

While the organizers of the First Annual North Shore Ride for Palliative Care attracted about half as many motorcycle enthusiasts as they hoped for, they are by no means disappointed.

Prior to the ride, Kelly Jeffords - administrator of the Elliot Lake Palliative Care Program, said they hoped to draw between 100 and 150 motorcycle enthusiasts. But they are not disappointed with the 52 that took part in the event.

The event was organized by the Elliot Lake and Blind River palliative care programs as well as the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club - Ontario X in Sudbury.

The Blues Knights club is made up of active and retired law enforcement officers.

The riders came from Elliot Lake, Blind River, Spanish, Sudbury, Powassan and Kirkland

Lake, says Jerry Manktelow, secretary of the Sudbury chapter and who was with the OPP for 27 years.

The event's registration fees/pledges brought in \$4,427.72, and sponsorships and donations raised an additional \$12,507. The sale of ride T-shirts amounted to \$990, the sale of bracelets and donations added up to \$1,414.79. The total raised and collected was \$19,339.51.

Jeffords says once the additional expenses are covered, the balance of the funds raised will be split between the Elliot Lake and Blind River Palliative Care Programs.

They also received in-kind donations such as advertising and promotion that amounted to \$4,308, plus donated prizes by area merchants that had a total value of \$2,177.

She adds that the only money left to come in is from the M&M Meat Shops barbecue that was held at Timber Village

Museum, which is expected within the next day or so.

Jeffords says in Elliot Lake the funds will go towards educating the community about palliative care as well as training volunteers in the program.

She says they currently have 75 volunteers, but more are always needed. She adds that they will now have two volunteer training programs per year. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should call Jeffords at



**Saturday motorcycle riders in the North Shore Ride for Palliative Care headed out for a ride to Blind River escorted by two OPP motorcycle officers.**

848-7182, ext. 2235.

In Blind River, Margaret McLeod the palliative care administrator there, says their share of the funds will go towards ongoing volunteer training and to purchase palliative care needs.

The fun started on Saturday morning as the motorcycle enthusiasts assembled in the new Bob's No Frills parking lot. A number of area residents went to see the motorcycles, with some nearly drooling over the bikes.

At 11 a.m., the group, escorted by two OPP motorcycle police officers, took a ride around Elliot Lake and they set off for Blind River.

In Blind River, the riders took a ride around town then headed for Timber Village Museum where they stopped for a barbecue.

McLeod says about 30 people showed up to view the glistening bikes and enjoyed the M&M Meat Shops fundraising barbecue.

While this was the first year for the event, McLeod says she is not disappointed. While they hoped for more stopping by, there were a number of events going on at the same time.

In the afternoon, the riders headed back to Elliot Lake for motorcycle games.

There were four agility games for the motorcyclists. One game is the slow race in which the winner is the last to reach the finish line, but the rid-

ers cannot go out of their lanes or put their feet on the ground.

The winner was Ike Odenback of Spanish.

In the hoop toss, the rider drives slowly while the passenger throws hoops over cones.

In the straw drop, the passenger tries to drop straws into bottles on top of the cones, and in the bike wash the rider drives under a rope, the passenger tosses a water-filled balloon over the rope and tries to catch it on the other side.

The winning team in these three events was Larry Mylrea and Connie Nykyforak, both of Elliot Lake.

Nykyforak says this was her first time on a motorcycle.

There were also numerous draws for other prizes.

Jeffords says they had about 50 volunteers helping out at the event in Elliot Lake, which included members of Beta Sigma Phi who operated the barbecue; North Star Family Resource Centre/Best Start Hub, who handled the children's activities; and students from Elliot Lake Secondary School.

They also had a number of entertainers including: Kim Arnold, Laurie Oullette, Jim Graham, doctors Christine Pun and James Chau, Alina Yli-Juuti, Sights and Sounds, the Shooting Star Hand Drum Group affiliated with the Rainbow Healing Lodge in Cutler and the MC was Bobby Alexander.



**Larry Mylrea and Connie Nykyforak won three of the four motorcycle games following the palliative care ride. Here, Nykyforak tosses up two water-filled balloons over the wire. She caught them both after they rode under it. Photos by Kevin McSheffrey**