

Whopper weekend for charity

WEST COAST FISHING CLUB:
First fundraiser tournament raises \$490,000 for children's hospital

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This may go down as one of the richest "whopper" fish stories of all time — if for no other reason than it's true.

The West Coast Fishing Club recently hooked up for its first fundraiser tournament and landed an incredible \$490,000 for B.C. Children's Hospital, obliterating its goal of \$250,000.

The event — organized by a six-person committee at the largest of the club's three lodges, the Clubhouse on Langara Island in the Queen Charlotte Islands — was open to the well-heeled set with only 44 dedicated anglers being allowed to pony up a \$10,000 entry fee for a chance at a \$100,000 prize.

"This event surpassed all our expectations, especially for a first-year fundraising event. We are amazed at the extent to which the participants stepped up to help out," said Brian Legge, co-owner of the WCFC.

One of the better performers was Travis



West Coast Fishing Club guide Bud Stafford (from left) helps Walter Tilden and Wayne Latta land a big one on club's fundraising weekend.

Meyer, an 11-year-old who has spent more than his fair share of time at the hospital. He hooked into some halibut.

The anglers were certainly in a giving mood over the three-day tournament. Extra rods were sold to each angler at \$2,500 a pop and a silent auction netted the kids even more money.

Topping it all off was the fact that winner, businessman Robert Hodgkinson, who landed a combined weight of 22.4 kilograms of chinook salmon, turned over his \$100,000 grand prize to the hospital. As did second-prize winner Al Cloke, who gifted his \$25,000 prize.

To put the \$490,000 donation in perspec-

tive, Canuck Place had its first "Gift of Time" fundraising event this past year where 400 guests who came to see Chantal Kreviazuk and bid on celebrity timepieces raised \$250,000. The last Diamond Ball in Vancouver for the Canadian Cancer Society saw 540 guests raise \$500,000.

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