's all happening and it looks like it is going to be a great day."

For more information or to register for the event, contact Liam or Ben at [liam9649@hotmail.com](mailto:liam9649@hotmail.com) or [hankins\\_ben@hotmail.com](mailto:hankins_ben@hotmail.com)